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Battle to succeed Mungai as Co-op boss

Mrs Mary Mungai

By Jackson Okoth

An intense battle full of drama, intrigues and behind-the-scenes deals that characterize the process by which a successor to Mary Mungai as the new Commissioner for Co-operative Development will be picked, is on.

When Mungai left office, she was immediately replaced by Didacus Ityeng', in an acting capacity. But months later, it has been difficult to know who between Didacus Ityeng and Geoffrey Njang'ombe, both Senior Deputy Commissioners at the State Department for Co-operatives, is in charge.

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Ushirika Day: Best Saccos picked

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President Uhuru Kenyatta presents a trophy and certificate for the Best Managed Sacco countrywide (Position 3) to Yetu Sacco CEO Patrick Mwenda (centre) **and Chairman Mark Gitonga during the 97th Ushirika Day celebrations at KICC Nairobi on July 20, 2019. See story on Page 24.** Photo/Wesley Ken

New police unit to fight graft in Saccos

By Staff Reporter

President Uhuru Kenyatta has directed the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Co-operatives to immediately operationalize the proposed Sacco Societies Fraud Investigation Unit within the Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA).

This is part of a series of policy and regulatory measures that he said the Jubilee administration has initiated so as to create an enabling environment for co-operative enterprises to thrive. Kenyatta also directed the Cabinet Secretary for Industry, Trade and Co-operatives; National Treasury and the Governor of Central Bank of Kenya to facilitate inter-Sacco lending.

"In order to address liquidity challenges faced by Saccos and to facilitate Inter-Sacco lending, I direct the Cabinet Secretary, The National Treasury, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Trade Industry and Co-operatives and Governor, Central Bank of Kenya to speed up the process of establishing the Central Liquidity facility which would enable Saccos to participate in the National Payment System and allow them to come up with more innovative products for Kenyans," said President Kenyatta.

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Chris Gathingu, CEO Tangazoletu

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Who will be the new Co-op Commissioner?

Mungai exit has triggered an intense search for replacement

By Jackson Okoth

An intense battle full of drama, intrigues and behind-the-scenes deals that characterize the process by which a successor to Mary Mungai as the new Commissioner for Co-operative Development will be picked, is on.

When Mungai left office, she was immediately replaced by Didacus Ityeng', in an acting capacity. But months later, it has been difficult to know who between Didacus Ityeng and Geoffrey Njang'ombe, both Senior Deputy Commissioners at the State Department for Co-operatives, is in charge.

With the exit of Mungai, who left office in April this year after being at the helm of this powerful office, an intense search to find her replacement has already begun.

Top on the list of front runners likely to succeed Mungai is Senior Deputy Commissioner Ityeng', who has been the Acting Commissioner for Co-operatives when Mungai left office.

The other person is one Geoffrey Njang'ombe, also a Deputy Commissioner at the State Department for Co-operatives.

Mr Geoffrey Njang'ombe, Senior Deputy Commissioner.

Didacus Ityeng', Senior Deputy Commissioner

David Obonyo, Deputy Commissioner for Co-operatives.

Mrs Mary Mungai, Former Co-operatives Commissioner.

Both Ityeng' and Njang'ombe have been seen separately at various public forums, workshops or media events, each representing the office of Commissioner for Co-operative Development. Gunning for the same seat but on the sidelines is David Obonyo, the youngest of the three Deputy Commissioners.

Sources within the State Department depict a somewhat intense jostling between Ityeng' and Njang'ombe for the top position, with one signing gazette notices and making appointments while the other makes public policy pronouncements while attending local and international forums.

It has not been immediately clear who between Ityeng and Njang'ombe is the next Commissioner with both individuals sending out mixed signals, perhaps an indication of behind-the-scenes maneuvers to fill this position.

For instance, while Njang'ombe was tasked with appointing liquidators for the troubled KPCU, now under probe, he declined to comment on the matters, insisting that he had since retired from the service. " I am not the Acting Commissioner and has since retired from the service," said Njang'ombe.

When liquidators moved in on KPCU, it was unclear who appointed them with the then Acting Commissioner Ityeng, who is required by the law to make these appointments and sign the liquidation order, was reportedly out of the country on official duties.

Sources at the Commissioner's NSSF Offices confirmed that both Ityeng and Njang'ombe have not retired from the civil service, even as the unfolding KPCU liquidation sucks into the succession battle of who the next Commissioner for Co-operatives will be.

Mungai has left as Commissioner at a time when the long drawn struggle by farmers and the state to revive KPCU remains in limbo. The co-operative industry is still grappling with a myriad of challenges ranging from mismanagement, fraud and bad loans to electronic fraud.

The recent debacle where Ekeza Sacco members allegedly lost billions through either mismanagement or outright fraud, is yet to be resolved.

Mungai left as Commissioner due to her official retirement from the public service. Her replacement will depend on who Cabinet Secretary Peter Munya picks from a list of Deputy Commissioners and Senior Deputy Commissioners, who are expected to formally apply for the position when it is advertised by the Public Service Commission (PSC).

Industry sources confirmed that Ityeng has the best chance of becoming the next Commissioner for Co-operative Development, given the fact that he was holding brief whenever Mungai was out of office.

Ityeng', who has also replaced Mungai as a Director at Co-operatives Bank of Kenya, is a graduate from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and University of Nairobi.

He has over 30 years working experience having worked in various government ministries notably Ministry of Agriculture and currently Ministry of Industry, Trade and Co-operatives. He is a member of Kenya Association of Cooperative professions, Animal Production Society of Kenya and Kenya Association of Public and Administration and Management.

Embattled director speaks out over disbandment of KPCU

While President Kenyatta directed that the Union be restructured to benefit farmers, CS Munya has dissolved it and appointed liquidators

By Staff Reporter

The Board of Directors of dissolved Kenya Planters Co-operative Union (KPCU) has expressed shock over a move by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Co-operatives to dissolve the Union and appoint its liquidators.

While President Uhuru Kenyatta directed that KPCU be restructured and made to benefit farmers, it caught all by surprise when Peter Munya, Cabinet Secretary for Trade, Industry and Co-operatives dissolved the Union and sent in liquidators.

"While we understood the presidential directive to mean restructuring and revamping KPCU, there will be nothing left with this liquidation order. When these liquidators came over, they unceremoniously threw us out of office without notice. The board has therefore no clue over what will happen next," said William Gatei, embattled Chairman of KPCU.

"We are very excited about this intervention by the state to revive KPCU. As a board, we are ready to support any initiatives that will put the Union back on its feet," added Gatei.

In an interview, Gatei disclosed that although KPCU was consistent in clearing all outstanding loans, the fact that the Union is still under receivership has made matters difficult for the organization.

The KPCU beleaguered board was hopeful that part of the restructuring process would involve state intervention to settle major debts the Union still owes, including Sh 1.6 billion outstanding payments to the now defunct Coffee Board of Kenya.

"We are also appealing to the state to reinstate our coffee milling license so that it can access foreign markets that remain closed to us. The board has a couple of strategies that can be used to revive operations at KPCU," said Gatei before the liquidation order was placed on the Union by CS Munya.

The co-operative industry is holding its breath, especially those operating within coffee growing areas, all keen to see what happens next at KPCU.

CS Munya is expected to clean up the rot at KPCU, which begun in the 1980s and 1990s. This is when the now defunct Registrar Office issued certificates to splinter coffee unions, dealing the then monopolistic KPCU its first blow.

For years, teams have been occupying the leadership of KPCU but with no mandate from the farmers themselves.

KPCU is in possession of vast pieces of land and warehousing facilities as well as a supply network. The Union's assets are valued at an estimated Sh 5 billion and represent the interests of over 800,000 tea and coffee farmers.

A weakened KPCU has given birth to ugly scenes, reminiscent of the 1970s, when coffee beans were stolen from the farms, warehouses or milling plants.

And lurking in the deep dark shadows is a powerful clique of coffee barons and cartels, busy strangling the industry and scheming to buy off cheaply, the Sh 5 billion worth of assets belonging to the giant KPCU, an umbrella farmers struggling to wriggle out of a crippling million shillings debt.

Although demand for Kenya coffee is high, the country is not able to supply the quantities.

Experts maintain that it is due to lack of a lobby group such as KPCU that the acreage under coffee is fast shrinking due to construction of highways and rapid urban development in areas around coffee growing regions.

After being in receivership and moribund state for years now, the financially-troubled Kenya Planters Co-operative Union (KPCU) - could be on its last legs.

KPCU chairman William Gatei Muiruri (centre) **accompanied by the MD** (in red tie) **and other union's directors address the media after an AGM.**

20th SACCA Congress

The biggest annual SACCO event in Africa

**The African Confederation of Co-operative Savings and Credit Association (ACCOSCA) is a Non-Governmental, Pan African confederation of National Associations of Savings and Credit Co-operative societies with its secretariat based in Nairobi, Kenya.
Founded in 1968 and with the mission of; sustainably empowering SACCOs in Africa through technical programmes so as to improve the livelihood of people living in Africa in accordance with the co-operative principles, ACCOSCA does capacity building for SACCOs, give technical assistance, advocacy, and research and business development.**

Cambridge Mdlalose (ADE)
ACCOSCA Chairperson.

VISION

To promote Financial Inclusion in Africa

MISSION

To sustainably empower SACCOs in Africa through technical programmes

George Ombado (ICUDE)
ACCOSCA CEO.

Over 1,000 Co-operators to participate in Africa Congress

THEME: *"Embracing Servant Leadership and Inclusivity through Financial Co–operatives"*

In line with our Vision, The African Confederation of Co-operatives Savings and Credit Associations (ACCOSCA), working with the Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Co-operatives (KUSCCO) is hosting the 20th SACCA Congress in Mombasa, Kenya in October . This is the biggest annual SACCO event in Africa and expects participation of up to 1,000 co-operators from across Africa and beyond.

The 20th SACCA Congress, is themed: "Embracing Servant Leadership and Inclusivity through Financial Co–operatives." It will be held on 16th - 18th October 2019.

Servant leadership is a leadership philosophy in which the main goal of the leader is to serve. This resonates with the original objective of the SACCO business model which is to provide service (Financial access) to members, a thing we identify with at ACCOSCA.

We thus seek to provide through this Congress a platform for SACCOs in Africa and all stakeholders to have candid discussions that will then culminate in deliberate and innovative strategies towards achievement of Financial Inclusion. We are aiming to have a culture of Servant Leadership understood, instilled and accepted.

We aim at providing an opportunity for our members to meet as a platform to brainstorm, benchmark from working practices, create networks and especially learn new innovative ideas. It is on this background that we welcome you to the 20th SACCA Congress. We are convinced that if our membership and stakeholders begin to appreciate the possibilities that this sector has to offer it will be a great avenue to begin changing lives of people living in Africa positively.

This is an assembly where co-operators in Africa get to meet annually. This year particularly, we seek to go back to the basics; to our original purpose.

CONFIRMED KEY SPEAKERS

Bill Cheney
President and CEO
Schools First Credit Union
- USA.

Maurice R Smith
President and CEO Local Government Federal Credit Union
- USA.

Nicklaus Bergmann,
Chief Executiver Officer
Savings Bank Foundation for International Development - Germany

Elenita San Roque (ICUDE)
Chief Executive Officer
Asian Confederation of Credit Unions
- Thailand.

Ali Noor Ismail
Principal Secretary State Department of Co-operatives
- Kenya .

Marlene Shiels, OBE, ICUDE
CEO Capital Credit Union and Adviser on Credit Unions to the office of the Duchess of Cornwall.
-UK

Benoit Andre,
Executive Director Co-operative Development Foundation Canada.

Lois Kitsch(ICUDE)
CO – Founder CU Difference
-USA

Tito Haule,
Commissioner in Tanzania Co-operative Development Commission.

Brian Branch (CUDE)
President and CEO World Council of Credit Unions.

Together we seek to use Financial Co-operatives to make an impact at the Grassroots.

The Best Saccos in Kenya

High achievers in the Sacco business named

By Our Reporter

Kenya Police Sacco was voted the Best Managed Savings and Credit Co-operative Society countrywide during a prize-giving ceremony to mark the 97th of International Day of Co-operatives held at Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi.

This Sacco changes positions with United Nations Sacco, which was ranked second, and which won the Best Managed Society award nationally during last year's Ushirika Day fete.

Featuring prominently on the list of best performing Saccos during this year's annual event is Meru County-based Yetu Sacco, which was the most decorated society, clinching a total of eight trophies during this year's ceremony. Also winning more trophies was Meru Dairy Farmers Co-operative Union, which won a total of 4 trophies-all in the investment and housing co-operatives category.

A new player to the award-winning scene is Equity Sacco, which was voted the Most Efficient Sacco during this year's Ushirika gala dinner.

United Nations Sacco maintained its top position and the Best in Savings Management Countrywide, a trophy that it also won during last year's annual Ushirika awards.

In the Agricultural-based Saccos category, Yetu Sacco emerged at the top, followed by Kericho County-based Kenya Highlands Sacco and Bingwa Sacco, situated in Kirinyaga County.

Mufate Marketing Officer, Sharon Chiseno receives a trophy presented by the Kakamega County Co-operatives Commissioner, Mr Ben Kangale. Mufate G Sacco was voted Best Rural Sacco in Kakamega County.The Sacco also won third best trophy for Best in Risk Management nationally among the Agriculture-based Saccos.

The Best-Managed Community based Sacco is United Women Sacco followed by Kanisa Sacco and Umoja Wendani Sacco while those that excelled in the employer-based category, depending on the size of their balance sheets, included Kenya Police (tier 1), Maisha Bora Sacco (tier 2), Mwito Sacco (tier 3) and BAT Sacco (tier 4).

Tier One Saccos are those whose total assets are Sh 4 billion and above, Tier Two (assets of between Sh 2-4 billion), Tier Three (Sh 1-2 billion) and Tier 4 (assets below Sh 1 billion).

The annual International Ushirika Day Awards, held in the month of July each year, celebrate and recognise outstanding co-operative societies that have excelled in their various lines of business.

"These awards serve as a benchmark to good corporate governance within deposit-taking co-operative societies," said Japheth Magomere, Chairman of the National Council for Ushirika Day.

The adjudication process was conducted by Co-operative Consultancy Services Limited, a specialist subsidiary of Co-operative Bank, which provides financial advisory services to mostly the Co-operative movement.

Some of the new names on this year's award list include Kenya North America Diaspora Sacco, Reli Sacco and Law Society of Kenya Sacco.

These annual Ushirika trophies are given to societies that excel in 8 categories namely Best Managed in Kenya, Best Capitalization, Best Savings Management, Best Credit Management, Most Efficiency, Best in Risk Management, Best in Technology Optimization and Most Improved Sacco.

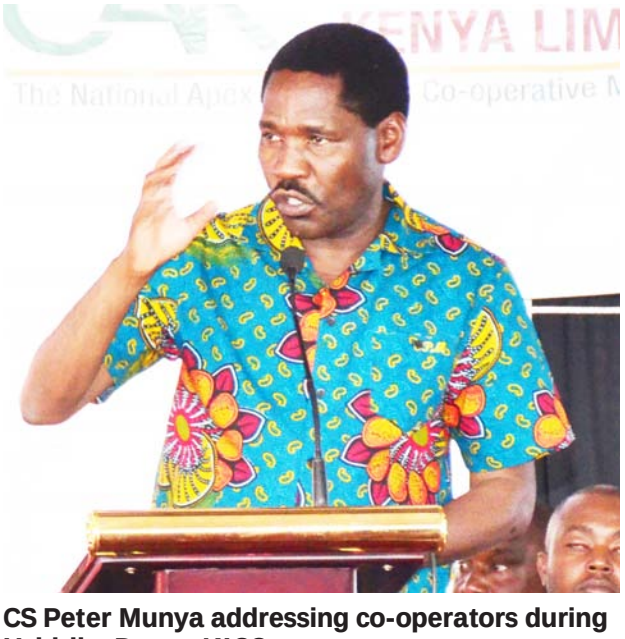
In the category of Investment and Housing Co-operatives, Umoja Wendani Housing Co-operative was declared the Best managed.

Meru Dairy Co-operative Union emerged as the Most Improved marketing society and second best managed after Githinguri Dairy Farmers' Co-operative.

BEST MANAGED SACCOS 2019

Best Managed countrywide	1. Kenya Police Sacco 2. United Nation Sacco 3. Yetu Sacco.
Best in Capitalization countrywide	1. Mombasa Port Sacco 2. Bingwa Sacco. 3. Bandari Sacco.
Best in Savings Management countrywide.	1. United Nations Sacco 2. Kenya North America Diaspora Sacco 3. BAT Sacco.
Best in Credit Management countrywide	1. Kenya Police Sacco 2. Nafaka Sacco 3. Ollin Sacco.
Most Efficient countrywide	1. Equity Sacco 2. United Sacco 3. Maisha Bora Sacco.
Best in Risk Management countrywide	1. Mentor Sacco 2. Mwalimu National Sacco 3. Yetu Sacco.
Best in Technology Optimization countrywide	1. Mwalimu National Sacco. 2. Mwito Sacco 3. Maisha Bora Sacco
Best Improved countrywide	1. Amka Pamoja Sacco 2. Simba Cement Sacco 3. Trans Nation Sacco.
Best Managed Investment and Housing Co-operatives	1. Umoja Wendani Housing Co-operative 2. Pambazuka Housing Co-operative 3. Airports Housing Co-operative
Best Managed Marketing Society	1. Githunguri Dairy Farmers Co-operative 2. Meru Dairy Co-operative Union

Saccos hold Sh420 billion in deposits



CS Peter Munya addressing co-operators during Ushirika Day at KICC.

By Jackson Okoth

Savings and Credit Co-operative Societies, which include deposit-taking as well as those engaged in back office operations, have mobilized savings to the tune of more than Sh 420 billion, estimated at 35 per cent of overall national savings.

This volume of savings is expected to double in the next few years arising from registration of Saccos for Kenyans in the diaspora. While Kenyans abroad have been remitting funds back home, registration of Diaspora Saccos could provide them with an avenue for remitting savings in a structured manner to facilitate effective intermediation between savings and investments, says the State Department for Co-operatives.

According to data from the State Department for Co-operatives, financial co-operatives have a combined balance sheet size of Sh500 billion.

A status report from the State Department's Division of Co-operative Finance and Banking indicates that Front Office Services Activity (FOSA) has emerged as a major investment activity for co-operative societies offering financial services.

This has enabled the Saccos to compete effectively with commercial banks and other financial institutions. The financial operations of FOSAs involve handling a huge financial portfolio from both members and non-members.

Latest figures from SASRA indicate that there are 174 licensed deposit-taking with a combined savings of Sh 342.3 billion. Kenya's Sacco sub-sector was in the past been recognised by WOCCU as one of the fastest growing globally.

With enactment of the draft Sacco Societies (Specified Non-deposit-taking Sacco Business) Regulations, 2019, non-deposit-taking Saccos with deposits of more than Sh 100 million, are expected to come under SASRA regulations.

Saccos with deposits of Sh100 million and above, while few in number from the data available, account for about 60 per cent of all savings held by non-deposit taking Saccos.

2019 USHIRIKA AWARDS SUPPLEMENT

Shoppers Sacco ranked top in Capitalization

OUR MOTTO
Prosperity everyday

OUR MISSION
To uplift the living standards of members through mobilization of savings and provision of market-driven financial solutions

OUR VISION
To be the SACCO of Choice in Financial Service Delivery

The Sacco led the pack among employer-based Saccos in the country

By Rosemil Oduor

Shoppers Sacco staff led by the CEO James Muchira (right) **and the Chairman Wilfred Aima** (3rd right) **receive a trophy and certificate from Co-op Alliance of Kenya (CAK) CEO Daniel Marube during national Ushirika Day cerebrations. Looking on is CIC Chairman Japheth Magomere** (2nd left) **and PS State Department of Co-operatives Ali Noor** (3rd left).

Shoppers Sacco topped employer-based societies, Tier 3 category, to bag position 1 trophy for the Best in Capitalization nationally during Ushirika Day gala night held in Safari Park hotel, Nairobi.

The Sacco has maintained exemplary performance both financially and delivery of timely and customer-oriented products and services.

This has seen it continually earn recognition and honour in the co-operative sector.

Last year, the giant Sacco also scooped two awards nationally.

The Sacco was named the second best Society in capitalization and third best in Technology Optimization among Tier 3 Saccos countrywide.

In 2017 Company of the Year Awards (COYA), the Sacco won two awards in Human Resource Focus and Customer Orientation and Marketing under the SME of the Year Award (SMOYA).

When it was established in 1993, Shoppers Sacco which is licensed as a Deposit Taking Sacco, had the primary objective of uplifting the members' social economic wellbeing. It prides itself as the only Sacco attached to an essential service – shopping.

In 2011 the Sacco introduced Front Office Service Activity (FOSA) to offer banking services to its members. Members are allowed to open accounts with zero minimum balance as cash will be recovered gradually through subsequent deposits and payments by the society through FOSA.

The Sacco has grown tremendously with over 22,254 members, having started with only 100 members. It has opened its door in five branches in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru and Eldoret.

Since it rebranded changing name from Naku Sacco, the financial institution is open to all members of the public. It has upgraded the core banking and mobile platforms to the most recent versions to enable it to do agency banking, mobile lending as well as be able to integrate with other peripheral systems. It runs an automated member feedback SMS platform (Ajua) that has enabled management to measure and optimise customer experience at all touch points.

Shoppers Sacco rolled out a new Strategic Plan (2019-2023) that will assist the Society to bolster its financial strength in the competitive market and expansion.

Top Sacco officials being awarded for excellent performance during Ushirika Gala dinner at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi.

Sacco staff in a group photo during Ushirika Day event held at KICC.

CORE VALUES

- Integrity
- Courtesy
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Corporate social responsibility
- Professionalism
- Democratic governance
- Equity

Why Join Shoppers Sacco?

- We inculcate the culture of saving to our members
- We offer financial empowerment and investment opportunities to our members.
- Our members can access their money conveniently through our Sacco link ATM cards, Mobile banking and E-banking.
- Members get access to affordable and competitive loan facilities.
- Our interest on loans is as low as 1% p.m on reducing balance
- Guaranteed interest on share deposits and dividends on share capital at competitive rate as approved in the AGM.
- Burial expenses are catered for to all our members and their families through the benevolent scheme.

EDITORIAL

Anti-Fraud police unit, a plus for Saccos

A recent presidential directive that an anti-fraud police unit be set up within Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA) can best be described as a stich in time for a sector that is already bleeding profusely due to the action of a network of financial fraudsters, hackers and unscrupulous insiders.

While a growing number of DT Saccos, with huge balance sheets, deposits and membership are busy upgrading their IT platforms to shut out cyber criminals, these sleuths at SASRA will assist in arrest and conviction of suspected criminals who steal from gullible Saccos.

Although cash and assets are lost and co-operative societies shut, few if any culprits, are ever handcuffed and brought to court. Court cases drag on for years on end while members suffer irreparable pecuniary damage.

This crack police unit at SASRA will only nab crooks in these societies if they equally invest heavily in IT to enhance data security and integrity.

Saccos should be able to vet all third parties involved in system integration before engaging them. This can be achieved through referrals and searching the history of such IT firms before awarding any contracts.

It is usually assumed by many managers in the Sacco business that the reason their business is subject to attacks from electronic thugs is perhaps because of their outdated systems and infrastructure.

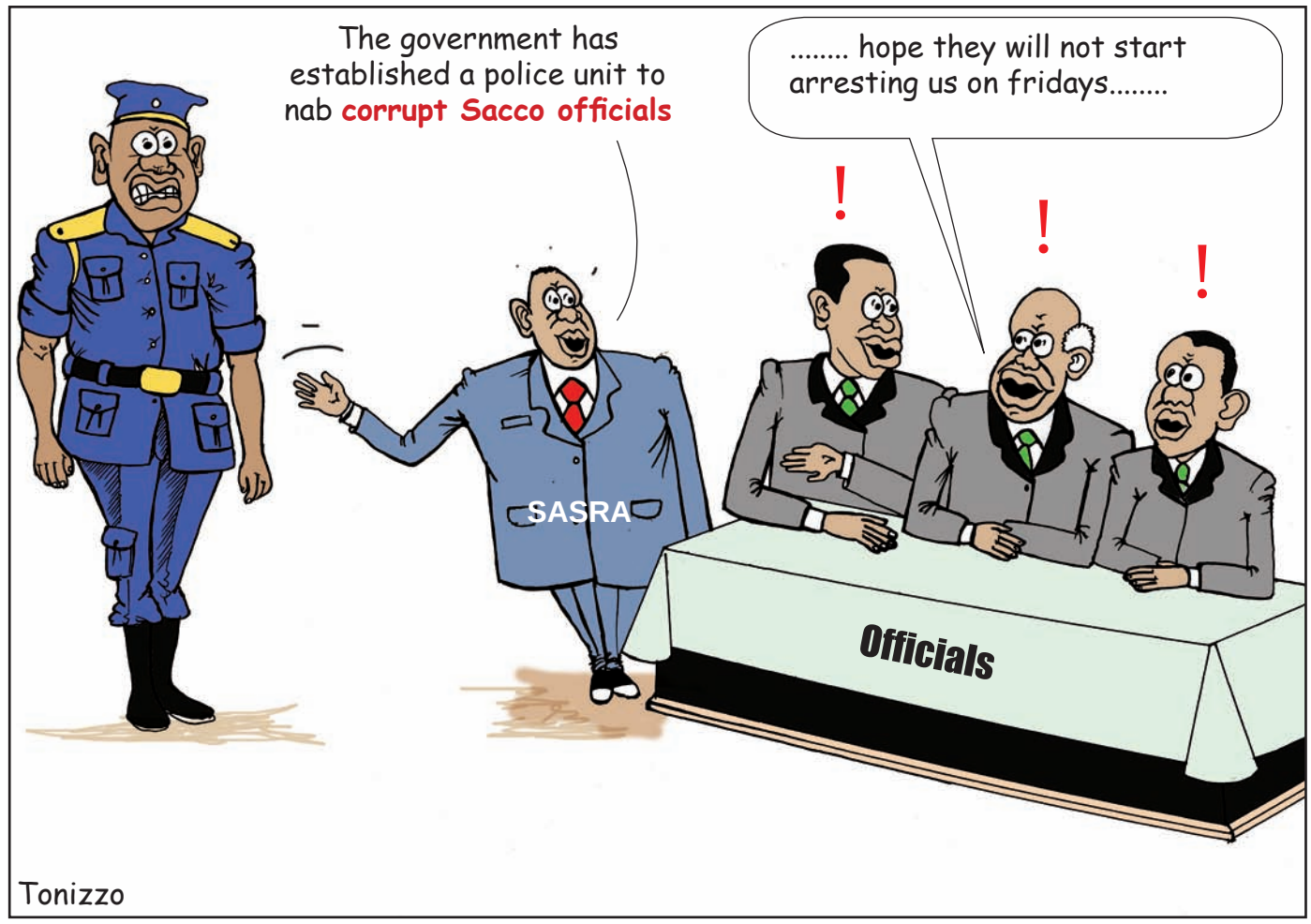
Although almost all DT Saccos have a mobile banking App for its members, it is on this platform that cyber criminals are also having a free hunting spree, picking their victims at will and with ease.

Saccos are well advised that while it is okay to have advanced solutions to deal with electronic crime, there is need to consider some basics.

For instance, there is need for Saccos to ensure that they control who has access to their IT systems and that those who are authorized are given specific passwords and user names.

The Sacco should also cut off its links completely with former staff members as well as vendors of the platform- a link that definitely has insider information that could be used to compromise the system.

Having the right kind of people in a Sacco that is also working as a team of highly integral managers and staff will not work in an organization that has poor governance structure-made up of managers who cannot make independent decisions and are instead held hostage by the Board.



OPINIONS & COMMENTARIES

Why Kenya's co-operative movement is major player in country's economy

Ali Noor Ismail

Sh1Trillion
Co-operatives asset base

The Co-operative movement in Kenya is rated first in Africa with over 22,000 registered co-operative societies, commanding a membership of over 14 million and employing more than 500,000 Kenyans directly and another 1.5 million indirectly.

Co-operatives in Kenya have mobilized members' savings and deposits of over Sh 732 billion, with an asset base of over Sh1trillion and loan portfolio exceeding Sh700 billion as at 2017.

Co-operatives thus contribute to about 30 per cent of the National savings and enhance financial inclusion through mobilization of savings and ease of access to affordable financial services.

Co-operative movement in Kenya cuts across all sectors of the economy including agriculture, finance, insurance, health care, transport, education and training, agro-processing and manufacturing activities.

Similarly, a large proportion of land and buildings in this country is owned by co-operatives with the housing co-operatives expected to provide 25 per cent of the 500,000 houses required across the country under the Low Cost Affordable Homes (LCAH) programme under the Big 4 Agenda.

The mandate of the State Department for Co-operatives is to create a conducive environment for the growth and development of the co-operative sector through appropriate policy and legal framework.

The department is also mandated to promote good corporate governance, enforce ethical conduct and anti-corruption reforms within the co-operative societies through responsive education and training, advisory services, investigations and financial disclosure processes.

The co-operative movement continues to face various challenges that include weak governance; poor management by boards/committees and corruption among others.

In an effort to address these challenges the Department has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) on combating and preventing corruption, economic crime and unethical practices in the co-operative sector.

The MoU will encompass lifestyle audits and assets recovery, integrity testing for co-operative sector officials, and prosecution of cases on corruption and economic crime.

On the Insurance front, the important role played by CIC group in ensuring the success of the Kenyan Co-operative Movement cannot be over-emphasized. Indeed, my Department notes with appreciation that the CIC Group Chairman is the current President of the International Co-operatives Alliance (ICA), Africa Chapter.

The role played by CIC in socio-economic growth of our country cannot also be underrated especially in transforming lives through provision of scholarships to various needy children and environmental conservation.

For the last 50 years CIC has continued to offer quality insurance solutions to households, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), various organizations including co-operatives by safeguarding them from risks they could not otherwise bear. CIC has expanded its services to include investment options with a view to make financial independence a reality for many Kenyans.

The company has witnessed tremendous growth in customers, branches and regional presence with footprints in Kenya, Uganda, Malawi and South Sudan. Encouragingly, it is emerging to be a strong and reputable brand in the regional market.

The writer is Principal Secretary State Department of Co-operatives.

2019 USHIRIKA AWARDS SUPPLEMENT

Maisha Bora rated best managed Sacco

Maisha Bora Sacco Chairman (L) **Peter Ogola receives a certificate from CIC Chairman Japheth Magomere, while the PS State Department of Co-operatives Ali Noor** (C) **awards Maisha Bora Sacco CEO Samuel Ngure with Best Managed Sacco trophy. Looking on** (R) **is Daniel Marube, CEO Co-op Alliance of Kenya (CAK).**

By Rosemil Odour

Maisha Bora has been ranked the Best Managed Sacco (Tier 2 employer-based) during the National Ushirika Day gala night held at Safari Park Hotel Nairobi.

The award aggregates ratings for efficiency in resource deployment, credit practices, risk management, capitalization among other factors and thus a validation of the Sacco's commitment to deliver in these areas.

The Sacco also emerged position 1 & 3 for the Most Efficient Tier 2 employer-based Sacco and countrywide respectively.

A progressive Sacco by any standard, Maisha Bora also won the 1st and 3rd position trophies for the Best in Technology Optimization Tier 2 Employer-Based and countrywide respectively.

The Sacco which is affiliated to Unilever has its Head Office at Commercial Street Industrial Area Nairobi. Regulated by Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA) since year 2012, the Sacco closed year 2018 with Total assets of Ksh3.3b, member deposits of Ksh2.6b and a loan book of Ksh2.6b and a sound capital position as reflected by strong capital adequacy ratios. In the year under review, 10,361 loans were issued with an aggregated value in excess of Ksh1.5b.

In line with its tradition of delivering above the market return on investment (ROI), the Sacco paid a dividend on share capital of 15% and interest on deposits of 10% for year 2018. In addition, members who reinvest their returns are eligible to a bonus of up to 8% on the funds reinvested.

With a membership in excess of 8,000, Maisha Bora Sacco has earned the trust of more than 300 institutions from where it draws its members. The members are spoilt for choice from a rich portfolio of more than 20 products ranging from development loans, motor vehicle financing to home makeover.

Interestingly, the Sacco offers a product known as Karibu Tena Nyumbani (KTN) for members who wish to transfer their bank loans to the Sacco at attractive terms. One of the features of this product is the opportunity for members to restructure their cashflows.

Besides guarantors, other acceptable loan securities are deposits, title deeds, land & house leases, equities and logbooks

On the technology front, members have access to a vibrant self-service portal to be able to view all the activities in their accounts including statements, guarantees, notices etc. Members also get the latest news on products and services. The portal comes with a loan application capability through which members can send in loan requests, find guarantors and approve requested guarantees all at the click of a button. Members are also assured to receive a monthly statement through their registered email to be able to confirm the accuracy of their accounts.

The Sacco runs a welfare scheme which caters for funeral expense for members and their dependant (child, spouse, parents) to the tune of Ksh 110,000/- and 40,000/- respectively. One of the features of this service is prompt settlement of claims (within 30minutes) upon production of the requisite documentation.

To strengthen its governance, the Sacco carried out a Board evaluation exercise in the last quarter of 2018 supervised by an experienced governance consultant. Formal Board evaluation ensures that the Board is adding value to the organization and is fulfilling its responsibilities to the shareholders. This is because establishing a formal evaluation methodology provides an objective framework for analytical feedback to the Board.

Some of the evaluated areas included performance of the Board in; strategic planning, monitoring of the Sacco operations, providing effective oversight, understanding the relationship between Board and Staff and organizing themselves so that they can operate efficiently. The Sacco has installed an eboard platform to help in efficient management of Board and committees meetings.

Makueni MP Daniel Maanzo awards Maisha Bora Sacco ICT Manager Paul Bwire, Finance Manager Joackim Ngere with a trophy and a certificate for Best in Technology Optimisation.

SACCO DIARY

The Ins & Outs in the Industry

Kenyan awarded scholarship by WYCUP

By Rosemil Oduor

Maureen Njoroge is among the five credit union professionals from four different countries awarded scholarship by the World Council of Young Credit Union Professionals (WYCUP).

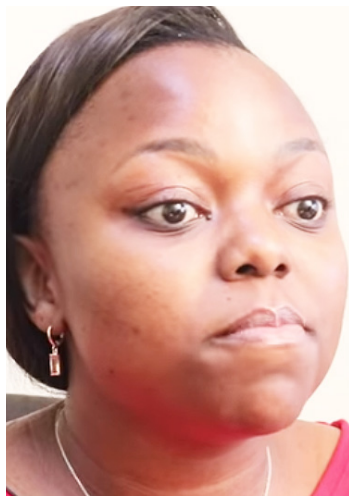
The scholarship includes an all-expense paid trip to Los Angeles for the 2020 World Credit Union Conference.

The WYCUP Scholarship programme is open to nominees who are 35 or younger and have made significant contributions to their credit union or financial co-operative system, with the potential to make a global credit union impact.

Over 90 scholarships have been awarded since 2001.

Meanwhile, Bettyrose Okiri has been awarded a scholarship by the Global Women Leadership Network (GWLN). The scholarship is given to female leaders within the co-operative movement to enable them acquire new skills, tools and resources to further their professional development.

Okiri, a Project Manager at African Confederation of Co operative Savings and Credit Associations, will also receive a complimentary one-year membership to the Global Women's Leadership Network.



Maureen Njoroge.

Since 2009, GWLN has awarded 51 scholarships made possible through funding from annual membership donations and sponsorships, to women from 23 countries.

Tabasuri Sacco chairman passes on

Tabasuri Sacco Chairman, the late Lucas Nyandusi Mogire *(pictured)*, who passed away recently, was buried in Kegati, Kisii County on 16th August 2019.

Tabasuri Sacco recently rebranded from KMFRI Sacco. The Sacco has a range of tailor made products ranging from the traditional products like emergency to development and education loans.

Mwalimu National's bank CEO quits

Dr Norman Naaman Ambunya, the Chief Executive of the Mwalimu National Sacco majority-owned Spire Bank has quit his top position at the lender. The Board has reportedly picked Onesmus Muia, who has been the General Manager, to replace him as the new CEO. Muia has significant experience in Asset Finance, Corporate and SME lending

Top changes at Metropolitan Sacco

Former CEO Metropolitan National Sacco, Francis Ng'ang'a.

Metropolitan National Sacco has appointed Benson Mwangi as its new Chief Executive Officer. A former Deputy CEO, Mwangi takes over from Francis Ngang'a who has been at the helm of the Society for close to 30 years. Cyrus Kariamwere was appointed to be the new Deputy CEO and Head of Business Development. Metropolitan National is also scouting for new senior managers to drive its turnaround strategy.

Why Sacco will deny you a loan

By Our Reporter

A large number of members are usually denied credit by their respective Savings and Credit Co-operative Societies (SACCOs) on account of failure to clear their outstanding loans. Others have their loan requests turned down because of lack of adequate collateral or security.

According to the 2019 FinAccess Household Survey 37.6 per cent of Sacco members did not qualify for credit from their societies because they still had a debt to pay off.

The survey also found that 18.2 per cent of those interviewed could not access credit due to lack of collateral, 16.2 per cent due to lack of records, 11.6 per cent due to insufficient income or savings and 5.2 per cent due to lack of a guarantor.

The FinAccess Household Survey, 2019 was jointly conducted by Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), Central Bank of Kenya and Financial Sector Deepening (FSD) Kenya.

Commercial banks denied potential borrowers credit on lack of collateral (20.9 per cent). Mobile money and digital loan apps providers deny customers credit on bad or no credit history while Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) mainly deny credit to those who have no guarantors.

The 2019 survey sought to provide information beyond the conventional measures of access and usage. It provides new information on the quality and impact dimensions, examining financial health and livelihoods, consumer protection, financial literacy in addition to probing more deeply on the frequency of usage.

Figures also indicate that those in possession of tertiary education have the highest access to Sacco loans at 25.9 per cent followed by secondary education (12.8 per cent), primary education (8.2 per cent) and 2.2 per cent for those with no formal education.

The Survey mentions that Saccos, like other financial services providers, face similar challenges such as dishonesty and high defaults rates on money given out to members and non-members. This is followed by fraud and theft of funds by directors or management and poor investment of funds.

Challenges in having sufficient amount of money to save and lack of regular income were cited as the most constraining factors to savings among Kenyans, at 42.3 percent and 38.3 percent respectively in 2019.

This suggests that Kenyans have been able to generate an income over the years, but are unable to make savings, as they are not certain of when they will make their next earnings.

Sacco Review team with Trade, Industry and Co-operatives Cabinet Secretary, Peter Munya, his Principal Secretary, Ali Noor Ismael and Nairobi County Director for Co-operatives, Dolphine Aremo during 97th Ushirika Day at KICC. Photo/Wesley Ken

Kenyan receives Distinguished Service Award

By Staff Reporter

A member of the Kenyan Union of Savings and Credit Co-operatives (KUSCCO) Sylvester Kadzola received a Distinguished Service Award (DSA) for his exemplary service to the international credit union movement.

He was presented with the award during World Council of Credit Unions conference in The Bahamas.

According to WOCCU Kadzola sat on the World Council Board of Directors from 2001 to 2016 and used his position to stimulate the development of African credit union systems by connecting them with international best practices.

DSA is a global honour for worthy individuals and organizations that have shown great contributions furthering the credit union movement outside of their own countries.

A group that was awarded schorlaship by WCYCUP during The Bahamas Conference. Photo/Courtesy

Kimisitu Sacco seeks Marketing Manager

Kimisitu Sacco is seeking to recruit Marketing and Business Development Manager. The person who qualifies will have a three year renewable contract and undertake marketing activities leading to business growth through market expansion, competitive products, promotions and maintenance of positive customer relationships.

Unaitas Sacco PRO quits

Sam Otieno, Head of Public Relations and Customer Experience at Unaitas Sacco has quit his position at the Society. Otieno has previously been Assistant Director and Head of Corporate Communications at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD). He was also a senior reporter at The Standard Group Newspapers between 2002 and 2010.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Kimisitu Sacco set to acquire modern offices

The relocation is set to boost service delivery as it launches FOSA

By Balozi Mwambire

Philip Oyuko, Kimisitu Sacco Chairperson.

Catherine Odhiambo, Interim CEO.

Kimisitu Sacco is set to purchase new offices worth Sh 150 million in bid to shore up quality and efficient service delivery.

In recent years the Sacco has recorded tremendous growth both in financial strength and membership.

The fast growing financial institution is in the final touches of launching Front Office Services Activity (FOSA) set for later this year.

Speaking during a recent Special General Meeting held at All Saints Cathedral, the Sacco Chairperson Phillip Oyuko said that they had already engaged a Consultancy firm to boost its FOSA service delivery adding that they will be involving the Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA) for licensing of the same.

He said after evaluation they settled for a property located along Valley Road, opposite DOD headquarters neighbouring the Silver Spring Hotel —AEA Plaza (African Evangelical Association).

The Sacco will set up the FOSA offices on Ground Floor and other offices will be located on the First Floor.

"The location is quite convenient and accessible to members both by private and public means, it is well secured with ambience and enough parking spaces and is strategic for Sacco marketing activities," said Mr Oyuko.

The Sacco has also engaged a lawyer, contractor and valuer to assist in planning before the relocation.

To better its services on online platform, the Chairperson said they contracted KPMG to conduct a system audit and review.

"This process will involve general IT controls review around the core banking system (Navision 2016), the Client Relationship Manager(CRM) system and active directory; review of application level system controls around critical business processes in Kimisitu Sacco," he said.

Noting that this will help in identifying the risks and gaps in the Society's system thus plan mitigation measures effectively before FOSA implementation.

With the Sacco Strategic Plan coming to an end next year, the chairperson said they will overview and review of the objectives for the next five years 2021-2025 which will be presented to members in the next annual general meeting.

"The strategic direction is based on the analysis of the current performance, the operating environment including the economic outlook, stakeholder analysis, customer profiles, competitors' analysis and a SWOT analysis," he said.

In a bid to encourage members to apply or guarantee each other loans online as the Sacco goes fully paperless, Mr Oyuko said they have launched an online loan application platform enabling members to apply and guarantee loans.

"The service can be accessed through the member portal or website. To qualify for M-Kimisitu loans, members should fill the M-Sacco form for registration," he said.

The Sacco is keen to continually improve on service delivery particularly using the modern technology.

Speaking during a recent members' education day, Catherine Odhiambo, the Sacco's Interim CEO, thanked the members for sacrificing their time on a Saturday morning to heed the call to come together to reason and make valuable decisions concerning the Sacco.

She noted that the main reason for day was to discuss the 2020 budget and amendments to 2019 budget, adding that they had revised the budgets taking into consideration members' concerns.

"The meeting today provides us with an opportunity to sensitize you on how you can create wealth, plan your future by ensuring efficient utilization of loans granted in a bid to generate income and experience financial freedom.

"It is in our best interest that we empower our members to achieve your vision. We also look forward to your feedback and suggestions on how we can serve you better," said Mrs Odhiambo.

The CEO further encouraged members to save diligently, patronize the Society's products, to invest wisely and pay promptly.

Last year, the Sacco posted an impressive performance with a turnover of Sh 703.3 million at the close of 2018 from Sh 623.4 million in 2017, while its total assets stood at Sh 6.05 billion in 2018 up from Sh 5.15 billion in 2017.

A section of Kimisitu Sacco members during the recent Special General Meeting (SGM).

KIMISITU SACCO LTD.
Your Partner to Prosperity

Woodlands Road,
Off Lenana Road, Kilimani
P.O.Box 10454-00100
Nairobi - Kenya
Call Centre: 0709 136 000
Email: customercare@kimisitusacco.or.ke
Website: www.kimisitusacco.or.Ke

Vision: "The personal financial solutions provider of choice"

Mission: To empower members economically by providing quality financial services through prudent mobilization of resources and excellent customer care.

Core Values
In all our services to members and customers we shall be bound by the following values.
♦ Professionalism ♦ Respect ♦ Equality ♦ Commitment ♦ Transparency and accountability ♦ Integrity ♦ Customer focus ♦ Equity

LATEST PRODUCTS

1. M-Kimisitu Sacco loan app
- No security needed
- Repayable within 1 month,three months ata interest rate of 5%, 6.5%, 7% respectively
- minimum of ksh1,000 & maximum Ksh 60,000 graduated monthly at 25%

2. Makao Halisi
- For acquisition of complete house or conventional way of construction (brick & Mortar)
- Maximum of 5 times one's deposit regardless of other loans
- Loan secured by plot 30% and structure 70%
- Maximum limit Ksh 15M
- Interest rate 1.16% per month

Loan Products
- Karibu Loan-To new members 3 months after joining the Sacco
- Premier Loan
- Development Loan
- Motor Vehicle and Machinery Loan
- Boosting Facility
- Emergency Loan
- Mega Loan
- Instant Loan
- Motor vehicle Insurance Loan
- Nyumba Smart Loan
- Special Development
- Dividend Discounting
- Education Loan

Savings Products
- Deposit Contribution
- Holiday Savings
- Little Angels Savings
- Account
- Wekeza Scheme

97TH USHIRIKA DAY CELEBRATIONS

Patnas Sacco scoops award for highest membership growth

Innovative products and services coupled with aggressive marketing have seen the Society record steady increase of members

By Our Reporter

Patnas Sacco yet again shone during the 2019 county Ushirika Day celebrations stamping its authority in provision of quality financial services and products.

The Sacco emerged the winner in membership growth among societies that operate Front Office Service Activity in Kericho County.

Mr Joseph Kimetto, Patnas Chairman.

Mr Nelson Rono, Patnas CEO.

The Board of Directors chairman for the society, Mr Joseph Kimetto accompanied by several officials received the award.

He said it was through the unity of the board, the management, delegates and members that the Society was able to attract more members in the region.

Mr Kimetto commended delegates for their aggressiveness in member recruitment, noting that the Sacco registered a 13 per cent growth in membership from 13,650 in 2017 to 15,455 in 2018.

"We are on a mission of recruiting more members in order to increase the Sacco's deposits to enable us give more funds to our clientele. We will also be innovative in developing products that ultimately improve the livelihoods of our members," he said.

He noted that they are aggressively recruiting members from Kenya Tea Development Authority factories, multinational tea companies and privately owned factories.

"I am pleased to report that Patnas Sacco has continued to register growth in all its areas of operations. This good performance demonstrates the high level of commitment among the board and unwavering support from all our members and staff, who strive to meet the expectations of our stakeholders," he said.

The society also received the top award in Growth in Income after recording steady growth of 17 per cent of total revenue income from Sh 92,449,716 in 2017 to Sh108, 746, 265 in 2018.This was an increase of Sh 12,296,549, which was attributed to increase in fees and commissions income.

The chairman said the Total Interest Income registered a growth of 17 per cent from Sh 28,045,908 in 2017 to Sh 32,929,608 in 2018, which was supported by growth in the loan book.

Other key performance indicators were a steady rise in the uptake of loans from Sh 51,178,525 advanced in 2017 to Sh 60, 562, 074 borrowed in 2018.

"Total loans granted increased from 35 per cent from the previous year due to the growth in member's deposits. In addition, our total assets increased from Sh 294,994,669 in 2017 to Sh 508,019,135 in 2018, which was largely supported by cash and cash equivalent and the re-evaluation of the Co-operative Bank shares," he stated in his annual report.

Patnas Sacco also witnessed an increase in member fixed deposits from Sh 20,025,700 to Sh31, 271,876 in 2018.

Patnas Sacco building in Kericho County.

CECM for Trade and Industrialization, Eng. Philip Mason presenting an award to members of Patnas Sacco.

Patnas Sacco members follow proceedings during a past event.

Awarded Trophies 2019 (County Level)

- 1st position in Growth of Membership
- 1st position in Income Growth (FOSA Category)
- 2nd best in Loan Growth
- 2nd position in Income Ratio rating
- 3rd best in Product and Income (FOSA Category)

PATNAS SACCO SOCIETY LTD

Tushirikiane Pamoja

Vision

To be leading modern saving and credit society in Kenya working towards providing one stop shop for all members financial needs

Mission

To mobilize savings from exsisting and potential members with view of providing prompt, quality and efficient financial services thereby building an economically empowered community in co-operative spirit

Motto

Sacco is You

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

FOSA

- Savings accounts for Sacco members
- Fixed deposit rates (FDR)
- Salary processing
- Processing of members' dues from BOSA i.e loans, refunds
- Risk retirement fund (RRF) and dividends
- Pension processing and payments
- Salary advances
- Overdraft on pending loans, refunds and advances on uncleared cheques
- Express loans
- Fosa staff loan

- **Children accounts**

- Group / organization accounts
- **ATM withdrawal**

BOSA

- **Normal loan**-(emergency loan)

- **School fees loan**

- **Shares**
- **Annual dividends**

Micro Finance

Group loans
Short term group loans
Individual loan
Business advances

Branches:

LITEIN (HEAD OFFICE)

CHEBIRBELEK

CHEBORGE

RORET

SOTIK

HEAD OFFICE, PATNAS PLAZA AT LITEIN,
ALONG KERICHO-SOTIK HIGHWAY
P.O. BOX 601-20406, LITEIN
TEL: +254 720 938 233
EMAIL: info@patnassacco.co.ke
www.patnassacco.co.ke

FEEDBACK COLUMN

Saccos should tread cautiously when rebranding

I have keenly been following events in the Co-operative Movement for the last one decade and there is one question that has been bothering me; has rebranding of Saccos really been a gain or a double-edged sword for the industry?

Most problems affecting many Saccos currently have pointed to the change of names and the expansion of membership beyond their core-customers. Rebranding also called for the opening of new branches across the country and this has been another source of trouble for the societies working hard to comply with a bad Government policy in my view.

A case in point is the a certain Sacco based in Kiambu which over the years has fashioned itself as the most thriving establishment in the country. Upon its change of name it went into a frenzy opening new branches across the country and opening doors to everyone to become a member. But its woes became apparent in the last few years owing to unchecked expansion. There are many others facing such challenges.

It would appear to me that rebranding was rushed. Introducing non-core members opened a pandora's box. It was going to be difficult for Saccos with FOSA branches to know their customers well as they used to through open-door-membership policy. The movement suddenly got ensconced with defaulter issues arising mainly from non-founder members.

To ensure sanity and stability especially in Deposit-Taking Saccos, it has become increasingly difficult to handle rising cases of defaulters particularly drawn from the so-called Category 'B' and 'C'. The Government should rethink this policy as soon as possible and encourage Saccos to recruit members more within its core-market.

Bedan Njuguna, Nairobi

Fake news affects growth of Saccos

As the era of fake news continues to unfold, Saccos have found themselves in precarious positions. In various social media platforms, some members have perfected the art of posting false alarms warning their counterparts of possible collapse of certain societies and urge them to withdraw their savings.

This trend has been very costly within the movement. Once the fears are triggered, the affected institutions are caught flat-footed and with members moving in droves in a panic withdrawal mode, the embattled Saccos are left bleeding. Others will be left badly-needing and require a rescue package to keep their operations running. Others, sink immediately and are quickly liquidated. This is sad.

Saccos will need to quickly address this issue. The first step will be for these organizations to establish strong and proactive Public Relations Departments which would respond to such wild allegations and arrest the situation in time. Their job is to reassure their members that their money is safe. The societies should be smart enough to stop the panic withdrawals in time before their coffers are depleted.

Millicent Njue, Embu

Good job for ranking DT-Saccos on dividend, rebates rates

Your list of Saccos offering the best dividends and rebates was a great move.

Every month, I have been buying my favourite copy at the nearest newsstands in the hope of seeing how my Sacco is fairing. However, I urge you to rate all the Saccos offering FOSA services so that we can make informed choices on where to invest.

Chebusit Ng'eno, Kericho

Dear readers: Kindly send your observations or views on topical co-operative matters to saccoreview@shrendpublishers.co.ke. Note that the Editor reserves the right to edit your articles for purposes of clarity and precision.

Bring back 'Sacco Member'

I keep wondering what happened to your exciting series on 'Sacco Member' which was running consistently in *Sacco Review*. The pages had very inspiring articles that touched the nerves of ordinary Sacco members. These well-packaged articles have empowered many Sacco members who had an opportunity to learn from others on how to manage their loans.

Githinji Muriithi, Nyeri

Editor: You will be reading your favourite Sacco Member articles from the next issue of *Sacco Review*. Thank you.

Your paper is informative, keep it up

I am a regular reader of *Sacco Review*. I wish to thank your team for the good job you are doing in informing us about what is happening in the co-operative movement. I have been following with much curiosity your well-researched series on the Saccos offering the best returns on investment and I must say this report has been hugely helpful for many of us to know where to place our resources. Please keep it up!

Chimanzi Kunga, Kwale

Who will help me to get my refund?

I applied to withdraw as a member of my Sacco in December last year. I am yet to get a refund of my savings. I decided to withdraw my membership because the Sacco didn't inspire confidence. It mostly delayed in processing loans.

Each time I checked with the authorities concerned, they took me in circles. I later sought redress with the office of the Co-operatives Commissioner and they promised to address the matter. Up until now, nothing has been done. My friends who sympathized with my situation, asked me to seek help with the Co-operative Tribunal. I intend to visit them to raise my complaints. Does the tribunal have the power to assist me get my savings?

Mwanaidi Mubarak, Mombasa

Murang'a co-ops asked to focus on their objectives

By Kage Njoroge

Murang'a County Government co-operative director Bernard Kariuki *(pictured)* has urged co-operatives to remain focused on their objectives.

Kariuki pointed out that societies have become strategic vehicles to drive local social and economic development.

He noted that the county's economy is largely supported by co-operative entities.

He said 658,000 people from the local population are active members in different societies.

He pointed out that co-operative societies operating in this county have a combined asset portfolio amounting to Sh 16 billion. In 2018 the sector gave out loans to members totaling to Sh6.4 billion, which, he said, are circulating in various economic activities.

"Saccos have become popular for providing credit facilities that are affordable and with flexible terms," he said.

Kariuki observed that the sector has rapidly grown since the establishment of county government with the number of societies increasing to 431 from 162 registered in 2013.

"The county government has created an enabling environment for the sector to be vibrant. The County Assembly is set to enact a Co-operatives Bill which will guide the regulation and governance of the sector in the region," he said.

The official was speaking during this year's Ushirika Day cerebrations. During the celebration Mentor Sacco was awarded for being the best society in payment of highest dividend among employer based Saccos.

Broad Borders Housing Co-operatives Society was the county's best housing society.

Biashara Sacco board members and staff with Nyeri Governor, Mutahi Kahiga after they received a trophy and certificate during the 2019 Ushirika Day cerebration for the Highest Dividend Payment Rate (17 %) and Highest Interest Rate on Deposits.

CENTRAL

Kiambu best Saccos honoured with trophies

By Felix Wanderi

Co-operative societies in Kiambu County have been urged to have a strong role in creating decent jobs and empower local communities economically and socially.

This was emphasized during the 97th Ushirika Day celebrations held at Limuru Model Primary School.

"Co-operatives being value-driven enterprises owned, controlled and run by members should serve to empower society," said Patrick Gathendu, the county Ushirika Council chairman.

He noted that the contributions of the co-operative movement in Kiambu have significantly helped in the growth of economy.

"Co-operatives play a significant role in employment creation and income-generation. More than 100 million jobs exist in the co-operatives globally as cited by ICA," he said.

According to Metropolitan National Sacco chairman Christopher Karanja, they have been able to create jobs for many people by making avaiblable affordable credit facilities to members who are able to grow their business and employ more people.

During the day various co-operative societies were feted.

Metropolitan Sacco received an award for the best in service delivery, information technology and diversification.

Githunguri Dairy Farmers Co-operative Society won a trophy for the Best in value addition and members' capacity building. Its Board of Directors chair Charles Mukora noted that through value addition they have been able to create jobs for so many youths.

In the medium societies' category, Limuru and Ndumberi Dairy Farmers Societies were awarded for the highest in percentage rate in payment.

Kiambaa Dairy Society was ranked the Best managed while Kiriita Dairy Society was the Most Improved.

In coffee sector most improved in the large category was Komothai Coffee Society. Ndumberi Coffee Society topped in the medium category while Mikari Cofffee Society emerged best in the small category.

Walokana Matatu Sacco was the best in deposit mobilization in transport sector.

K-Unity Sacco was awarded the best rural Society in the super large category in best branch network and savings mobilization. In the large category Dimkes Sacco was rated the best in branch network. GDC Sacco topped in deposit mobilization.

Tai Sacco was awarded for being the best managed in the county.

Joinas Sacco won a trophy for best in product innovation while Fariji Sacco got the accolade for the best in branch network.

In medium category Grafco Sacco was awarded for having the best branch network and Bibirioni Sacco was the best in diversification.

Hasco and Ndeiya Saccos also scooped awards for highest payment interest on deposits and best managed respectively.

Kiambu Inua Maisha Sacco got the award for best in product innovation.

In housing sector large category Vision Housing Society was the best managed and Kibute Housing Society emerged the best in title issuance.

In urban Saccos' category large category Kiatu Sacco was the best managed and had the highest interest on deposits.

Dimkes Sacco staff led by the Board of Directors chairlady, Caroline Gikonyo receive an award for the best society in information technology and diversification.

Members' savings hit Sh43.8bn for Kiambu Saccos

By Azael Masese

Coffee, dairy, savings and credit, housing and transport sub-sectors remain the key contributors to the co-operative movement in Kiambu County.

As at 30th December 2018, the county had 666 registered co-operative societies with a membership of 533,000.

With an accumulated share capital of Sh6.5 billion by December 2018, members' deposits stood at about Sh43.8 billion.

County Co-operative Director Peter Ndegwa stated that societies have recorded turnover of Sh14.4 billion by end of period under review, employing over 3,200 people on permanent basis.

"Coffee subsector is one of our mainstay and we produce 20 per cent of the total coffee in the country," he stated.

He represented Kiambu County CECM in charge of Trade, Industrialisation and Co-operatives, Mburu Kang'ethe during Ushirika Day celebrations at Model Primary School, Limuru.

Ndegwa said that there are 22 registered co-operative societies in coffee sub sector with a membership of 568,000 and share capital of Sh15 million and a turnover of Sh699 million.

"Despite the challenges experienced in the sub sector, coffee production in 2018 stood at 9.8 million kilogrammes compared to 10.1 million kilogrammes in 2017 which fetched gross sales of Sh664 million," he said.

Though the prices of coffee and payment of farmers have not been favourable, he urged the local leadership to look at the options to increase production and payment rates.

The region has 17 dairy co-operatives with an active membership of 60,000 with a share capital of Sh853 million and turnover of Sh9.5 billion.

"These dairy co-operatives produced 126 million litres of milk up from 117 million litres in 2017. This fetched sales of Sh5.1 billion compared to 5.09 billion in the previous year," he noted.

Farmers were paid Sh4.8 billion in 2018 compared to Sh4.5 billion the previous year with a litre fetching about Sh36.

Kiambu County Coop Director Peter Ndegwa.

"The dairy sub sector has a huge potential and I urge farmers and leaders to improve on value addition for better income," he appealed.

Kiambu County has about 147 urban Sacco's with a membership of 5,900 and share capital of Sh690m and turnover of Sh670m.

There are about 183 rural Sacco's with a membership of 271, 000 and 610 employees. These Saccos have accumulated a share capital of Sh1.1 billion. There are also 78 transport societies with a membership of 6,000.

However, a number of challenges such as integrity, lack of co-operative policy, non remittance, poor book keeping and crop husbandry, and low involvement of women and youth remain the main bane.

The county's Ushirika chairman Patrick Githendu identified marketing, especially of coffee as the region's soft underbelly.

"There are so many cartels in the bean's value chain and they have taken off the shine and farmers wallow in poverty," he said.

The Government has over time waived off coffee famers' debts but Githendu stated it has not provided the lasting solutions to woes afflicting the sector.

He regretted that farmers are not involved in the marketing of the produce and might be short-changed in the process.

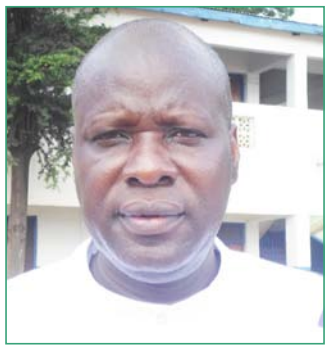
"As a farmer, my role is only to deliver coffee, take it to the miller and that is the end. You do not know what grade your coffee would be and is upon other players," he said.

Githendu, who serves as a Director at the Co-operative Bank, said something needs to be done to change the dwindling fortunes of the economic activities of the region.

He also noted that though the dairy sector might be seen to be doing very well, it is everybody for himself.

2019 USHIRIKA AWARDS SUPPLEMENT

Imarika Sacco emerges Best Overall in Kilifi



Mr Renson Ndoro, Kilifi County Imarika Sacco Chairman and Ushirika Day steering committee chairman.

Mr Daniel Masha, Chief Executive Officer, Imarika Sacco.

By Tsozungu Kombe

Imarika Sacco Limited recently won several trophies and certificates during the Ushirika Day celebrations, emerging among the top in Kilifi County.

The list of categories where it won trophies during the 97th International Co-operatives Day celebrations held at Barani Secondary School in Malindi town, Kilifi County, included Best Insured Co-operative, Best in Information and Technology, Best in Loan Services and Best in Education and Training.

The Society was also awarded for Best Sacco in Concern for the community and Sacco with Most Diversified Products. Imarika Sacco also scooped an award for 3rd position in Best Member Recruitment Sacco category, scoring 14.85 percent.

Imarika Sacco also took third position and was awarded a certificate in the category of Best Managed Sacco.

Following its sterling performance, Imarika Sacco Limited was declared one of the Best performing Saccos in Kilifi County and Coast region.

Formerly Kilifi Teachers Co-operative Society, Imarika Sacco continues to scale the heights of progress and achievement, making it easy for its members to access credit and empower themselves.

Established in 1974 with only 100 members, Imarika Sacco has remained true to its vision of changing the financial status of its members.

Located at KITECHO Complex in Kilifi town, along the Kilifi - Malindi road, Imarika Sacco has won several trophies in the past. These include last year when it bagged the top prize in Best performing Sacco category in Kilifi County.

According to Imarika Sacco Limited Board of Directors Chairman, Mr Renson Ndoro, this society has a long history that dates back to when a small group of individuals came together upon realizing that their monthly wages was not sufficient to do anything much with.

"We have since been on a long journey that is full of challenges. The Society has grown over the years and is now able to deliver quality products and services to members", averred Ndoro.

He attributes success at Imarika to a dynamic leadership style by the Board of Directors, members and management staff.

"We will continue to offer quality and professional services to members so that they can enjoy products offered by the Sacco," noted Ndoro.

Figures indicate that Imarika Sacco has a membership of more than 85,604 with an aggressive recruitment drive already in place to increase these numbers.

Imarika Sacco opened its common bond in 1998 and re-branded in 2013 from Kilifi Teachers Co-operative Society. The idea was to allow non-teachers to become members of the Society.

With the Society having grown its financial muscle, directors and top management is urging members to borrow wisely, pay promptly and make good use of funds borrowed from the Society.

Imarika Sacco has branches in Mtwapa, Mariakani, Malindi, Ukunda, Garsen, Bamba and Kilifi. There are plans by the Society to open new outlets in Hola town, Tana River County, Mpeketoni town in Lamu West Sub County and Lamu town.

Imarika Sacco Limited Chief Executive Officer, Daniel Masha says the society has embraced ICT to enhance efficiency in service delivery to members and the general public.

He notes that the society's Software is now capable of taking the Sacco to the next level of serving members faster and more efficiently.

"We have a website that allows members to access services and interact with the Sacco. I urge members to update their details, including e-mail addresses and current telephone numbers so that this vital information is captured in the system for easy communication," noted Masha.

Figures indicate that Imarika Sacco Society's Turnover stood at Sh 1.36 billion at the end of 31st December, 2018. Total Assets as at June 31st, 2019 was Sh8.1 billion with 5,604 new members joining Imarika Sacco over the past six months of this year.

Mr James Mwasi, Kilifi County co-operative director, presents a certificate and trophy to Imarika Sacco Members after they won in the Best in Loan servicing category during the 97th Ushirika Day celebrations held in Malindi town.

Mrs Flister Moraa, Malindi Sub-county Co-operative Officer, awarding Imarika Sacco Members after they were declared the Best in Information Technology category during the 97th Ushirika Day celebrations.

Trophies displayed during Ushirika Day celebrations held in Malindi town recently.

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EASTERN

Best Saccos feted as Embu celebrates co-operatives day

By Kamundia Muriithi

Winas Sacco received the prize for the best overall tier one society in the county during the International Co-operative Alliance Day held at Kiajokoma Primary School.

The financial institution, which has an asset base of over Sh5 billion, also bagged the award for having the highest deposit per member at Sh227, 249.

It also won trophies for the best mobilization strategy and for society with the most improved marketing initiative.

Embu Varsity Sacco and Raa Elites Sacco were best overall Saccos in second tier and third tier respectively.

Nawiri Sacco carried the day for tier one Sacco with highest dividends/interest rate at 15 per cent, while Mediators Sacco led in tier 2 at 18.75 per cent and Mwathi Mweru in tier 3 at 13.72 per cent.

Daima Sacco bagged the award for embracing technology the most and for the best mobilization strategy.

Kevote Factory, which operates under Kirurumwe co-operative society, was honoured for having the highest coffee production at 822,886 kilogrammes.

Factories with the best quality coffee included Ngurweri, Kevote and Kirimiri.

Murue Farmers' Co-operative Society (Coffee category), Focus Realtors (Housing), Mbuguru Society (Dairy), Ena Co-operative (Multipurpose) and Neno Sacco (Transport) also got awards.

Embu Deputy Governor David Kariuki and Agriculture CECM Annie Nyaga attended the event hosted by Murue Cooperative Society.

Kariuki said the County Government has put a conducive environment for the different types of co-operatives to thrive, adding that the county has partnered with 24 co-operative societies and built a multi-million coffee mill at Kavutiri, which will add value to dry coffee parchment by milling it.

The county also plans to roast, pack and sell the commodity as Embu specialty coffee.

Kariuki said the county is also working on a coffee bill and a co-operative's policy in a bid to streamline the sector, especially the governance of the Kavutiri County Mill and that of the various co-operative societies.

"The legal framework will guide how the county government and the co-operative societies work together. When working together farmers would benefit from economies of scale and bypassing middlemen who offer throwaway prices," he said.

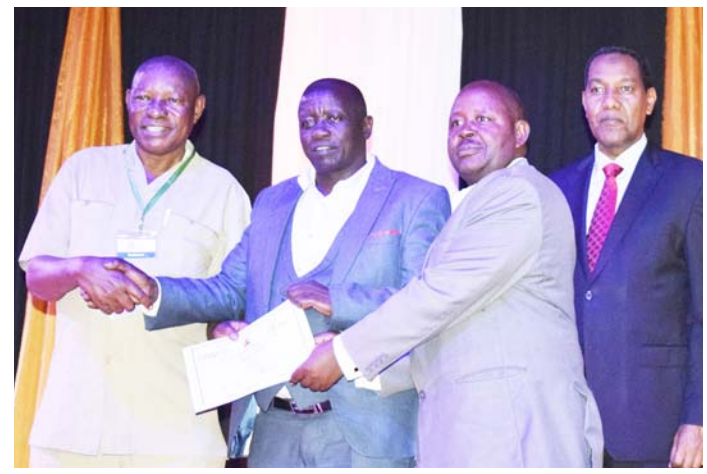
Coffee farmers led by Catherine Wanja asked co-operative societies to pay them on time and give subsidized inputs.

"The government should consider subsiding farm inputs and investing in post-harvest equipment to reduce losses. The high cost of farm inputs is eating into our profits. A lot of reforms are needed to put the sector back into profitability," she said.

The deputy governor also promised to intervene to help Embu businesspeople recover their savings of millions of shillings that they lost to a Sacco under unclear circumstances.

"We appeal to residents to be wary before joining any Sacco that sets office in town and promises high quick returns. They should find from the cooperative's office if it is properly registered," he said.

The Sacco, which is registered in Kiambu County purported to be affiliated to the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNNCI). It had promised loans up to 10 times one's savings at an interest of eight percent.



Mr Robert Kithanju (2nd left**), Winas Sacco chairman receiving a certificate during Ushirika Gala night in Nairobi. The Sacco won a trophy for the Best in Capitalization in Tier One category under the Employer-based Saccos countrywide.**

MACHAKOS

Shareholders of Wendano Matuu Farmers Company during a demonstration against illegal sale of their land on August 7,2019. The Company has over 1700 shareholders with majority of them being elderly. Coffee worth over Sh20 million at the farm went to waste due to the stalemate last year. Photo/Eugene Kioko.

Kitui to fight poverty through co-operatives

By Boniface Mulu

Co-operatives in Kitui County have been told to engage county officials in addressing challenges affecting them.

The County co-operative chief officer, Clement Mung'ithya, said they are committed in ensuring the institutions grow as one way of fighting poverty in the area, adding that they will continue auditing co-operatives to safeguard members' money.

"Co-operative leaders should engage our officers in promotions and capacity building," he said.

He was speaking during Kitui Ushirika Day celebrations.

He said registration of the co-operative societies in the county increased from 205 as at December 31, 2017 to 257 by the end of December 31, 2018. Membership recorded 6.8 per cent increase to 64,452. The sector had mobilized deposits totaling to Sh 8.01 billion.

Mung'ithya said they plan to carry out capacity building to the society management committees and education to members.

Kitui Teachers Sacco Chairman, Dr Joseph Muema Kithome, urged the county to offer support to the co-operative sector, saying it was capable of changing the county fortune.

The best managed society award went to the Kitui Teachers Sacco. Bestrock Sacco won the overall best managed rural society and the overall best compliance rural Sacco trophies.

Kitui County Wachungaji Sacco won the lowest expenditure sacco trophy, Kaliku Women Star Sacco bagged the most compliant Sacco in Kitui East Constituency trophy while Mutomo Farmers Sacco got the same award in Kitui South Constituency.

SEU Sacco was rated the most compliant in Kitui Rural Constituency while Kithumula-Kwa Mutonga Sacco got the most compliant Sacco in Kitui West Constituency.

Women take over Miraa trade

By John Majau

When Miraa farming was started in early 1940s in Nyambene region, Meru County, women were totally prohibited from consuming and selling of the lucrative khat that first originated from Harare in Ethiopia in the 11th century before spreading to Kenya in 14th century.

But things have changed as women have taken over the business. According to Nyambene Miraa Traders Association (NYAMITA) 90 per cent of miraa traders are women.

Jane Mwonjaru, 83, noted that women were not only prohibited from growing miraa, but also were not allowed to go near the place where the old men used to seat and chew the khat.

"A woman was not allowed at all to chew or even touch miraa of their husband. If a messenger would bring miraa and find the man of the house was not present he would not leave it with the wife," said Mwonjaru.

The granny said any woman who was found chewing miraa was perceived to be an outcast, morally loose and would not get a man to marry her.

She noted that it was perceived to be a sacred plant that connected people with God and ancestors, adding that miraa was also used during sacrifices and rituals done to appease gods, seal marriages, naming ceremonies, circumcision for boys, ear piercing, and initiation to Njuri Ncheke Council of Elders.

NYAMITA National chairman Kimanthi Munjuri said women have dominated the industry a move he said has been attributed by erosion of traditions and norms which banned women from engaging in miraa business.

He noted that many women empowerment self-help groups are giving them capital to venture into the business.

"In Maua, Laare and Mutuati trading centres you will find women selling miraa in the streets during the day and at night competing fiercely with their male counterpart and beating them in the game," he said.

Mary Kanario, a daily miraa trader and a consumer, said her business has been doing well.

"It is a good business. Miraa is not harmful as some claim, but it actually ensures one remains active. It stimulates one's feelings and body alertness, nobody goes insane or loses senses after chewing the plant," she said.

She observed that miraa farming has helped many families in Nyambene and Tigania regions to fight poverty and boost the economy of the county, adding that the government should empower women engaged in miraa farming or trade through financial incentives.

Mwonjaru criticized the government for withholding Sh2 billion promised to farmers by President Uhuru Kenyatta in 2017.

She demanded an explanation from the Miraa Implementation Task Force appointed to oversee the disbursement of the funds to farmers.

At least 100 tonnes of miraa leave the region daily for export fetching about Sh 10 million per day.

Amina Mohamed, a trader in Maua town, called on the government to help in opening new markets for the crop after it was banned in UK, Netherland, Tanzania and other countries, a measure she said has lead to loss of millions of shillings in the lucrative business.

Women at a miraa farm.

FOCUS ON USHIRIKA AWARDS — Kenya's crème de la crème SACCOs

Makueni MP Daniel Maanzo (left) presents the trophy for the Best in Risk Management Countywide (agricultural-based Saccos category) to Times U Sacco CEO Cathrene Mwamba and Board Member, during the Ushirika Gala Dinner at Safari Park Hotel.

Ollin Sacco Chairman Harrison Gachugo flanked by other Sacco board members and staff receive one of the trophies at the County Ushirika Day this year. The Sacco also won the Best in Credit Management, under Employer-based Saccos in Tier 1 category award nationally.

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SACCO REVIEW

The leading newspaper for the co-operative movement in Kenya

Tea farmers protest over factory funds

By John Majau

Tea farmers from Amugaa in Meru County held demonstration accusing Kenya Tea Development Authority (KTDA) of misusing millions of shillings meant to construct a tea factory in the area.

More than 5,000 demonstrating farmers accused Michimikuru Tea Factory Management of robbing them about Sh 300 million contributed by the growers to start a satellite factory at Amugaa.

Led by Thangatha MCA Kingori Kayana, the protesters demanded audience with management.

They said they started contributing the money from the year 2007 when all stakeholders meeting was held and a memorandum of understanding was reached to have every farmer deducted Sh1.00 per kilogramme towards construction of the new factory .

"The satellite factory was to save the loss and ease congestion. Now we are still wasting our harvest worth millions of shillings and we are not ready to lose again. The factory must be set up. We are not stopping until the factory is constructed," said the MCA.

The KTDA Regional Manager Nathan Kirera dismissed the allegation saying part of the money was used to expand Michimikuru Tea Factory.

He added they are ready to give back the money by borrowing loans to enable construction of the new factory.

Kirera however noted the factory cannot be constructed under political pressure adding it will be a collective agreement between all tea growers and the stakeholders.

"Yes recommendations were made in 2007 to have tea growers raise funds to construct a sister factory at Amugaa to avoid loss of tea and any other processing capacity. But we will not agree to be forced by politicians to construct it through demonstrations. We will set it up when capital is enough," he said.

Tea farmers plucking tea at Keyian farm.

2019 USHIRIKA AWARDS SUPPLEMENT

Bingwa wins Best Managed Sacco trophy

By Staff Writer

Bingwa Sacco Society won trophy for being among the Best Managed Agricultural-based Saccos in Kenya during the recent Ushirika Awards ceremony, held at the Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi.

The Society also won a trophy for being the Most Capitalized countrywide and the in agricultural-based Saccos category. It was also voted on of the Most Efficient, also in the agricultural-based Saccos category, Best in Technology Optimization.

Bingwa Sacco also made its mark at the Kirinyaga County where it clinched trophies in several categories, outshining most of its peers especially those engaged in agriculture.

Formerly Kirinyaga Tea Growers Sacco Limited, the society was initially registered in 1984 being the first of its kind in the Republic of Kenya and Africa. Initially, it started its operations with BOSA Services but introduced FOSA services in 1993 to meet the increasing demand by the growing membership. The Society was among the first licensed by SASRA (Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority) for deposit taking in 2011 and also among the first DT Saccos to be registered in the country.

This Society is managed by 7 Directors and 3 supervisory Directors elected directly by the members (sharesholders). It has a branch network of 19 outlets made up of 16 in Kirinyaga County and one each in Kiambu, Nairobi and Kajiado Counties.

Figures indicate that Bingwa Sacco's membership rose from 153,456 in year 2017 to 170,443 in 2018.

The Sacco's assets as at December 31, 2018 were Sh5.15 billion, up from Sh4.6 billion in 2017.

During the same period, members' shares increased from Sh448 million to Sh517 million an increase of 15.4 per cent.

As part of its diversified product offering, Bingwa Sacco Prestige Insurance Agency has been established. This follows the Society's desire to provide a one stop for all financial services.

Bingwa Prestige Insurance Agency (BPIA) offers a whole range of insurance products and services. Through establishing partnerships with various reputable insurance companies in the industry, BPIA has innovative insurance products and services that address the insurable needs of our customers.

The main objective of the Bingwa Prestige Insurance Agency is to facilitate access by our customers to professional insurance advisory services, convenient and accessible insurance policies and efficient claims services. Bingwa Prestige Insurance Agency has a team of well trained and professionally qualified staff.

Some of the services offered by the Bingwa Prestige Insurance Agency include Motor private and commercial, non-Motor, Agriculture, Last Expense and Medical insurance policies, Life and Pensions insurance products for individuals, groups and organizations, Group and Individual medical schemes, General Insurance Covers - Livestock, Crop, Fire and Perils, Last Expense, Claims Management and arranging Insurance Premium financing.

President Uhuru Kenyatta addressing 97th Ushirika Day Celerations at the KICC on July 20 2019.

Bingwa Sacco CEO Jane Mugo receiving the Ushirika award and certificate from Makueni MP Daniel Malonza (right)**. Second left is Board Member Andrew Mugo while on the right is Board Member John Mugo**

Bingwa Sacco CEO, Jane Mugoh receives another National Ushirika trophy and certificate at the Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi reom CAK CEO Daniel Marube (second left)**. Second Right is Bingwa Sacco acting Chairman Keneth Muriithi. On the left is Board Member John Mugo.**

Bingwa Sacco Limited

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Fax: 06021502
Email: bingwasaccolimited@yahoo.com
info@bingwasacco.coop
Website: ww.bingwasacco.coop

Vision
To be the leading Sacco in offering viable financial services to members within our area of operation for sustainable economic and social growth

Mission
Mobilization of savings/ deposits, provision of quality, affordable credit and diversified services through prudent management that ensures optimum benefits to the members and other stake holders.

Products and services

Accounts:
* Ordinary savings, Biashara, salary, Group, Fixed deposit, Bingwa Junior, Joint and Institution accounts.
* Holiday, Farming, Bodaboda, Fund, Student and Landlord accounts

Banking services
* Sale of current account cheque books and internal cheque book.
* Ordinary and bankers' cheques
* Salary and pension pay points
* Processing of tea, coffee, horticulture and dairy payouts

Credit services offered
* Development, School fees, emergency, Majani, Biashara and farming loans.
* Salary and pension advance, Micro-credit advances, LPO and Tender financing and Asset financing loans
* Youth Fund and Diaspora loans
* Coffee Loans and Check Off Loans

Other services
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TRIBUTE

Co-operative icon Kabira leaves behind a rich legacy

By Kamundia Muriithi

A somber mood engulfed Kirinyaga County when family, friends, politicians and leaders in the co-operatives movement gathered at Castle Forest Association (CFA) grounds — Karandi- Kimunye.

The occasion was to bid farewell to the late Cyrus Njine Kabira (HSC), the founder and chairman of the board at Bingwa Sacco Society Limited, who passed on in July 13th, 2019.

Among mourners at the burial ceremony at his home opposite Kimunye Tea Factory included Co-operatives Bank of Kenya CEO Gideon Muriuki, former Cabinet Minister Martha Wangari Karua and previous Kirinyaga County Governor Joseph Ndathi. Others were Kirinyaga Woman Representative Purity Ngirichi, leaders and members of the public.

Others included Kirinyaga Deputy Governor Peter Ndambiri,Kirinyaga Central MP Munene wambugu, CIC Group CEO Tom Gitogo, KUSCO A vocacy Manager Mercy Njeru, Acting Commissioner of Cooperatives Geofrey Njang'ombe, CAK CEO Daniel Marube, Fomer area Daniel Karaba. Sasra CEO John Mwaka had attended the prayers a day before.

The late 77 years-old Kabira was born in 1942 in Njuku Sub location, Kabare location, Kirinyaga County. He begun school at Mugumo Primary School in 1952 and later proceeded to Mutige Intermediate School in 1956 for his Kenya African Primary Education (KAPE) examination in 1959. He then joined Thika Technical and Trades School (Thika Technical) in 1960 and took up masonry. Upon completion at Thika TTI, the late Kabira secured a job at the then Kirinyaga County Council as a mason, resigning in 1965.

At this point, he formed Gichugu Building and General Contractors. This firm undertook a number of big ticket projects in Kirinyaga, including construction of Mutige Boys, Ministry of Agriculture staff houses at Kiritiri and many coffee factories in the region.

After experiencing delayed payments, the late Kabira got frustrated and shut down the building and construction firm, looking for luck in the murky waters of politics. Although he was elected KANU Divisional Chairman in 1980, Kabira soon lost interest in politics.

Promotion to glory

This is when he joined hands with a few farmers to set up a welfare group that was to assist poor tea farmers cater for payment of school fees for their children. This welfare group soon acquired the name Kirinyaga Tea Growers Sacco Limited

In 2009, the Society opened up to members that are not tea farmers and after rebranding begun to recruit coffee, rice, dairy and horticulture farmers as well as business people. Others were farmers growing rice, coffee, ßbanana, keeping dairy and practicing horticulture.

The late Kabira led Kirinyaga Tea Growers Sacco Limited through its rebranding to Bingwa Sacco and had hitherto been part of its transformative journey to become a notable player in the co-operatives movement, both at the county and national level.

Married to the late Jane Thuguri, Njine leaves behind several children.

His funeral service was held at Castle Forest Association (CFA) grounds — Karandi- Kimunye followed by burial at his home opposite Kimunye tea factory, Kirinyaga County.

The late Njine takes the final bow when his brainchild Bingwa Sacco has grown into a colossal financial juggernaut, with 16 branches spread across Kirinyaga, Kiambu, Nairobi and Kajiado counties with its Head Office in Kerugoya Town. "On behalf of the board and supervisory committee, we extend our condolences to the family, friends and entire membership of Bingwa Sacco. The late Njine was not only our boss but also a father and mentor for 35 years," said Jane Mugo, Bingwa Sacco CEO.

Former Cabinet Minister and past Gichugu MP Martha Karua, who is a relative to Kabira's family, told mourners how Kabira showed her the ropes in politics.

"When I joined politics in 1992, Njine held my hand and took me around Gichugu constituency, urging residents to vote for me," said Karua who won the polls held that year.

Former Kirinyaga Governor Joseph Ndathi said the Kabira was hardworking. "We need to emulate the late Kabira who dedicated his life to serving the community.

"Much will be said about Kabira but one thing remains in my mind. Kabira did much better for Bingwa Sacco" said Ndathi.

"He was able to provide farmers with an alternative at a time when commercial banks were shutting the door on farmers," said Purity Wangui Ngirici, Kirinyaga Woman Representative.

The late Kabira who led Bingwa Sacco for 35 years was also a Director of Kimunye Tea Factory for two terms between 2005 and 2014. He has also been a director of Cooperative Bank of Kenya, founder of Kimunye Forest Primary School and a board member of Mugumo Primary School.

He also served on the board of KTDA and was awarded Head of State Commendation (HSC) in 2005.

He left behind a firm foundation and an able board and a CEO at Binwa Sacco who have been working with him for a long time.

> **He will be remembered as a dedicated and outstanding co-operative leader and great hard working man who inspired many. His leadership and tremendous charisma in ensuring the social welfare of the society could not go unnoticed.**

Leaders follow the proceedings during the late Kabira's funeral.

Mourners among them major Co-operative leaders from across the country follow proceedings at the late Kabira's funeral ceremony.

NAIROBI

Co-op Bank to support Metropolitan National Sacco to restructure

The Director Co-operatives Banking at Co-op Bank Vincent Marangu exchanges documents with the leadership of Metropolitan Sacco namely, Acting CEO Benson Ng'ang'a Mwangi, Chairman Christopher Karanja and Vice Chairman Lucy Kuria over restructuring of Metropolitan.

Co-op Bank has deepened its strategic partnership with the giant Metropolitan National Sacco to streamline and enhance service delivery to the members.

The Bank is offering corporate advisory services through its subsidiary, Co-op Consultancy to build capacity for long term sustainability. In addition, under a Corporate Restructure Programme, the Bank has restructured the Sacco's funding requirements to better manage the members' monthly loan demands as well as the overall liquidity flows aimed at a complete turnaround of the Sacco.

Metropolitan National Sacco is one of the largest Saccos in the over 15 million member co-operative movement and has a membership of over 100,000, a total assets base of Sh13.6 billion and runs 8 branches spread across the country.

The Sacco has stabilized its operations with additional effort geared towards recovery of the outstanding loans while availing the recovered funds for on-lending to members.

The Bank has relaunched the Sacco link debit card, Sacco Personal Cheques and trade finance partnership to increase the Sacco's revenue base through its Front Office Service Activity (FOSA).

Speaking at the event organized to sign the restructuring agreement the Chairman of the Sacco Mr Christopher Karanja, highly commended Co-operative Bank for the timely intervention, noting the restructuring has really injected new impetus for growth at the Sacco.

"We thank the Co-operative Bank for coming to our great support at such a critical moment. The recommendations and measures that have so far been put in place will certainly get the Sacco to new heights. The corporate restructure by the Bank is the best thing that has happened to the Sacco in a long time. We will now boldly and seamlessly offer services to our members."

Speaking at the same function, the Director, Co-operatives Banking Division at Co-operative Bank, Mr Vincent Marangu said that the bank has a strategic interest in the turn-around and long-term growth of Metropolitan National Sacco a key stakeholder in the co-operative movement.

Mr Marangu added that the corporate restructuring deal will ensure the Sacco has adequate working capital to support the members as well as improve the operational efficiency of the Sacco.

"We have done it before for a number of co-operatives, with huge success, and therefore this will be in line with our mandate and commitment to the co-operative movement," he concluded.

The corporate restructuring programme has already commenced.

Nyeri trains over 820 co-op leaders on governance, ICT

By Munene Maina

County Government of Nyeri sponsored over 820 co-operative societies leaders and managers for training at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology.

They were trained on good governance, adoption of information and communication technology and conflict management among other topics.

Speaking during Ushirika Day celebrations in Nyeri town, where those who underwent the training were awarded certificates, Governor Mutahi Kahiga said the county had commissioned a survey aimed at boosting co-operative sector.

"Some societies have stayed for over three years without holding annual general meeting or election of officials. This is one of the issues we want to do away with in the co-operative sector in this county," he said.

He noted that the county will engage deposit-taking Saccos to collect county revenue and cautioned leaders who lose in co-operatives elections against interfering in the management of the societies.

"Co-operatives are about democracy, elected leaders must be allowed to execute their mandate fully," he said.

Nyeri County Commissioner David Kipkemei warned corrupt co-operative leaders who are running down societies in the region.

He also urged co-op leaders to recruit more youth and come up with ways of adding value to local produce.

Nyeri County has distributed weighing machines to coffee societies and 20 milk coolers to dairy societies according to the governor.

He said they plan to purchase six vehicles to boost AI services in the county.

Newton Nderitu the county ICA chair, urged the Governor to scale-up subsidies for co-operative sector to boost growth.

He said the county has 155 active co-operative societies with a membership of above 424,000.

"They have been instrumental in mobilising resources for value addition to improve livelihoods of members. These co-operatives are member owned and controlled," he said.

John Githinji, the county deposit-taking Saccos chairman, lamented that numerous regulations and compliance were halting the sub-sector's growth.

"The bad publicity about the sector as a result of a few rogue individuals is also soiling the good name for the movement," noted Githinji, who is also NewFortis Sacco chairman.

During the event various co-operative societies were awarded for their outstanding performances.

Biashara Sacco was awarded for the business Sacco with highest dividend and interest rates in 2018. It was followed by Othaya Business Women Sacco and Nyeri South Traders Sacco in second and third position respectively.

Newfortis Sacco led the pack of urban Saccos with the highest interest rate followed by Mukurwe-ini staff Sacco. Urigiti Sacco was named the best in dividend payout followed by Nyewasco Sacco, Kimtech Sacco, Moukenbott Sacco and Mt Kenya Schools Sacco in that order.

Kayome Sacco was the best rural Sacco with highest dividend payment rate while Wakulima Commercial Sacco and Enea Sacco emerged second and third positions.

The transport Saccos with the best return to members as dividend were Two-KG Sacco, MRM Sacco and Nyena Sacco respectively. Nakonns Sacco, Karombu Sacco and Nokk Sacco had the highest interest rate on their members' deposits in 2018.

Ichamama Factory was awarded for the highest payment per factory in 2017/2018, while Kagumoini Factory got the top prize for best quality coffee. Gikanda FCS received the award for highest rate of payment per kilogramme.

Slopes dairy co-operative was named the best dairy co-operative with the highest percentage payment.

Some of the co-op leaders in Nyeri County during Ushirika day celebrations.

WOCCU, VISA to develop new digital financial tools for Saccos

By Rosemil Oduor

World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) and Visa are collaborating to develop new digital financial tools that will improve efficiency for Kenyan Saving and Credit Co-operative Societies (Saccos).

The new financial product is still in concept phase. In June, representatives from three Kenyan Saccos—Universal Traders, Fortune and Siraji—joined professionals from the Kenyan Union of Savings and Credit Cooperatives Ltd (KUSCCO) and WOCCU at the Visa Innovation Centre in Dubai to map out a development strategy.

They identified text-to-pay capabilities, affordability and a broad network for services as some of the key factors for the product's ultimate success.

World Council Board Director and KUSCCO CEO George Ototo, speaking during the 2019 World Credit Union Conference held in the Bahamas, said, to be viable, the new tool would have to: limit the number of transaction charges, provide a way to track transactions and allow for mobile point-of-service sales.

"While we're developing the business case, we're also working on some logistics around licensing and, ultimately, how we bring this to life via a digital app. So, those are the next steps," said Visa Head of Community Accounts Douglas Leighton.

Once the digital tool is ready, Visa hopes to implement a pilot programme at select Saccos to test it out.

The move is aimed to help the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to have more access to digital financial tools.

WOCCU Vice President of Financial Inclusion Megan O'Donnell noted that while digital financial tools such as M-pesa currently serve much of the population in Kenya, for many savings and Saccos in the country, these products are still too expensive or not available.

"Though technology has expanded access to finance dramatically, there are still big gaps in the market," said O'Donnell.

"We at WOCCU try to work with our partners to fill these gaps. We want businesses to come in and create useful services for Saccos so they can operate more efficiently, and we want to build a sustainable market. If WOCCU can come in and match-make or help with the research, we're happy to do that."

Radical changes have been occurring in the world of money hence the need for Saccos to be prepared for such changes.

Pippa Malmgren, an economic trend forecaster speaking during the conference, said it is necessary for credit unions to study the new types of digital currency and payments because it will transform how they do business.

He also said the institutions need to consider using data analytics to better understand member needs and to figure out how to attract new members.

Tai Sacco wins Technology Optimisation Award

Tai Sacco officials Samuel Kimaru(right) **and James Ng'ang'a** (centre) **receive their Ushirika National Award from CAK CEO Daniel Marube. Tai Sacco emerged the third best in Technology Optimisation and agricultural based Sacco.**

President Uhuru Kenyatta addressing Ushirika National celebration at the KICC.

Tai Sacco strengthens its Mobile banking platform

Peter Kahiga Mwaura, Chairman

John M Mwangi, CEO

By Jackson Okoth

Tai Sacco Society, based in Githunguri, recorded a significant increase in revenue from its mobile banking platform, which increased significantly thereby contributing to huge increase in its turnover.

In an effort to increase customer loyalty, the Society did some renovations in Ruiru and Kimende branches to create ample space for members. Kimende was upgraded from a satellite office to a fully-fledged branch, complete with all the required human resources. This branch is expected to break even within the next two years.

Tai Sacco has also re-organized its micro credit business in order to make it more vibrant. " We have also entered into partnership with TSC where a check off facility was agreed upon for TSC members willing to be members," said Mwangi.

The newly introduced product on Sacco assurance, under Aquila Insurance Agency, will take centre stage. Similarly, establishment of a microcredit department will assist our expansion to SMEs. The Society is in the final stages of rolling out Sacco agency, which will ensure members are served with ease at our agent outlets," said Peter Kahiga Mwaura-Chairman of Tai Sacco Society Limited.

The 2020-2024 Strategic Plan will take cognizance of the volatile economic and political environment. "A key focus will be on growing our newly founded TSC product, Aquila Insurance Agency and Microcredit department. The Sacco Agency, which is in pilot stage, will be instrumental in steering growth," noted Mwaura.

Tai is very bullish about 2019 since credit is likely to come back in Manufacturing, Real Estate, Agriculture, Energy and Tourism. "We foresee increased demand for credit while on the regulatory front, we are hoping that some of the bottlenecks that have been hampering growth will be resolved," said Mwaura.

"We are aggressively improving our processes to ensure once we roll out the Strategic Plan, the resources are available when required," stated Mwangi.

He told delegates that the Society expects to identify possible strategic partners so that it can concentrate on the core mandate. "By consolidating all these efforts and gains, we expect better returns to our members and better experience in the year," said Mwangi.

TAI SACCO SOCIETY LIMITED

Kiambu County - Githunguri Town,
Tai Plaza , Behind Total Petrol Station,
P.O. Box 718 – 00216 Githunguri, Kenya
Tel: +254 739 333 634, 020 2010334, 020 2014150,
Twitter: @taisacco, Facebook: Tai Sacco Society Limited
E-mail: info@taisacco.coop , www.taisacco.coop

OUR PRODUCTS & SERVICES

A. LOAN PRODUCTS

1. AGRI BASED LOANS AND ADVANCES

These are advances given to members whose proceeds from farming, that is; cash crops (tea, coffee, etc.) or animal produce (dairy etc.) are channeled through Tai Sacco.

2. BUSINESS LOANS AND ADVANCES

We have both short term and long term Business Loans and advances that help your business to meet its financial needs. To make repayments suitable for your business, monthly installments are matched to your business' cash flows. This includes; Boda Boda Loans, Asset Credit, Business Loan and chap chap loan all tailored to suite your business needs.

3. SALARY AND PENSION LOANS

These loans are available and ideal to all account holders who channel their monthly salary or pension through Tai Sacco.

4. CHAMAA / GROUP LOANS

This product is tailor made for registered groups with a common project. Group members are funded by use of co-guarantee mechanism.

NOTE: Government Funds including Youth Fund, Women Enterprise Funds and Coffee Development Fund (CODF) are channeled through our Sacco.

B. ACCOUNT TYPES

a) Ordinary Account
b) Children Account
c) Business Account
d) Special Account
e) Fixed deposits
f) Holiday Account

Children's Account Piggy Bank

C. ICT DRIVEN PRODUCTS

1. Visa Branded ATM Card

2. Mobile Banking (Spotcash services) → ***645#**

3. Cheque
Our business members can now enjoy personal cheque book services. The friendlier, favorable & convenient mode of payment.

4. E – Loan

Members registered on Spotcash platform can now enjoy affordable mobile advances credited direct to their Mpesa wallets.

5. Money gram

Receiving money from abroad is now easier with Tai Sacco

6. Western Union

7. Tai Sacco Agency

Withdraw, Deposit, Get a Mini-statement, Loan, Buy airtime from the **TAI AGENT** near you

Our Paybill 644700

BRANCH NETWORK

1. **GITHUNGURI BRANCH** – Githunguri Town Behind Total Petrol Station : TEL: 020 2010334
2. **GATUNDU BRANCH** – Gatundu Town next to Administration Police Offices: TEL: 0736916600
3. **KAMWANGI BRANCH** – At the entrance of the Town: TEL: 0736916564
4. **KAGWE BRANCH** – At Kagwe town in Lari Constituency : TEL 0708871979
5. **KIGUMO BRANCH**– Kigumo Town, Komothai Location : TEL 0788221714
6. **RUIRU BRANCH** – Opposite the Post Office Ruiru Town : TEL 0734412009
7. **THIKA BRANCH** - Marafique Arcade TEL: 0705947818
8. **GITHURAI BRANCH** – Near Githurai 45 Round-about TEL: 0706860096
9. **KIMENDE BRANCH** – Next to K-Unity: TEL 0735977645

2019 USHIRIKA AWARDS SUPPLEMENT

Dhabiti Sacco bags awards at national Ushirika fete

Titus Munjuri, Dhabiti Sacco CEO with the Sacco Chairman Augustine Mugambi receive a certificate during the National Ushirika fete in Nairobi.

By Our Reporter

Yet again Dhabiti Sacco maintained award winning streak by clinching a trophy for the Best in Capitalization under the Agricultural-based Saccos category countrywide.

The Society also bagged the award for Best in Credit Management. These awards were given during the 97th Ushirika Day celebrations, held at KICC and attended by H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta.

In addition to these prestigious trophies and accolades, Dhabiti Sacco Society also won top positions in the strong Meru County co-operative movement during this year's Ushirika Day celebrations at the County.

For a second year in a row the outstanding Deposit-taking Society was honoured with the first position trophy for the Sacco with the highest interest rate paid on non withdrawable deposits in Igembe South Sub-County.

It also scooped the Highest Savings mobilization accolade in the FOSA Saccos category in the County.

To add to these Dhabiti Sacco was recognized for being a key co-operative stakeholder in Meru County.

The Society, which has its head office in Maua town, has maintained exponential growth and has greatly impacted on its members' livelihoods.

Its phenomenal growth in recent years has been attributed to prudent and visionary leadership and management who have been implementing a strategic development plan anchored in the co-operative principles and Sacco by-laws.

This has enhanced members' loyalty as they enjoy top range of services, tailor-made products and affordable and timely credit facilities.

By the closure of the financial year ending 31st December 2018, Dhabiti Sacco disbursed over Sh320.4 million to members as loans, which was an increase from Sh260.1 million it disbursed in 2017.

The Sacco's commitment in providing affordable credit to members to enable them accomplish their development goals is rare in the region.

This is captured well in the Sacco's mission statement: To mobilize savings and provide affordable credit to members, under sound management practices to improve their quality of life.

It recorded significant growth in all key parameters last year as members' deposits grew by 8.5 per cent to reach Sh364.4 million.

To boost its liquidity delegates and members are set to double their savings noting this will improve the Sacco's liquidity, hence better services for members.

The Sacco gross income for the year was Sh344 million, despite a number of challenges that affected the Sacco and at large the financial sector. The share capital stood at Sh64.7 million at the closer of the year.

The Sacco membership stands at over 18,000, thanks to an aggressive marketing campaign and better service delivery.

The Strategic Plan for the Sacco that runs between 2018-2022 and staff performance management system implementation is on the top gear to make the Sacco a world class Sacco.

Last year, the Sacco acquired new software to improve on security and integrity of data besides improving on services delivery.

With the vision to be the leading institution offering quality and secure financial services to members within its outreach, Dhabiti Sacco has forged partnership with various key players in the financial market including Co-op, KCB and Equity banks. This has enabled it to roll out agency banking.

"We intend to leverage on ICT to grow our business and better our services to appeal to people of all ages," said the Sacco Chief Executive Officer, Titus Munjuri, adding that the Sacco is set to embark on an aggressive debt recovery.

The Society has also set its sights on recruiting more youth so as to grow its membership and have a more secure future.

It has also been able to acquire property in several parts of Nyambene region, which it plans to develop and use to generate income

Dhabiti Sacco is a well-established financial institution that has been offering financial services to its members since 1991. The Sacco started its business with one branch in Maua town in a members owned building that houses the head office.

The Sacco has a common bond and serves farmers, business community, salaried people, micro-credit group members, corporate customers and institutions. Currently, the Sacco has five branches strategically located in Meru.

The Sacco is licensed by Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA). Owing to its impressive annual results, the Sacco has been winning honours and admiration in both county and national events.

Dhabiti Sacco's phenomenal growth in recent years has been attributed to prudent and visionary leadership and management who have been implementing a strategic development plan anchored in the co-operative principles and Sacco by-laws.

LOANS TO MEMBERS

2017 - Shs 240.3 million
2018 - Shs 320.4 million

MEMBERSHIP DEPOSITS

2017 - Shs 335.6 million
2018- Shs 364.4 million

Dhabiti Sacco officials receiving one of the awards they won during Ushirika Day fete in Meru County.

Sacco officials receive a trophy and certificate during Ushirika Day celebrations in the County.

DhabitiSacco

"Our Sacco Our Growth"

DHABITI SACCO LTD

Vision
To be the leading Sacco offering quality and secure financial services to our members within our outreach.

Mission
To mobilize savings and provide affordable credit to our members under sound management practices to improve their quality of life.

OUR PRODUCTS

FOSA PRODUCT

1. Savings Accounts
2. Toto Dhabiti Account
3. Dhabiti Fixed Deposit Account
4. Mpesa
5. Waumini Savings Acccount
6. Group Account
7. Jaza Jaza Account
8. School Fees Account
9. School Fees Account
10. Business Account
11. Mbaine Account
12. Schools / Colleges Savings
13. NHIF

LOAN PRODUCTS

ADVANCES

1. Salary Advance 1 Months
2. Crop Advance 1 month
3. Salary Advance 6 Months
4. Normal Loan 18 Months
5. Biashara Loan 36 Months
6. Group Loan
7. Medical Loans
8. Business Advance 6 Months
9. Crop Advance 6 Months
10. Normal Loan 12 Months
11. Normal Loan 24 Months
12. Personal Loans Maximum 72 Months
13. Tank Loans
14. Piki Piki Loan

"Our Sacco Our Growth"

WEBSITE: www.dhabitisacco.co.ke

P. O. Box 353 - 60600 Maua
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How Saccos can stop electronic thieves

By Staff Reporter

Savings and Credit Co-operative Societies (Saccos) that are unable to adapt to shifting market dynamics brought about by technology-driven financial products and services are bleeding as electronic criminals wipe out their cash trays.

While a large number of these Saccos are constantly upgrading their IT platforms, ostensibly to lock out thieves from their electronic purses, cyber criminals appear ahead of the game as digital adoption is happening much faster than the re-training and re-purposing of board members, staff and members of the Sacco fraternity.

Saccos rank high on the list of financial service providers that are a target of cyber criminals as more members move away from brick and mortar branches to doing most of their transactions on the mobile phone.

Analysts observe that increased digital deployment across the financial services sector has meant that Saccos that cannot rejig their businesses to be more efficient are going to go down and lose members.

A large number of DT Saccos have already automated most of their operations from members' registration, loan application, processing and disbursement, shares and dividends management, front office administration, asset management and system administration modules.

For the more techno savvy, their preference is software that is web-based, hosted either on the cloud or a premise and accessed on the fly using PCs, smartphones, tablets or Ipads.

"In order to minimize threats posed by cyber criminals, Saccos should consider use of apple products such as Ipads and tablets. It is also advisable for users to never click on "enable content" when prompted to do so in a windows environment," averred Didacus Ityeng' - Acting Commissioner for Co-operatives Development.

Industry experts maintain that while there is a trend where Saccos are keen to adopt the latest software, IT platforms and the most advanced systems in the market; these gadgets may not offer any safeguards against cyber criminals.

Chris Gathingu, CEO and Founder of Tangazoletu Limited.

"Sometimes we think about advanced IT solutions, which are alright to take note of and implement but we need to begin with the basics. For instance, an IT system must have the right access control – it should have roles and permissions categorizing all user groups, granting specific rights to particular groups," stated Chris Gathingu, Chief Executive Officer, Tangazoletu Limited.

Gathingu explained that for Saccos to ensure their IT systems are safe, each user should ideally have their own username and password, which is tied to their permission matrix. He warns that no one should share a username or password.

The other bare minimums that a Sacco should have to stop cyber criminals from invading their systems include limiting and controlling access of the systems from outside networks, using such aspects as firewalls and gate keepers.

"It should be ensured that all former staff of the Sacco or vendors who no longer serve the society have no access whatsoever to its systems. A Sacco should also have the right internal staff, who have integrity and high moral values. Internal jobs driven by unethical staff usually make up 75 per cent of all fraud cases," explained Gathingu.

He said that without these basic safeguards, even advanced technical measures will still be in vain.

'Saccos rank high on the list of financial service providers that are a target of cyber criminals as more members do most of their transactions on the mobile phone," he added.

NYANZA

Kisumu plans to improve management of co-operatives

By Erick Nyayiera

Kisumu County has outlined strategic measures to improve the performance of the Saccos.

County Ushirika Council chairman Edward Matoke noted that they are working towards streamlining leadership of the potential co-operative societies including the merger of the small and unviable co-operatives.

"We have numerous small uneconomical co-operative societies which must be merged so that they can be productive," Matoke said.

He added they are focusing on capacity building and having co-operative societies being involved in the sugar industry including promoting the youth involvement in the movement.

Matoke noted that the cotton industry's poor performance is due to loss of members' confidence in the societies overdue payments.

"Rice and Sugar Cane Co-operatives face the challenge of high cost of inputs, marketing problems, outstanding loans and leadership wrangles," he added.

County Ushirika Council chair, Edwin Matoke.

Fishing co-operatives are also facing numerous challenges.

Matoke observed that the potential for the co-operative growth and development in the county is enormous.

The County has seen the increase of Matatu and Tuk-Tuk Saccos in recent years.

According to Matoke some of the challenges that the co-operative sector is facing in Kisumu include non-remittance of employees deductions by employers to the Saccos.

"We have had negative publicity in the past as a result of a few individuals; we will ensure we protect members from the criminals," he said.

Matoke observed that there is need to enhance members' education since some people have joined co-operative societies with limited understanding of the business model.

During the celebrations Agro-Chemical Sacco was awarded trophy for the best managed Society in the County. KITE Sacco won an award for the most improved co-operative society, Kenya Bankers Sacco received amost improved Sacco award and Stima Sacco was feted as the most innovative Sacco.

Suna East Women Sacco members display yoghurt at their stand during Ushirika Day the celebrations.

Poor governance blamed for collapse of co-ops

By Florence Norah

Poor leadership is to blame for the collapse of co-operative societies in Migori County.

Sony Sugar Sacco manager George Mboya noted that many societies in the area have collapsed due to lack of good leadership skills denying the region development.

Mboya, who was speaking during Ushirika Day celebrations, noted that the co-operatives create jobs for the youths and better socio-economic status to a great extent.

"Many parents are also able-to pay for their children school fees by getting affordable credit facilities offered by Saccos," he said.

Samuel Oketch, a director in the department of education, urged co-operatives to work together to boost their financial strength to avoid borrowing from banks.

Oketch noted that co-operatives in the county stand to benefit more if they venture into real estate.

Over 30,000 Boda Boda riders targeted in co-op marketing drive

By Erick Nyayiera

Kisumu County Government is seeking to mobilise over 30,000 Boda Boda operators to join or form Saccos.

The outgoing Co-operatives Director in the county Zephaniah Osok said Boda Boda Saccos have the potential to spur development in the area.

"If they can each contribute to their Sacco at least Sh 100 daily that means they will be able deposit Sh 3 million every day and Sh90 million every month. In one month the Boda Boda Sacco can be able to build a skyscraper in Kisumu," said Osok, during Ushirika Day event.

"Kisumu County has a population of one million people but regrettably those who belong to the Sacco movement are only 100, 000 which means that we have a lot to do in terms of civic education on co-operative movement," he noted.

Otieno Stephen, the Cooperative Alliance of Kenya (CAK) Chief Operating Officer, who the Chief Guest, said that the alliance is planning to create cancer awareness.

Kisumu Director of Co-operatives, Zephania Osok (right) **and CAK Chief operating officer Stephen Otieno** (left) **follow proceedings during Ushirika Day celebration.**

"As co-operative societies we have realized that we need to do more and concentrate on giving back to the community, we are planning cancer walks and awareness campaigns across the country to enlighten the public," Otieno stated.

He noted that Kenya co-operative movement has a membership of 15 million people and has created 600,000 jobs.

NEWS EXTRA

Busia trade department to partner with CRBs

By Mathews Achola

Trade and co-operatives department in Busia County is considering partnering with Metropol and Trans Union Credit Reference Bureaus (CRBs) in sharing data of beneficiaries of the Co-operative Enterprise Development Fund (CEDF).

Chief Officer in the department Nelson Kwamini talking to *Sacco Review* said the move to share the data is meant to ensure defaulters do not access finances from other institutions.

"CEDF is a revolving fund which borrowers need to repay; the need to partner with CRB will make it difficult for defaulters from borrowing more funds until they clear their current loans," he said.

The law now allows Saccos to access records of bad borrowers which had only been limited to banks to view as it was classified information.

Kwamini said making regular repayments will enable many borrowers to access the revolving fund, thus boost their businesses.

The department has to date disbursed over Sh80 million to various co-operative societies in the county, the latest being Sh18 million that was disbursed recently by Governor Sospeter Ojaamong.

Kwamini noted that many Saccos are unable to access loans for failing to audit their books of accounts, adding that no funds will be given to groups that engage in wrangles.

Embrace saving culture, Bungoma residents told

By Achola Mathews

Farmers in Bungoma County have been urged to invest in co-operative societies for them to achieve economic empowerment.

Speaking at Mabanga Agricultural Training College in Kanduyi Constituency during the 97th International Co-operatives Day, Deputy Governor Prof Charles Kibanani Ngome *(pictured)* said that the only way towards financial prosperity is through forming co-operatives.

According to Ngome, co-operatives are able to offer loans at affordable rates and enable farmers to expand or start agribusinesses.

He said they will formulate more formidable co-operatives policies to strengthen the financial capacity of all co-operative societies in the county.

He noted dairy, tea and coffee farmers will have a bigger say in dictating the price of their produce both at the local and the international market if they join hands.

Sella Mutsotso, the county chief officer for co-operatives, urged farmers and other county residents to join Saccos.

UMOJA WENDANI HOUSING CO-PERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED

2019 USHIRIKA AWARDS SUPPLEMENT

CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE OF KENYA LIMITED

Umoja Wendani Housing Co-operative shines at National Ushirika Day

Umoja Wendani Housing Co-operative Chairman, Geoffrey Mukono receives from His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta one of the trophies they won during this year's Ushirika Day celebration at KICC grounds.

By Staff Reporter

It was a big win for Umoja Wendani Housing Co-operative after emerging the best managed Housing co-operative in the country.

The Society toppled others in the Housing category to take position one, ahead of Pambazuka and Airports Housing cooperatives that took position two and three respectively.

The Society also clinched two more awards: second position – best Housing cooperative in capitalization and second position – best Housing cooperative – investment.

The idea of UWHS was muted In the 2010, when the Sacco Board members observed that the Sacco had grown successfully and felt that Sacco members should start owning land.

During one of their meetings in the year 2010, it was suggested that a Sub-Committee be formed to spearhead the formation of a Housing Society. The Sub- Committee was then formed, lead by the then Sacco Executive.

During the year 2011, the Committee drafted By Laws guided by an official from the Ministry. The drafted By Law was approved by the full Board and later by the Co-operative (Ministry).

With a mission to provide affordable Housing and Wealth Creation opportunities for its members through Prudent Investment of resources, the Society has since grown in membership and with a current membership of 1470 members from 9 members.

The Society is keen on offering Technical Services and Support on building, Real Estate development and Management Services as partner with other financial institutions that can offer flexible financial solutions to its members.all these and other efforts by the Society will make UWHSL a one stop shop for Home / Property owners and real estate investors.

Umoja Wendani Housing Co-operative Chairman, officials are presented a trophy by Co-ops PS Ali Noor during this year's Ushirika Day Gala Dinner at the Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi.

MPESA DETAILS

- Paybill
- Business No: 400222
- Account No. 20671#housing member number

BANK DETAILS

BANK: CO-OPERATIVE BANK
BRANCH: UMOJA BRANCH
ACCOUNT NO.01100103058200

3rd Floor
PCEA Umoja Imani Towers
Umoja One Estate
Along Moi Drive
Opp. Umoja City Council Market

P. O. Box 54053 - 00200
Nairobi, Kenya
Cell: 0708 666 917

Email: umojawendanihousing@gmail.com
info@umojawendanihousing.co.ke
www.umojawendanihousing.co.ke

UMOJA WENDANI
HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED

Helping you find a home

UWHS

HOW TO JOIN US

Individual

* Fill the registration form
* Attach a photocopy of your ID
* 2passport photos
* Ksh 3000 for registration
* Ksh 50 for passbook
* Purchase minimum shares worth Ksh 10,000 (500 shares @ ksh20)

NB. shares earn high returns

Groups/corporates

* Fill a corporate registration form.
* Attach your minutes resolving to join our society.
* Attach a signed list of group members and ID numbers.
* Attach a copy of the group's certificate of registration.
* Attach the groups constitution.
* Registration Fee of Ksh 10,000 Ksh 50 for passbook and share worth Ksh 10,000.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Umoja wendani housing co-operative was registered in 2012 following a growing need by umoja wendani sacco members for avenues to access affordable real estate opportunities.

Our core business is to facilitate access to and ownership of real estate, housing opportunities, support services to members and the community at large.

VISION

A leading Christian society in kenya

MISSION

To provide affordable housing and wealth creation opportunities for our members through prudent investment of resources.

PLOTS ON SALE

Koma Land

* Price 600,000 (1/8 Acre Residential Plot)
* Price 1.5 million(l/8 Acre commercial Plot)
* Price 2.5 million (1/4 acre commercial plot)

Located 3km off Kangundo Road at Koma shopping centre beside the tarmacked kenol koma road.

50 percent deposit balance payable in 3(three) months

Kinanie 2 Land

* Price - Kshs. 450,000
* Deposit - Kshs 200,0001=
* Balance Payable in 12 months
* Size 50x100 (1/8 Acre)

Located 7.5km off Kangundo road before Joska town and 15km off mombasa road after Athi river interchange near last village lodge

Malaa Land

* Price - 1 Million (1/4 Acre Commercial plot)
* 50% Deposit Payable In 3 Months

Located 6km off Kangundo road at Malaa shopping centre

2019 USHIRIKA AWARDS SUPPLEMENT

Yetu Sacco scoops 8 prestigious trophies at Ushirika festival

President Uhuru Kenyatta presents a trophy and certificate for the Best Managed Sacco countrywide (Position 3) to Yetu Sacco CEO Patrick Mwenda (centre) and Chairman Mark Gitonga during the Ushirika Day celebrations at KICC.

By Staff Reporter

Meru County-based Yetu Sacco Society Limited has won a trophy and recognition as one of the Best Managed Saccos countywide and 1st position as the Best Managed Agricultural-based Sacco in Kenya.

Other trophies won by Yetu Sacco during the Ushirika Day gala dinner, held at Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi included Best in Capitalization countrywide in the Agri-based Sacco category, Best in Savings Management, Best in Credit Management, Most Efficient Sacco countrywide-also in the agri-based Sacco category as well Best in Risk Management Countrywide among the Agricultural-based Saccos.

At the County level, Yetu Sacco won trophy for position one in Sacco with Highest Savings Mobilization and Sacco with Highest Interest paid on Non Withdrawable Deposits. The Society was also awarded for being the main stakeholder at the sub-county level.

These awards were given to Yetu Sacco officials from Meru Governor, Kiraitu Murungi during this year's County Ushirika Day Celebrations in Githongo.

Last year, the elite Sacco awards gallery received more trophies and certificates.

It scooped several trophies at the national level, in the Agriculture-based category, including Best Managed Sacco, Best in Savings Management, Best in Credit Management and the Most Efficient Sacco nationally.

It also emerged the second Best in Risk Management as well as in Capitalization under Agriculture-based societies. In Meru County, Yetu Sacco had an impressive show taking home three awards and certificates.

Apart from recognition at both the county and national level, Yetu Sacco has in the past been honored by Cooperative Bank as the highest depositor in the eastern region and ranked number one in Meru County with highest interest on member deposits and highest savings mobilization by CAK.

In bid to improve service delivery and member experience the Sacco Chairman Mark Gitonga said the Sacco had upgraded its information management system.

"Through the new system, we have been able to process tea, salary, income and bonuses at one. Queue management is easier while loan and member information management has improved," said Gitonga.

He note that there were efforts to attract the youth, revealing that the Sacco had developed products tailored towards their needs such as mobile and agent banking.

Yetu Sacco is credited with ensuring a smooth transition that saw the exit of Mr. John Mwiti Rukaria as the Chief Executive Officer, whose position has now been taken over by Mr. Patrick Mwenda Mugambi.

While the Society's main catchment area is Meru County, Yetu Sacco has spread its wings to Nairobi even as it eyes to convert into a fully-fledged commercial bank in future.

Besides offering services such as personalized Cheque books for members, Yetu Sacco also prides in possessing a biometric Automated Teller Machine (ATM), the first of its kind in Kenyan market and Africa at large.

Formerly known as South Imenti Tea Growers Sacco Society Limited, Yetu Society derives its origin from the experiences of the 1990s when commercial banks began chasing away tea farmers whose accounts fell below the minimum book balance.

Financial figures indicate that Yetu Sacco members received dividend payment at the rate of 11 per cent on withdrawable deposits and 13 percent on non withdrawable deposits.

The Sacco's asset base grew from Sh2.8 billion in 2017 to Sh3.3 billion in 2018 while the turnover stood at Sh481.1 million. Members' deposits grew by Sh158 million to Sh1 billion while the Sacco's loan book went up to Sh2 billion from Sh1.5 billion in 2017.

In a bid to improve service delivery and member experience, the Sacco has upgraded its information management system making queue management easier as well as improving loan and member information management.

It also has invested in cutting edge technology that will allow members to access money from all VISA branded ATMs across the country.

Yetu Sacco, is keen to grow its membership and returns for shareholders as well as adopt a stronger national identity that will carry Sacco future vision.

The Sacco's mission is to grow and empower its membership by adopting innovative market driven services while its vision is to an inclusive financial institution offering high quality services.

Its core values are integrity, teamwork, equity, professionalism among others.

PS Ali Noor presents a trophy to Yetu Sacco CEO Patrick Mwenda and Chairman Mark Gitonga during the Ushirika Day celebrations at KICC.

YETU SACCO SOCIETY LTD

YOUR SUCCESS, OUR PRIDE

YOUR SUCCESS, OUR CONCERN

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

- Hazina Account
- Faida Account
- Mapato Account
- Biashara Account
- Yetu Junior
- Digital Account
- Kilimo Account
- Corporate Account
- Akiba Acount
- Bakisha Account

LONG TERM LOANS

- Biashara Loan
- Mapato Loan
- Msingi Bora Loan
- Elimu Loan
- Daraja Loan (Asset Financing)

OTHER SERVICES

- Club 45 – A member saves to acquire land.
- Pension – Benevolent Scheme – A member channels his pension payments through the sacco.
- NHIF – A member pays their health insurance funds through the sacco.
- M-SACCO – A member enjoys full mobile banking services.
- M-PESA services.
- Front office services.
- Safe custody
- ATM services.
- Sale of Cheque leaves
- Personalized Cheque book for account holders
- Mobile services.

Nkubu Branch-
P.O Box 511-60202,Nkubu.
Cel: 0724114444 or +254 64 51399
Tel: +254 64 5051202 or +254 64 5051437
Email: info@yetusacco.co.ke
Website: www.yetusacco.co.ke
Twitter: yetu sacco Facebook: yetu sacco

Kinoro Branch-
at Kinoro market
P.O. Box 511
Nkubu-Meru
Tel : +254 202064738

Kionyo Branch-
Next to Kionyo Police Post
P.O. Box 511
Nkubu-Meru
Tel : 0208006078

Nairobi Branch-
Along Lagos Road Opposite
Savannis bookshop
P.O. Box 52078-00200
Nairobi
Tel:0202181909

North Eastern residents advised to form co-operatives

By Amoto Dennis

Cooperative movement has the adequate financial power to support mega projects in the country.

Former Wajir Cooperative, Trade and Tourism County Executive, Abdinur Olehusse in, said with the sector holding total asset of about Sh 1 trillion, co-operatives are crucial drivers of the economy.

He called for Saccos to be enlisted in the Nairobi Stock Exchange (NSE) to attract new investors and raise more funds.

Speaking to Sacco Review in Garissa town Hussein urged Northern Eastern residents to embrace the cooperative model for their social and economic well-being.

He noted the arid region has abundant of resources which if well exploited through use of co-operatives can make it an economic powerhouse.

Abdinur Olehussein. Former Wajir Co-op County Executive

"Our people should join or form co-operatives as this will guarantee them financial support that is missing," he said.

Fish traders urged to form Sacco

By Washington Okellah

Fish traders from Port Victoria town in Budalangi constituency have been urged to form co-operatives that would enable them to access development loans.

Speaking after launching a 14 seater Nissan van bought by Maningo Sacco members recently, area MP Raphael Wanjala said Saccos are the bridges that lead to wealth.

He lauded the Sacco leadership led by Samson Nyadimo for coming up with the concept to initiate a viable project that has positively changed the lives of the members, since its inception two years ago.

"I want to call upon other traders in fish business to emulate Maningo Sacco and form one of their own as that would give them an opportunity to save and borrow cash to enable them invest in other viable income generating activities and improve on their living standards," said Wanjala.

Nyadimo said the Sacco has been providing loans to members enabling some to buy motorboats and outboard engines.

He said apart from availing loan facilities to its 68 members, they are planning to build a multi-purpose social hall fully equipped with chairs and tents for hire to generate more cash for the Sacco.

The Sacco chairman however said the challenge hampering their progress is financial constraints.

He called on the county government to provide a revolving fund where they can access more money.

Why Saccos are better

By Philip Kemboi

Saccos have improvised a vital strategy by expanding membership into newer regions as a way to open their business.

The strategy is aimed at transforming lives of local investors and with those of their loved ones

The Saccos success have been attributed to the ability to award loans at lower interest rates as compared to that of commercial banks

Due to the ever changing market trends, Saccos have devised ways of increasing their membership to boost their liquidity and asset base

Saccos have shown tremendous marketing strategies and have attracted more potential members as part of the cooperative movement. Members trust Saccos because of their services that are tailored to suit their needs.

2019 USHIRIKA AWARDS SUPPLEMENT

Kenya Police Sacco is the Best Managed in Kenya

By Wesley Ken

Kenya Police Sacco has retained its reputation as the winning team in the co-operatives sector by clinching the trophy for Best Managed Saving and Credit Co-operative Society in Kenya. The Society also won three other national prestigious awards including Best in Credit Management Countrywide-Position 1, Best in Credit Management-Employer based saccos Tier 1- Position 1 a Best Managed-Employer based Tier 1-Position 1.

The Society won these prestigious awards during Ushirika Day celebrations held at KICC Grounds and presided over by H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta. This event was followed by a gala dinner at Safari Park Hotel where winning Saccos were feted in various categories.

Ushirika Day is an annual event that is held in the month of July each year and serves to celebrate and award outstanding co-operative societies that have excelled in their various lines of business. These awards serve as a benchmark against which performance of other co-operative societies can be measured.

These prestigious awards were presented by H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta during the 97th International Co-operatives Day, held at the KICC in Nairobi. The Society also received more awards at the Ushirika Day, Gala dinner at Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi where other top performers were also feted.

Over the years, the Sacco has continually bagged prestigious awards among them the best managed society and the best in capitalization.

Established in November 1972 with a membership of 690, with the mission of facilitating the mobilization of savings and provision of cost effective financial and non-financial products and services to our members and customers in Kenya and beyond, the Kenya Police Sacco has since grown to the current membership of 63,450 with an asset base of Sh 30 Billion and a loan portfolio of Sh 26 Billion

The Sacco membership consists of serving and retired regular Police Officers, Administration Police Officers and civilians in the employment of Kenya Police Service, employees of the civil service and corporate entities operating in the country.

Later on, it revised its by-laws and opened its common bond to allow all salaried employees, the business community, as well as their spouses and siblings into its membership.

Members of Kenya Police Sacco are guaranteed low interest rates on loans, High annual dividends and interest on deposits, Instant M-Sacco FOSA loans Loan clearance on behalf of members Affordable property with the Investment Co-operative.

Kenya Police Sacco aims at encouraging thrift among members by affording them an opportunity for accumulating savings, creating a source of funds at fair and reasonable rate of interest, providing an opportunity for each of its members to improve their respective economic and social conditions, provide its members with credit for purposes of providence or production or both and offer the members complimentary savings and credit services and other financial products as may be required by the members from time to time

The Society has been keen to ensure safety and soundness of members' funds through a risk management program, appropriate insurance coverage and continuously educating members on proper use of credit. The Sacco's vision is to be a financial services provider that empowers members to improve their quality of life.

President Uhuru Kenyatta (left)**, presents a trophy for the best managed Sacco country wide, Position 1, to Kenya Police Sacco National Treasurer Amos Tingos** (right)**, Board members Jamleck Gichobi** (2nd right) **General Manager Operations, Simon Tanui.**

CS Peter Munya signs the Guests book at the Kenya Police Sacco Stand.

Kenya Police Sacco National Treasurer, Amos Tingos, staff and officials, celebrate with the Trophy for the Best Managed Sacco Countrywide-Position 1 during the Event.

Glance box:

SASRA Rank: No.4 Countrywide
Asset Base: Sh 30 Billion
Loan Portfolio- Sh 26 Billion
Membership- 63,450

2019 Ushirika day awards:

- **Best Managed (Countrywide) 1st Position**
- **Best Managed (Employer based) 1st Position**
- **Best in Credit management (Countrywide) 1st Position**
- **Best in Credit management (Employer based) 1st Position**
- **Winners mens volleyball pre-Ushirika day games 2019**

Kenya Police SACCO
United for Prosperity

2019 USHIRIKA AWARDS SUPPLEMENT

CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE OF KENYA LIMITED

Kenya Police Sacco signs deal with state mortgage firm, launches Kakamega branch

L-R: **Kenya Police Sacco CEO, Solomon Atsiaya, Western Region Commissioner, Anne Ngetich, IG, Hillary Mutiambayi, Kakamega Deputy Governor, Prof Philip Kutima and Kenya Police Sacco Chairman, David Mategwa during the launch of Kakamega branch.**

By Andanje Wakhungu

Members of the Kenya Police Sacco are now able to access more affordable housing loans from the newly formed Kenya Mortgage Refinance Company (KMRC).

This follows a partnership between Kenya Police Sacco Society and KMRC that will allow members of this Society to access cheaper housing loans from the state mortgage firm.

KMRC, the executing firm of President Uhuru Kenyatta's affordable housing plan, will advance cash to commercial banks, financial co-operatives and mortgage companies for onward lending to individual home buyers at rates below 10 per cent.

Inspector General of the National Police Service Hillary Mutiambayi, while addressing the members during the recent launch and commissioning of the Kenya Police Sacco Kakamega branch, urged members of the Kenya Police Sacco to take advantage of KMRC, to access credit for putting up houses as part of Government's Big 4 agenda on affordable housing.

"With the country already implementing the Big Four agenda, Kenya Police Sacco is no exception. I urge members of the Sacco to take advantage of this partnership to realize their dreams of owning their own homes", said Mutiambayi.

Mutiambayi said Kenya Police Sacco continues to be a formidable player in the co-operative movement with significant growth in membership, size of balance sheet and loan portfolio.

The police boss said there was need for the Sacco to be creative and innovative so as to build a strong financial base with adequate capital that will make it resilient to withstand any economic shocks.

He said the Sacco members continue enjoying financial services and a conducive business environment as the national police service continue to support the Sacco.

Mutiambayi lauded the use of technology that has enabled customers to transact remotely at their convenience.

Kenya Police Sacco has created a robust technological platform as a business enabler. As much as we are embracing the benefits that come with technology, we need to stay alive to the fact that no single institution is immune to cybercrime or electronic fraud," noted Mutiambayi.

He said Kenya Police Sacco has taken elaborate measures to deal with electronic fraud including investment in a full proof Cyber Security System that guarantees safety of members' funds.

"I am aware that we are operating in a very competitive environment where service delivery and customer satisfaction is increasingly becoming what separates players in the market. Kenya Police Sacco has put in place a quality management system based on ISO 9001-2015 as a bench mark for customer focus, service delivery and continued growth. I congratulate you for being the first Sacco locally and regionally to receive this international certification", said Mutiambayi.

He added that Kenya Police Sacco Board of Directors has put in place a risk-based management system and a framework to grow the society to be an industry leader.

Kakamega County Governor Wycliffe Oparanya, in his speech read by his Deputy Professor Philip Kutima, urged residents of Kakamega to embrace co-operatives as part of empowering themselves.

He said entry of Kenya Police Sacco into Kakamega County will assist residents to generate more income as the county prepares to acquire city status by 2022. Hon Oparanya added that the County Government was working closely with the police by assisting them in building houses and purchasing patrol vehicles.

"We have managed to purchase vehicles for Shinyalu and Mumias police stations. We have also set aside Sh 10 million for the setting up of police houses in Lugari, Matunda, Mudiri, Butere and Navakholo," said Hon Oparanya.

On his part Deputy Governor Professor Philip Kutima said the county was the second largest in terms of population with over 2 million people, 12 sub-counties, 60 wards and 89 MCAs out of which 29 are nominated.

He hailed the police for ensuring that security in Matungu is normalized, adding that the county was now calm and ready to invest in the Sacco.

Kutima said most of the cane farmers, affected by closure of Mumias Outgrowers Company Limited, will find reprieve by joining Kenya Police Sacco.

"I know most of you are skeptical about investing in Saccos after MOCO collapsed with your money. I can assure you that co-operatives is the way to go. Kenya Police Sacco is one stable financial co-operative society, with assets worth more than Sh 63 billion is the best place one can invest without worry of its closure," stated Kutima.

The Regional Commissioner Western region Anne Ng'etich thanked Kenya Police Sacco for opening a branch in Kakamega, saying the move will open the region to more investments and business.

National Chairman Kenya Police Sacco David Mategwa assured those wishing to invest in the Sacco that their cash was safe.

"The Kakamega branch of Kenya Police Sacco will serve members from neighbouring counties including Kisumu, Siaya, Vihiga, Busia, Trans Nzoia and Nandi. This is our 8th branch and will soon be followed by another one in Nakuru," said Mategwa.

Figures indicate that Kenya Police Sacco recorded an increase in revenue of Sh4.5 billion, a growth of 18.9 per cent from Sh3.8 billion in 2017.

Its asset base grew by a significant 19.4 per cent to stand at Sh 28.9 billion as of December 31, 2018, compared to Sh24.2 billion in 2017.

Members' deposits grew by 16.4 per cent to Sh 17 billion from Sh14.6 billion in 2017 while Loans and advances increased to Sh24 billion, a growth of 20 per cent.

"The Sacco performed well despite a challenging environment for financial institutions. We thank our members for patronizing Sacco products and services throughout the year," said Mategwa.

The Sacco announced payment of dividend on share capital at a rate of 17 per cent and interest on deposits at a rate of 10.5 per cent. In total, the Sacco members pocketed a total payment of Sh1.97 billion Sacco, which was an increase by 18.9 per cent.

In 2018, Kenya Police Sacco continued to set the bar high for the co-operative sector locally and internationally after it got ISO 9001:2015 certification for maintaining a quality management system. The certification is an international standard that sets out the requirements for maintaining a quality management system (QMS).

"As we come to the 5th and final year of the current Strategic Plan, the board together with management are doing an evaluation and will roll out the next 2020-2024 plan," said Mategwa.

Mr Mategwa (left) **welcomes Inspector General National Police Service, Hillary Mutiambayi during the launch of the Sacco's Kakamega branch.**

Prof Philip Kutima shakes hands with IG Mutiambayi, as Mr Mategwa looks on.

2019 USHIRIKA AWARDS SUPPLEMENT

Kenya Police Sacco steps up CSR , real estate activities

Kakamega County Deputy Governor, Prof Philip M. Kutima flanked by IG Mutiambayi and Kenya Police Sacco National Chairman David Mategwa prepares to cut the ribbon during the launch of the Kakamega branch.

By Andaje Wakhungu

Kenya Police Sacco Society has embarked on sponsoring bright needy children of deceased former members, to enable them further their education. The Society targets those who score more than 360 marks in primary schools and are keen to further their education in secondary school and university.

Out of K.C.S.E candidates that the Sacco is sponsoring, 33 are currently between Form Two and Four in various public secondary schools within the country.

Kenya Police Sacco National Chairman David Mategwa says it has already approved sponsorship of 25 students, who joined Form One this year.

" We have set up a shade at Kenya Police Training College in Kiganjo, purchased laptops for best performers at Utumishi Academy, visited several children's homes distributing foodstuffs, donated sports kits to various police sports teams, Dstvs and TV sets to the national police commission, stations and GSU camps" said Mategwa.

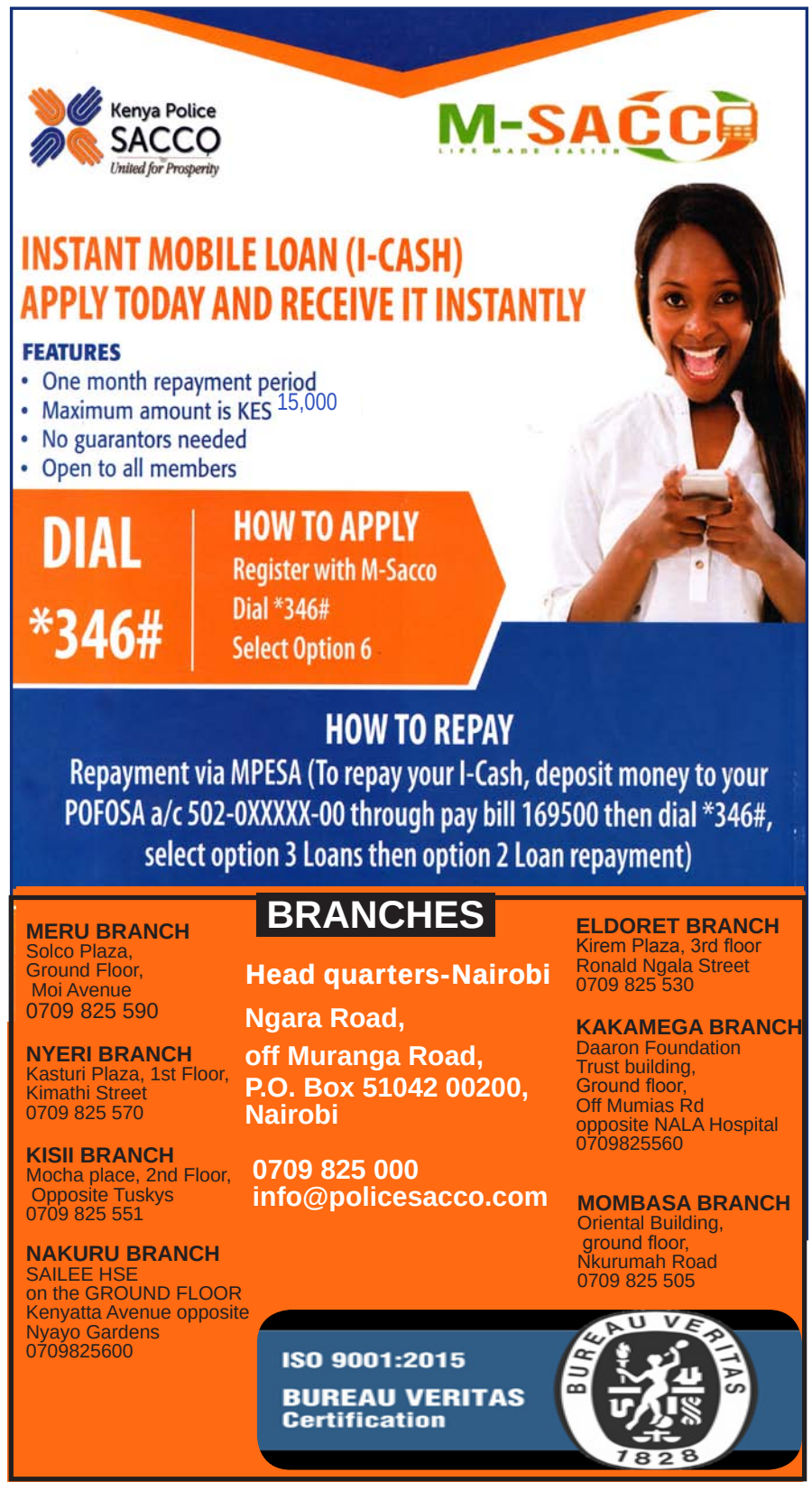
Kenya Police Sacco considers education of its staff as critical to the society's growth. It therefore trains its employees in order to broaden their knowledge and skills and thus enable them deliver quality service to members.

The Society's Board of Directors and delegates also get training on such areas as leadership and decision-making as well as financial management.

Mategwa said Kenya Police Investment Co-operatives' long term agenda is to grow its membership to over 5,500.

"The Society's projects in Kiserian, Kisaju, Nakuru and Eldoret have been impressive. I call upon members to pick up the few remaining plots as we source for more land for subdivision," stated Mategwa.

The Sacco's National Treasurer, Amos Tingos projects that the institution will grow its income exponetially.



Governance training boosts dairy co-operatives in Nakuru

By Rosemil Oduor

Dairy farmers from different co-operatives have lauded the ongoing training on good governance saying the move has boosted their production and earnings.

The training, according to the farmers has helped in enhancing good governance as co-operative managers have been able to seal leadership gaps.

Poor management has been blamed for under performance of dairy co-operatives.

Brookside Diary and Co-op Consultancy and Insurance Agency rolled out a programme that has seen over 30 groups in the country benefit from the training on best governance practices.

Kennedy Aruasa, a milk supplier to Elburgon Progressive Dairy Farmers said the training has boosted their confidence in their managements making them increase milk production.

The training covers topics on performance measurement and internal controls to ensure co-operatives continue to prosper in the increasingly competitive market.

John Gethi, Brookside Director of Manufacturing and Milk Procurement, said they are keen on improving leadership in co-operatives so as to encourage members to increase milk production.

He also noted that they are committed to supporting co-operatives since they play an important economic role to people.

Lydia Koros, a farmer in Kuresoi said dairy farmers have felt a sense of ownership of their societies.

30

The number of groups trained.

2019 USHIRIKA AWARDS SUPPLEMENT

Meru Dairy Cooperative bags 4 trophies at Ushirika fete

Simon M'Ikiara Kiruja, Chairman Meru Dairy

Kenneth Gitonga, Meru Dairy CEO

By Rosemil Oduor

Meru Dairy Cooperative Union won the top award for having the Best Marketing Strategies, leading the pack in a list of dairy co-operative societies that were adjudicated during the recently held national Ushirika Awards.

At the Ushirika Gala Dinner, held at Safari Park Hotel, Meru Dairy Co-operative Union also clinched the trophies in the Best in Capitalization, Most Improved, Best Managed and Most Efficient Marketing categories.

Considered one of the largest and most successful players in Meru County's dairy sector, Meru Dairy Farmers Co-operative Union is led by its CEO Kenneth Gitonga and Simon M'Ikiara, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Union.

Figures indicate that Meru dairy farmers have the capacity to produce between 300,000 to 600,000 litres per day.

Meru Dairy Farmers Co-operative Union was formed in 2005 to market the excess milk from the local farmers. The Union is now the main society of milk farmers in the Mount Kenya region, consisting of over 43,000 dairy farmers and generating a turnover of over Sh 4.8 billion annually.

At the moment, Stanbic Bank Limited is partnering with the farmers and Meru Dairy Farmers Co-operative Union to support acquisition through financing and insuring the machinery, building and livestock. This venture is to stop losses to dairy farmers as a result of diseases in livestock and damage to machinery in case of power outage.

Meru Dairy Co-operative Union Limited is known for its famous Mount Kenya Milk that now occupies most supermarket shelves in areas as far as Nairobi and surrounding regions.

The Union's product range varies from UHT 30 and 90 day shelf life, long life milk, yoghurts, mala, Cream and Ghee. The Union has around 40 affiliate Dairy Co-operative societies and around 60 self-help groups from whom it gets its milk.

The Union has its main milk production catchment area within Meru County and its environs and offers services to these farmers to help them increase their milk production. In the recent past the Union has expanded its membership and production from its farmers in general this has led to the need to increase its processing capacity for the factory.

Meru Dairy Co-operative Union (MDCU) was registered under the Co-operative Societies Act in 2005. The registration of a new union was necessitated by a restructuring process that was spearheaded by the Ministry of Co-operative Development and Marketing which was aimed at improving efficiency and effectiveness of the former giant Union.

The area of operation of the Dairy union is Meru County (the greater Meru Central district) in four sub Counties namely Imenti North, Meru Central, Imenti South and Buuri.

The core business of the Union is milk processing and marketing. The Union also offers Artificial Insemination (A. I.) services and field extension services to the farmers.

Meru Dairy Cooperative Union Chairman Simon Kiruja (3rd L) **and the Meru Dairy Cooperative Union CEO Kenneth Gitonga** (2nd L)**, receiving a trophy from Meru County Governor Kiraitu Murungi** (R) **at the county level Ushirika awards 2019.**

Meru Dairy Cooperative Union Chairman Simon Kiruja (left) **, Catherine Gacunku Operations Manager** (2nd left)**, Edith Nkatha Hon. Secretary** (2nd right) **and Eustace Kimaru Vice Chairman** (right) **displaying trophies and certificates they won at the national Ushirika day awards 2019.**

MERU DAIRY COOPERATIVE UNION

OUR MISSION:
To improve the quality of life of our dairy farmers, customers and staff, by processing and marketing high quality and affordable dairy products

OUR VISION:
To be the most reputable processor of high quality dairy products

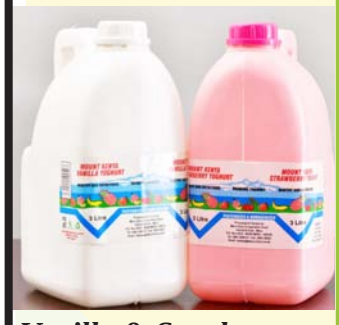
OUR PRODUCTS

Long Life milk

Mount Kenya Milk Products

Pacoh- School Milk

Pouch Milk



Vanilla & Stawberry yoghurt

Dairy Joy Milk

P.O. Box 2919-60200, Meru
maziwa@merudairy.co.ke, sales@merudairy.co.ke
Tel - 0203559922, Customer Care- +254 710901376

WESTERN

Busia Governor Sospeter Ojaamong and Deputy Governor Moses Mulomi at an exhibition during the Ushirika Day celebrations at Busia Vocational Training Centre.

Photo/GPS

Busia disburses Sh80m to Saccos

By Achola Mathews

A total of 28 Saccos have benefited from Busia Co-operative Enterprise Development Fund (CEDF) to the tune of Sh18 million.

Busia Governor Sospeter Ojaamong issued the cheques to the beneficiaries during the Ushirika Day celebrations held at Busia Vocational Training Centre.

The function was also attended by Deputy Governor Moses Mulomi.

Busia Teachers Education Investment Credit Society (CS) received the lion's share of Sh2 million. Bunyala South Jua Kali was second with a disbursement of Sh1.8 million while Busia Spartan and Ken Trust Education Saccos received Sh1.5 million each.

Magombe Multipurpose Farmers Credit Society and Bunotsa Sacco received Sh1 million each.

Bunyala Women Sacco and Bunyala Handcraft and Produce each received Sh200, 000.

The Governor also presented trophies to the best Saccos.

Faridi Sacco emerged the best managed with Magombe taking the best contributor to Agenda Four (food security) trophy.

The Best youth Sacco award went to Teso North Youth. Safari Care took the best transport award while Nambale ACK Women took the best women Sacco award.

Addressing the co-operators, the Governor said over Sh80 million has been distributed to various co-operative societies across the county, adding that Sh7 million is due for disbursement in August.

He urged Saccos which have benefited from the revolving fund to ensure that they repay their loans to enable more Saccos benefit from the fund.

"As a member of Bunge Sacco for the last 17 years, I can attest the importance of being a co-operator," he said.

Deputy Governor Moses Mulomi said forming co-operative societies will empower residents economically and urged Members of the County Assembly to help increase (CEDF) allocation.

County Executive Committee Member for Trade and Co-operatives Judith Maketeso said the county has more than 160 registered Saccos.

Ushirika Committee chairman Wycliffe Oprong said non-compliance in terms of failing to hold annual general meetings and books audit were major challenges facing co-operatives in the county.

Kakamega Saccos awarded as IG shines

By Cally Imbayi

Invest and Grow (IG) Sacco bagged the best managed sacco trophy for the seventh time during celebrations to mark the 97th International Day of cooperatives held at Kakamega Rehabilitation School. It won between 2014 and 2019. During this year's the celebretions, Western Shuttle Sacco was rated the best managed transport and loan service Sacco in Kakamega County.

Mufate Sacco scooped an award for the best farmers' society in the region.

Deputy governor, Prof Philip Kutimam who was represented during the event, said in a statement that the county government has an elaborate programme of supporting co-operatives to offer better services.

He noted that the county government was focused on capacity building of the co-operative movements, adding that 746 co-operative leaders have been trained on governance.

The county has 365 registered co-operative societies ouf of which 233 are active.

Thomas Adulla, Co-operatives Development Committee chairman, said Kenya's co-operative sector has so far offered 783,202 jobs topping in Africa.

"There is an urgent need to put in place deliberate steps geared towards addressing challenges faced by co-operatives including inadequate human resource, market access, co-operative capacity building, ageing membership, policy, legal and regulatory framework," he said.

County Director of co0operatives Ben Kangale urged co-operators and the public to embrace the movement saying that there was no model that empowers people across the world than the co-operative model.

"Statistics indicate that about 12 per cent of humanity is in the co-operative movement, so let us save, borrow and develop ourselves as never before," Kangale said.

Western Shuttle chairman Edward Halwange receives the 1st runners up overall trophy presented by County commissioner of co-operatives, Mr Ben Kangale.

Bureaucracies in land buying affecting housing societies

By Andanje Wakhungu

Acquisition of land has been cited as a major impediment in the implementation of Malava Housing Co-operative Society housing scheme in Kakamega County.

According to the Society chairman John Lumbatatia, the process of acquiring land has been so expensive making it difficult for the society to acquire and allocate parcels of land to its members.

He was addressing members during the 29th Annual General Meeting.

He noted that the procedure to get title deeds is tedious.

At the same time he revealed that correcting and transferring of ownership of already prepared land title deeds was taking long making it difficult for members willing to develop their plots to do so.

Lumbatatia, who was accompanied by his vice Were Shimaka, Chief Executive Officer Resper Ngaira, Secretary Mary Obaire, chairperson supervisory committee Beatrice Mukopi and Treasurer Titus Andanje, said the society was making strides in ensuring that its members are allocated their plots.

"We have so far a membership of 719 out of which 409 are active. We shall soon be allocating 20 plots to members who have saved more than Sh 155, 000 with the Society," he said.

On the proposed society plaza, Lumbatatia said a total of Sh 2, 863, 800 had been raised as shares from members.

He said that the dream of constructing the society's plaza to the tune of Sh 20 million was on course after getting the approval from the architectural and structural drawing department.

The Malava Plaza members unanimously agreed that each member be deducted Sh 8,000 from their shares to be paid towards the plaza so that each member of the society automatically becomes a member of the plaza.

The chairman, however, took issue with the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) for its failure to update the accounts of the Sacco members and instead has been regularly summoning him on the negativities happening in the Sacco.

Mukopi confirmed that the society has two parcels of land and the process of acquiring title deeds and subdivision was ongoing.

"The society has 15 plots that are under the name Malava Teachers out of which two are for the Plaza."

She challenged more members to join the housing scheme and increase the number which stands at 521 since the inception of the society 30 years ago.

A board member in the Invest and Grow (IG) Sacco Richard Shilaro stated that Malava housing and IG have a common history of working together as teachers were the controllers of the economy in the country.

The Sub-county co-operative officer Monicah Aduke appreciated the members for their efforts to set up the plaza and advised them to reduce consumption and increase savings.

The society was ranked as the best managed housing co-operative in the entire county and was awarded with a trophy and certificate during the Ushirika Day celebrations held at the county.

County Commissioner of Co-operatives Ben Kangale with the Kakamega County Agriculture Chief Officer Jeremiah Okello Namunyu.

2019 USHIRIKA AWARDS SUPPLEMENT

Kwetu Sacco Best in Capitalization Nationally

President Uhuru Kenyatta addressing Ushirika National celebration at the KICC.

Kwetu Sacco officials led by CEO, Dr Stanley Kyelenzi (second right) receiving a national Ushirika award from Co-operative Principal Secretary Ali Noor Ismail (left) as CAK CEO Daniel Marube (second left) looks on.

By Rosemil Oduor

Kwetu Sacco yet again added a trophy to its name by emerging the Best Sacco in tier 2 employer- based Saccos bagging the best in capitalization award during the recently held National Ushirika Day.

The celebtrations were presided over by President Uhuru Kenyatta at KICC in Nairobi on July 20th.

The Sacco also won the same award during the 2018 Ushirika Day awards as well as clinching a trophy in the Best Sacco in Capitalization.

Other awards include a majestic Five Continents Award for quality and excellence trophy and also a certificate for Top Quality Customer Satisfaction (TQCS)

The society is also a previous winner of the International Europe Award for quality (New Millennium Award) as recognition for its trajectory and business excellence by the Trade Leaders' Club. During this event, Kwetu Sacco was among the 37 firms and organizations that got awards for different categories with only four coming from Africa including Zimbabwe, Gabon, Ivory Coast and Congo.

Kwetu Sacco registered in 1967 and was then known as Masaku Teachers Sacco. The Society has since rebranded and opened up its membership to include those outside the teaching profession.

The Society has seven branches spread out in Machakos, Makueni and Kajiado counties with its head office in Machakos town.

Kwetu Sacco was registered, with a view of bringing together teachers to mobilize their savings for economic empowerment and its membership has grown in bounds making it to currently serve over 60, 000 people.

The Society's financial stability is evident as its members have upgraded their families' lives, built homes and successful businesses besides achieving all round prosperity. It has remained modern and relevant to the customer's needs.

Kwetu Sacco aims to satisfy the financial needs of its members by helping them improve their social economic status.

The Sacco offers a variety of services including FOSA, BOSA, M- banking and Mpesa services as well as salary, pension and other advances.

Kwetu Sacco also offers loans like micro business, bridge and biashara loans to enable members meet their financial demands

The Society has a vision to be a unique first choice and financial solutions provider in the region while its mission is to promote socio economic well-being of its members through mobilization of savings and equitable distribution of resources.

The Sacco's objective is to expand the portfolio and consequently increase its surplus.

Its core values are knowledge and professionalism, wealth creation, expediency as well as integrity and accountability.

Kwetu Sacco head office in Machakos Town.

Kwetu Sacco CEO Dr Stanley Kyelenzi (centre) with the Ushirika award certificate. On the left is CAK CEO Daniel Mwarube.

OUR VISION
To be a unique, first choice & financial solutions provider in the Region.

OUR MISSION
To promote the socio-economic well being of our members through mobilization of savings, equitable distribution of resources and delivery

OUR CORE VALUES
Knowledge and professionalism, Wealth creation, Expediency, Transparency, Integrity and Accountability

OUR OBJECTIVES
To expand the portfolio, and consequently increase the surplus of the SACCO

ADVERTISING FEATURE

IG Sacco Chairman Kennedy Lidanya Keya receives the overall best trophy presented by Kakamega County Agriculture Chief Officer, Jeremiah Namunyu.

IG Sacco clinches National Technology Award

By Tindi Kuchio

IG (Invest & Grow) Sacco Limited won a trophy for being one of the Best in Technology optimisation during the recent National Ushirika Awards held at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi. This was in tier-one Saccos category.

The Society also emerged the Best Managed Sacco in Kakamega County for the sixth year running during the 97th Ushirika Day celebrations that were held at the Kakamega Approved School a couple of days ago.

The Sacco scooped several other awards such as the Best Sacco in Capacity Building (large Sacco category), the Best Sacco in offering Highest Interest on Deposits, Sacco with Lowest Expenditure and the second Best Sacco with Highest Average Deposit per member.

The Sacco also participated in Ushirika Day celebrations in Vihiga County, Likuyani and Lugari Sub Counties of Kakamega County.

The management of IG Sacco has also rolled out a number of capital projects including the partitioning of the head office, construction of septic tank, car park and fencing of IG Plaza.

IG Sacco Chairman Kennedy Keya, with Vice-Chairman Francis Omolo pose with delegates for a group photo during Ushirika Day celebrations in Kakamega.

IG Sacco Vice-Chairman, Francis Omolo receives a trophy during the event.

A trove of trophies won by IG Sacco during the 97th Ushirika Day fete.

IG AT A GLANCE

Total Assets	Ksh. 8,715,310,718
Turnover & Income	Ksh.1,406,018,759
Share Capital	Ksh. 421,922,225
Non-withrawable Deposits	Ksh. 4,962,987,100
Loan Disbursement	Ksh. 5,790,227,441
Loan Portofolio	Ksh.6,735,591,075
Membership	22375

IG Sacco Chairman Kennedy Keya receives a trophy and certificate during the Ushirika Day fete.

IG (INVEST AND GROW) SACCO SOCIETY LIMITED

IG SACCO
INVEST & GROW

IG Plaza, Muruli Road (Behind Posta/KRA offices)
P.O. Box 1150-50100 Kakamega,
Mobile: +254726340851/ +254736333334
Email: info@igsaccoltd.co.ke Website: www.igsaccoltd.co.ke
Facebook: igsacco Twitter: @igsaccosociety

PRODUCTS

BOSA PRODUCTS

1. HARAKA LOAN:
Repayment Period: Maximum 10 Months
Qualification: Maximum three (3) times your deposits subject to ability to repay

2. NORMAL LOAN:
Repayment Period: Maximum 36 Months
Qualification: Maximum three (3) times your deposits subject to ability torepay
NOTE: A member must not have any other BOSA loan to qualify for this loan except Automobile Loan.

3. AUTOMOBILE LOAN:
Repayment Period: Maximum 60 Months
Qualification: Maximum three (3) times your deposits subject to ability to repay

4 FANIKISHA LOAN:
Repayment Period: Maximum 48 Months
Qualification: Maximum four (4) times your deposits subject to ability to repay

5. PRIME LOAN:
Repayment Period: Maximum 60 Months
Qualification: Maximum four (4) times your deposits subject to ability to repay
NOTE: Offered to members who have capitalised their dividends and interest; and shall be required to capitalise subsequent dividends and interest for the period they will be servicing the loan.

6. RETIREES LOAN
Payment: 1 month
Processing period: Instant
Qualification: Max 50 percent of your deposits
NOTE: Offered to members who have retired and have deposits and can access up to 50 percent of their deposits as they await pension to be processed.

1. SALARY ADVANCE:
Repayment Period: Maximum 1 Month
Qualification: Maximum 75 percent of your net pay subject to a net-take-home of at least Kshs 1000.

2. PENSION ADVANCE
Repayment Period: Maximum 1 Month
Qualification: Maximum 75 percent of your net pension subject to a net-take-home of at least Kshs 1,000.

3. FIXED DEPOSIT RESERVE ADVANCE:
Repayment Period: To be recovered upon maturity of FDR
Qualification: Maximum 75 percent of the amount fixed in FDR

BRANCHES

Mbale Branch:
Chambers House Along Kakamega-Kisumu Road,Cellphone No. 0702579892

Lumakanda Branch:
Lugari Sub-county headquarters, off Eldoret-Webuye Road,Cellphone No. 0702579950

Malava Branch:
Malava Town Off Kakamega- Webuye Road, Cellphone No. 0702580079

Mumias Branch:
Mumias Town, Off Musanda Road, Cellphone No. 0702579882

Butere Branch:
Butere Town, Opposite Police Station, Cellphone No. 07025799

UPCOMING BRANCHES
Luanda and Serem

PAYBILL NO: 705001.
You can also place standing order at your commercial bank to make payments to IG sacco using
The following account details:
KCB BANK-KAKAMEGA BRANCH
BOSA ACC. NO 1101757663,
ACCOUNT NAME:
IG (INVEST AND GROW) SACCO LTD

CO-OPERATIVE BANK - KAKAMEGA BRANCH
FOSA ACC. NO: 01120067015601,
ACCOUNT NAME: IG (INVEST & GROW) SACCO LTD

FOSA PRODUCTS

1. EMPOWERMENT LOAN:
Repayment period: Maximum of 72 months
Qualification: Ability to repay subject a net-take-home of Kshs.2,500

NOTE: Meant for IG Sacco FOSA salary/pension/income earners with a maximum gross monthly salary/pension/income of Kshs 15,000 e.g B.O.M employees, retirees, County government ECDE Assistants etc

2. FOSA LOAN:
Repayment period: Maximum 20 months
Qualification: Ability to repay subject a net-take-home of Kshs. 3,000

3. AKIBA LOAN:
Repayment Period: Maximum 24 Months
Qualification: Maximum 1.5 times your Akiba savings s ubject to net-take-home of Kshs. 3,000.
Requirement: Loan application form duly signed and filled and latest pay slip.
NOTE; Available only to members actively subscribing to akiba savings scheme.

4. FOSA PLUS LOAN:
Repayment Period: Maximum 10 Months
Qualification: Abillity to repay subject a net-take-home of Kshs. 3,000

5. PROGRESSIVE LOAN:
Repayment Period: Maximum 48 Months
Qualification: Ability to repay subject a net-take-home of Kshs. 3,000

6. MRADI LOAN:
epayment period: Maximum 10 months Qualification: Maximum five (5) times your deposits or maximum of Kshs 5 million, subject to 75 percent of the LPO/contract amount, whichever is less.
Security: 50 percent of the loan amount to be secured by guarantors and balance of the loan amount to be secured by collateral security, savings and deposits. Processing period: Fortnight (14 days).
Requirements: Loan application form duly filled and signed with the following attachments;
Letter of commitment from the tenderer that payment shall be made in favour of IG Sacco.
Original LPO

INTRODUCING
7. *PESA PEPE MOBILE BANKING*

Offered to members to enable them access their FOSA accounts anywhere, anytime. Services offered include; Salary alerts, payment of utilities, purchase airtime, loans and advance alerts.

One can access the following services;

- Transfer Money From Account
- Balance Enquiry
- Mini Statement
- Buy Airtime
- Mobile Advance
- Deposit
- Guarantorship
- Sms Alerts

Tharaka-Nithi farmers told to join co-ops to prosper

By Jeff Mwangi

Tharaka-Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki has urged farmers to join co-operatives to have a better bargain power.

Speaking during the 2019 Ushirika Day held in Chuka town, Njuki said this was the only way to boost small scale farmers to have better earnings.

"The only way to have a better ground for our operation for all small scale producers is to join hands and form co-operatives," he said.

He explained that failure of farmers and small scale producers to have a common bargaining was the source of frustrations and problems which have given room for brokers to exploit them.

"It's easier to destroy a tree but it's hard to destroy a forest. These brokers have always taken advantage of us because we are not united," he said.

He called on agricultural co-operatives to diversify from coffee and tea to other crops like beans and green grams.

He promised to support to cereal co-operatives with funds to enable them build silos to store the farm produce and do the selling later when the prices are more favourable to the farmers.

The county has bought a modern coffee machine that will be used for milling, drying and packaging coffee that will be county branded.

The Governor also called on the Boda Boda operators to form co-operative societies to enable them raise money by saving and getting loans to uplift their livelihood.

Njuki added that county government has plans to establsih an Artificial Insemination Centre in Chuka town to reduce the high cost of the service.

Tharaka Nithi Co-operative Bank manager Peninah Wambui said co-operatives have a big role in developing the country's economy.

Mugwe Ward MCA Dennis Gaturo called on the agricultural co-operatives to provide soil testing and advice farmers on the best farm inputs to use, saying this will help them gain more from them.

Julius Riungu,who chairs county Ushirika Council, said dairy farmers intend to put a milk plant where processing and packaging will be done as a way of value addition.

Co-operatives societies and individual co-operators were awarded with Thuita Farmers' Co-operative Society factory taking the trophy for the best factory.

Mutindwa Farmers' Co-operative scooped a trophy and certificate for being the best coffee society with the highest classification, while Mathiru Dairy Society was awarded for being the best managed marketing society.

Turima Tumaini Sacco was the best managed rural Sacco while Trans Nation Sacco was the best managed urban Sacco, Meru South Farmer Union got the award of being the best multipurpose union, and Messo Housing Co-operative Society was the best performing housing co-operative society.

Southern Star Sacco scooped the award for being the best innovative and creative Sacco; Thamani Sacco was the most improved Sacco while Ndosha Sacco was the Sacco with the highest diversification.

Tharaka Nithi county coffee mill was the most ambitious co-operative union, Meru Herbs Rural Sacco was the highest gender sensitive and MCK Mukothima Sacco was awarded for being the fastest growing Sacco.

On individual category, Mr Julius Riungu was awarded for being the coffee farmer with the highest coffee production, Mrs Sarah Muthoni Mwangi was awarded for being the highest saver, Mr Miriti Rubaara was the best coffee farmer while Mr Douglas Muturi got the second best coffee farmer award.

Mr Edwin Mwiti Riungu was the best mixed farmer followed by Mr James Imungi. Mr Geoffrey Mutegi Ngatunyi was the best dairy farmer followed by Mr Alex Muriuki and Mrs Idah Kathomi in that order.

RIFT VALLEY

Farmers welcome President's order to revamp KFA, KPCU

By Dennis Bett

Farmers from the North Rift region have welcomed President Uhuru Kenyatta's directive to revamp the Kenya Farmers Association (KFA).

The KFA Director, Kipkorir Menjo, accompanied by other farmers' representatives, Jackson Chemweno and Joseph Tanui, said the President's directive was long overdue.

Menjo said farmers representatives from Uasin Gishu County will be travelling to Nairobi to meet the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture Mwangi Kiunjuri over the planned revamping of the moribund association so that it can begin serving the interest of farmers again.

He noted that the President's move was in the right direction because KFA, which is owned by farmers, will enable them to source their own farm inputs at cheaper cost.

Talking to *Sacco Review* recently in Eldoret Chemweno said buying of farm inputs at the facility was cheaper unlike now where private dealers are enjoying monopoly when the government delayed to supply subsidized fertilizer to farmers.

Chemweno said overtime the cost of farm inputs has sharply risen beyond the reach of most farmers because unscrupulous businessmen were taking advantage of the gap after the collapse of KFA.

President Kenyatta issued the directive during the Ushirika Day celebrations, when he asked CS Kiunjuri to immediately embark on plans to revive KFA and the Kenya Planters Co-operative Union (KPCU) to serve farmers' interests.

Kenya Highlands Sacco Board Chairman Mr Richard Mutai and CEO Mrs Alice Kosgey receive an award during Ushirika Gala Dinner in Nairobi.

KFA's assets including land and warehouses valued at over Sh10 billion were sold to repay debts amounting to more than Sh2 billion.

The association was incorporated in 1923 and it performed its role as a distributor of farm inputs as well as a marketing body even after Kenya attained independence. Famers were assured of inputs whether or not they had money as KFA advanced them affordable credit.

However, when the government meddled with the farmers' organization in 1984 later winding it up and putting in its place, the Kenya Grain Growers Co-operative Union (KGGCU), against the wishes of its members, KFA died with the hopes of farmers as KGGCU failed miserably to deliver.

The government changed tact and wound up KGGCU in 1996, reverting it back to KFA that by then was a shell of its former self.

UASIN GISHU

Deputy Governor roots for co-operatives

By Wasike Elvis

Uasin Gishu Deputy Governor Daniel Chemno has called upon farmers to join co-operatives to improve their livelihoods.

"The only way to eliminate poverty in our homes is by joining the co-operative movement since one is able to get loans that will improve their livelihoods," said Chemno, who was speaking recently during a mobilization meeting at Kabenes.

"Co-operatives enable farmers to have a big say when selling their produce," he added.

Uasin Gishu Deputy Governor Daniel Chemno awarding the Noble Sacco a trophy for being a pace-setting Sacco.

At the same time, the governor urged youth to join Saccos, noting majority of members were old.

"Co-operative movement is one of the easiest ways of getting government financial support that will help youths start businesses and earn a living," he noted.

He challenged co-operative societies to embrace ICT platforms to woo more youths.

He noted that the county has a total of 650 registered co-operatives, adding that 100 new co-operatives had been registered and 45 revived.

"We recently employed over 50 new staff to deal with the challenges witnessed in the co-operative sector," said Chemno.

During the celebrations the trophy for the best managed employer-based Sacco was won by Real Sacco while the Rivatese Sacco got the second position trophy.

Ainabkoi Farmers Society emerged position one while Dubeleti Farmers' Co-operative Society was position two in the agricultural based societies.

Biashara Pamoja Sacco was feted as the best managed in the business category followed by Kipkorgot Sacco.

Best managed investment co-operative went to Kokwatai Investment Society and Kurur Woman Consumer Co-operative, which was ranked second.

The best managed transport society award went to Chepkoilel Matatu Sacco.

Noble Sacco bagged the overall trophy as a pacesetter in the county's co-operatives movement.

Uasin Gishu CECM in charge of co-operatives Esther Mutai affirmed that her department would continue empowering people through co-operatives.

Kericho Saccos urged to form bank

By Benedicto Ng'etich

Savings and Credit Co-operative Societies in Kericho County have been challenged to form a local bank.

Kericho Deputy Governor Susan Kikwai noted that Saccos in the county and the neighbouring Bomet County are well-established and stable to form a strong financial institution.

She was speaking during the 97th International Co-operative Day celebrations held at the Kericho Primary School Hall.

She said the county had stopped the procurement of milk coolers until the whole milk value chain was ascertained, observing that most cooling machines supplied earlier were lying idle since there was no milk to store.

Kikwai urged the co-operatives to invest heavily in the dairy sector and the agricultural sector at large as most livelihoods depended on it.

She said in conjunction with the national government they are in the process of looking for an investor to establish a local production of phosphates.

Kericho Co-operatives Director Leornard Otii warned managers against mismanagement of co-operatives.

Eco-Pillar Sacco members tipped on financial management

By Martin Ruto

The Eco-Pillar savings and credit co-operative society recently organized a series of education and training for its members on financial management.

More than 1,000 members participated.

Daniel Kithinji, a consultant on credit and debt and also lecturer at Moi University, encouraged saving more to expand their sources of income.

The Sacco has more than 5,000 members spread across West Pokot, Trans Nzoia and Turkana counties.

Boresha Sacco shines in Baringo co-op fete

By Dennis Bett

Boresha Sacco emerged the overall best Society in Baringo County during Ushirika Day celebration.

The Sacco was recognized for its outstanding product diversification which has made it easy for its clients to enjoy financial support.

Philemon Chebii, who represented the Sacco CEO, Moses Chebor, expressed confidence that the Sacco will continue offering top range of services to members.

The Sacco that has branches in Eldama Ravine, Kabarnet, Marigat, Mogotio, Barwessa, Eldoret, Chemolingot, Nakuru, Kapsabet and Iten towns, recently unveiled a new branch in Laikipia County.

Eldama Ravine Sub-County co-operative commissioner Pamela Onyancha encouraged societies to be aggressive in their marketing strategies.

She commended Boresha Sacco for its ambitious plan to grow its membership to 200,000 in the next two years.

Boresha Sacco staff receiving a trophy from Livestock and Fisheries Chief Officer, Mr Isaac Ndirangu.

Samburu co-operatives mobilise Sh930m savings

By Correspondent

Celebration to commemorate International Day of Co-operatives was for the first time held in Samburu County in Maralal town.

Chairperson of Co-operative Leaders' Forum in the county Michael Lolkurum advised locals to save and borrow money from different co-operative societies to strength their business enterprises in bead work, dairy, honey production, crop faming and livestock keeping among others.

The County Executive Committee Member for Tourism and Trade Peter Leshakwet said the number of co-operative societies grew from 32 in 2013 to 70 in 2019.

According to Leshakwet 9,000 people in the county have so far saved Sh930 million in various cooperative societies.

However, most of the co-operative societies have been affected by financial problems, poor leadership and business competition.

Lolkurum called on MCAs to pass a co-operative bill that is currently before County Assembly to enable county government to financially support the upcoming co-operative societies.

"We are asking the MCAs to pass a co-operative bill so that the upcoming co-operatives can be supported, we have proposed that the county government should be setting aside a revolving fund every financial year to be borrowed at a low interest," he said.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Wevarsity Sacco approves Sh 64 million budget

Board Chairman, Dr Nganyi addressing delegates.

Board Chairman Dr Nganyi, Board Secretary, Rita Shitemi and Acting CEO Emily Esokomi.

By Shichangi Richard

Members of Wevarsity Savings and Credit Co-operative Society have approved a budget of Sh 64 million for the 2019/20 financial year.

Addressing members during a Special General Meeting (SGM) Wevarsity Sacco Society Chairman, Dr. Jason Nganyi said the budget will enable the Society run some of its key programmes.

"The Sacco is financially stable and has not yet experienced any loan backlogs. We shall remain steadfast in disbursing loans to members which is our main objective and function," said Dr. Nganyi.

He disclosed that Wevarsity Sacco plans to hold several education meetings in the coming months, to provide members with an open forum to discuss issues affecting their Sacco, challenging all to attend these events.

Kakamega County Co-operative Director Ben Kangale, who was Chief Guest.

Frankline Wandera, Supervisory Chairman

Dr. Nganyi said the Society was finalizing its service charter which, he noted, will improve on service delivery to members.

" We are coming up with a new form to be used for loaning services to members which will show loans applied for, when it was done and payment schedule. At a glance, one is therefore able to look at the loans queue," noted Dr. Nganyi.

He told members to elect officials who will be able to run the Sacco's Housing Scheme, an activity that is scheduled to be held in the next few months.

The Sacco's Supervisory Committee Chairman, Mr Frankline Wandera said his team observed that this year's AGM was not well organized. He urged the education committee to ensure the next meetings are well organized to allow members deliberate on all important issues.

"There should be a limit on honoraria to avoid overspending and stiff penalties for management staff and board of directors who fail to adhere to the loaning policy," said Dr. Nganyi

The committee also recommended that members who do not belong to the microfinance wing should not access loans from that department until a new policy is drawn. This proposal was, however, opposed by members to demanded access to loans from microfinance wing.

"We demand that names of loan defaulters should be made public so that we do not have any suspicions that some board members or senior staff may have defaulted on their loans, information that is hidden from members," noted Dr Nganyi.

WEVARSITY SACCO SOCIETY LTD

WEVARSITY SACCO SOCIETY LTD.

a) Vision

'To be the leading Sacco Society in funds mobilization, credit provision and quality service",

b) Mission

To promote thrift in compliance with the Co-operative Principles by practicing good Governance and providing competitive financial products and services to members coupled with accurate and timely information for prudent Management.

Core Values

1. Independence
2. Transparency
3. Integrity
4. Teamwork
5. Professionalism

WEVARSITY SACCO SOCIETY LTD.

PRODUCTS OFFERED BY THE SACCO

BOSA PRODUCTS

i) Normal Loan
This is a three year term loan.

ii) Development loan
It is a four year term loan

iii) Pikipiki Loan
This is a two year term loan

iv) MalizaMradi Loan
This is a five year term loan and a refinancing for all other long term products

v) College Fees Loan
It is one year term loan

vi) School Fees Loan
It is repayable in ten months within one calendar year

vii) Emergency Loan
This loan is available at all times and repayable in ten months

viii) Instant Loan
This is offered in both BOSA and FOSA and repayable in four months

ix) Instant Plus Loan
This is offered in both BOSA and FOSA and repayable in five months

x) Passage and Baggage Loan
This is a product for the newly employed staff meant to allow them to settle down

FOSA PRODUCTS

i) FOSA Loan
This is repayable in ten months

ii) FOSA plus Loan
This loan is repayable in twenty-four months

iii) Salary Advance
This is repayable in one month

viii) Fixed deposit account
This is a highly rewarding product, which pays a handsome interest to the account holder.

ix) Joint Savings Account
This a product for groups, giving them an opportunity to save and borrow

x) Cheque Clearance
This is a service to our clients, enabling them to square their financial demands Instantly

xii) ATM Services
This service is available twenty-four hours to enable our members to access their funds when & where they need.

xiii) Salary processing
We give our clients this quick service to enhance fast access to their to their salary earlier than other institutions.

xv) M- Banking
This service gives you real time status of your account with us at the comfort of your phone.

OTHER BOSA PRODUCTS

i) Education package
ii) Christmas Package
iii) Burial and Benevolent Fund

WEVARSITY SACCO SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 873 - 50100
KAKAMEGA
TEL: 202523552 / 0715 810 334
wEB: www.wevarsity.co.ke

NEW IMPETUS ON GRAFT WAR

Uhuru orders anti-fraud police unit for Saccos

By Staff Reporter

President Uhuru Kenyatta has directed the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Co-operatives to immediately operationalize the proposed Sacco Societies Fraud Investigation Unit within the Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA).

This is part of a series of policy and regulatory measures that he said the Jubilee administration has initiated so as to create an enabling environment for co-operative enterprises to thrive. Kenyatta also directed the Cabinet Secretary for Industry, Trade and Co-operatives; National Treasury and the Governor of Central Bank of Kenya to facilitate inter-Sacco lending.

"In order to address liquidity challenges faced by Saccos and to facilitate Inter-Sacco lending, I direct the Cabinet Secretary, The National Treasury, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Trade Industry and Co-operatives and Governor, Central Bank of Kenya to speed up the process of establishing the Central Liquidity facility which would enable Saccos to participate in the National Payment System and allow them to come up with more innovative products for Kenyans," said President Kenyatta.

He made these remarks during this year's 97th International Co-operative Day Celebrations held recently at KICC Grounds, Nairobi.

The anti-fraud unit at SASRA will have police officers attached to assist in daily investigation and detection of fraud.

The unit will be tasked with fraud, money laundering and false accounting, with auditors and financial experts making up the team of sleuths.

The Co-operative movement in Kenya has over 23,000 registered societies with a total membership of over 14 million people according to the government data.

Co-operatives in Kenya have mobilized members' savings and deposits in excess of Sh 732 billion, hold an asset base of approximately Sh 1 trillion and a loan portfolio of Sh 700 billion.

Directly and indirectly, Co-operatives account for 45 per cent of Kenya's Gross Domestic Product and 30 per cent of national savings and deposits.

SASRA data indicate that Saccos employ more than 500,000 Kenyans directly and another 1.5 million indirectly, in addition to their invaluable contribution in creating secondary employment, supporting enterprise and powering the economic activities of tens of millions of Kenyans. It is thus estimated that a full two-thirds of all Kenyans can directly or indirectly earn a living from the co-operative sector.

"My Government recognizes the importance of co-operatives in wealth and employment creation. In this regard, the Co-operative Sector has been identified as one of the key partners in the realization of the Big 4 agenda - decent and affordable housing; affordable healthcare for all; food and nutrition security for all Kenyans and job creation and economic growth through manufacturing," said President Kenyatta.

He said that co-operatives have been and continue to be the bedrock of Agriculture and Food Security in Kenya. He added reform and modernization steps, such as those deployed with regard to the New Kenya Co-operative Creameries (NKCC), will be applied in reviving dormant co-operatives.

President Uhuru Kenyatta being received by National Ushirika Council officials led by Chairman, Japeth Magomere and Co-operative Alliance of Kenya CEO, Daniel Marube. Photo/Wesley Ken

Under the manufacturing pillar, the Jubilee administration has prioritized reforms and revitalization measures in various economic sub-sectors in which co-operatives have traditionally been huge players, but which over time have experienced challenges.

The President noted his government has taken proactive steps that have resulted in positive gains for co-operatives operating in the coffee, livestock, dairy and informal sector.

"I am aware that with over 1,980 Housing/Investment Co-operatives with an asset base of Sh 31 billion, co-operatives are an ideal vehicle to provide at least 25 per cent of the 500,000 new houses required across the country. It is worthwhile to note that over the years, co-operatives have provided 80 per cent of the affordable housing availed to the middle and lower income groups," said President Kenyatta.

He applauded the significant contribution and positive impact that co-operatives in Kenya and across the Globe have had.

"Together, we also wish the co-operative movement at home and abroad every success as it continues to make Kenya and the world a better place for all humanity: uniting families, communities, nations, regions and the globe. That is the unity of purpose we are rooting for," said President Kenyatta.

2019 USHIRIKA AWARDS SUPPLEMENT

High dividend returns earn Wakulima Commercial Sacco top awards

By Munene Maina

Wakulima Commercial Sacco was recognized and honoured during Nyeri County Ushirika Day celebrations for offering high returns to members in terms of dividends and rebates.

Under the rural Saccos category, the Sacco was ranked second position for the highest dividend payment rates and highest rate on deposits in 2018.

The Sacco's outstanding performance was despite a number of challenges and new regulations in the financial sector that saw many co-operative societies pay reduced return to members.

For the achievement the Sacco was awarded a trophy and certificate, energizing its pursuit to be the best financial institution.

The Sacco was registered in 2003 under the name Wakulima Dairy Ltd whose core objective is to assist members in dairy farming and others from various sectors. The Sacco has opened its common bond to serve not only farmers but also salaried people and business community.

Since 2004 when Wakulima Commercial Sacco started its operations in it has remained steadfast in offering relevant services and quality and timely products. The Sacco offers both BOSA and FOSA services

Its mission is to empower members through mobilization of savings and affordable credit, by providing efficient and reliable financial services, with an aim to maximize returns.

It is guided by Transparency and Accountability, Trustworthy, Integrity, Competence and Professionalism, Open Mindedness, Commitment, Teamwork and Courtesy core values

In 2018 the Sacco was rated position one as the society with the highest interest on deposits.

The rapid growing Wakulima Commercial Sacco has attained considerable success and it was among the first Saccos to be licensed by the Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA). It has also maintained high dividend payout to members for the last five years.

Its ever rising achievement has earned the Sacco scores of awards thanks to its top class management under the able leadership of the chairman Hon Muhika Mutahi.

To be more effective and efficient, the Sacco has automated all its operations. It offers services such as mobile banking and Point of Sale (POS) services.

The Sacco has fostered partnership with the Co-op bank to enable its members and customers access their funds from any part of the country through ATM.

Wakulima Commercial Sacco has year on year made significant strides in growth in major areas key among them the membership, share capital, member deposits, and asset size.

Wakulima Commercial Sacco representatives receiving an award during Nyeri County Ushirika Day.

WAKULIMA COMMERCIAL SACCO
Our Sacco, Our Growth ,Our Future.

WAKULIMA COMMERCIAL SACCO LTD

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Motto
Our Sacco, Our Growth, Our Future
Vision
To be the best financial institution
Mission
Empower members through mobilization of savings, affordable credit and providing efficient and reliable financial services with an aim to maximize returns

Products And Services Offered:

Front Office Section
- Savings Account
- Business current account
- Fixed deposit account
- Children/ Junior account
- Milk advance
- Coffee picking advance
- Salary advance

Back office Section Loans
- Development loans
- Dairy loan
- School fees loan
- Emergency loan
- Micro finance/ group loans
- Insurance Premium Financing (IPF)
- Fanikisha kahawa loan
- Institutional loans

Other services
- Access our services using your mobile phone (Fast cash/mobile banking)
- Door-step Banking (Services to the village level)
- Cheque services
- Sacco link

The Sacco is linked to co-operative banks, KCB and Equity ATMs to enable our customers access their funds from any VISA ATM.
- POS (Point of Sale)

The Sacco is also networked with point of sale machines where members can access banking services through agents.

Benefits enjoyed by members
- Access to loans and advances
- Ownership of the Sacco
- Power to negotiate on certain services
- Eligibility to be elected as a board member
- Dividends on yearly basis
- Participation in decision making through AGMs and SGMs

Our Sacco, Our Growth, Our Future

ADVERTISING FEATURE

2019 USHIRIKA AWARDS SUPPLEMENT

Metkei Farmers' Co-op shines in Elgeyo Marakwet

By Nyakondo Nyaboke

Metkei Farmers' Co-operative Society, located in Keiyo South Sub County, has been awarded for being the Highest paying Dairy Co-operative Society in Elgeyo Marakwet County.

This award was given to the Society during this year's Ushirika Day celebrations held in Kamwosor town, Metkei Ward in Elgeyo Marakwet County, whose theme is 'Co-ops for decent work'. Present during the function was Keiyo Co-operative Development Chairman David Kiberenge together with senior county co-operatives officers and other stakeholders.

At a price of Sh 36.00, Metkei Farmers' Co-operative is the only co-operative society that processes milk in the County. The Society also won awards for financial performance, improvement, management skills, innovation, growth of the balance sheet and Sacco with the Best Marketing Strategies.

Metkei Sacco Society also won recognition for having member with the highest milk supply in the region, proving its mantle as a leading player in the dairy industry in the County.

Elgeyo Marakwet based Metkei Farmers' Co-operative was founded in 1969 with the aim of pooling resources and helping farmers market their products as well as ensure stable market prices.

Speaking during the Ushirika event, Metkei Co-operative Society CEO James Cheboi said the society is presently involved in dairy farming and provides financial solutions such as loans and agro-vet services to farmers

Cheboi said the Society has taken a bold step of processing and packaging its milk own milk, under the brand 'Elma milk', a product that is now sold to all regions within the North Rift region.

This venture, he says, has been fostered through partnership between the co-operative society and the Elgeyo Marakwet County Government.

He said Metkei Farmers Co-operative Society has engaged farmers in cash crop farming as a way of lifting up their livelihoods.

"I urge the youth to join the co-operative movement so as to improve their living standards and have gainful employment," stated Cheboi.

"Metkei farmers' co-operative is a fast growing society which requires the support of all of us. I urge the society to partner with banks so as to improve its financial capacity," noted Transnational bank Branch Manager Gideon Kirwa.

The Society's milk processor has a capacity of producing 500 litres per hour capacity with plans to double this from the current 4,000 litres to 8,000 litres daily. The co-operative collects milk from both small and large scale farmers.

The milk processor has received support from the County Government that has enabled it to acquire a lorry and water pump for distribution and processing purposes respectively.

Metkei Co-operative official receives an award for registering the highest milk supply.

Metkei Farmers Co-operative officials receive an award for best milk paying co-operative society in Elgeyo Marakwet County.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Broad Borders Co-op emerges best in Murang'a County Ushirika fete

Broad Border Housing Co-operative Society officials pose with their trophies after emerging top society in Murang'a County during this year's Ushirika Day.

By Kage Njoroge

Broad Borders Housing Cooperatives Society emerged the best overall society in Murang'a county for outstanding business performance.

The outfit scooped top awards in various categories, during this year's cerebration for the international co-operative movement day in the region.

The society which deals with housing, real estate investment, savings and credit was declared the best in its line of activities.

Broad Borders Co-operative, which commenced its programmes, seven years ago was recognized for paying highest dividend, enabling its customers to purchase plots, build houses and settle new home owners in their premises.

The society was noted to be the fastest growing in real estate business, empowering clients to invest in housing projects and get plots to build family homes.

Presiding over the activities of the day, Murang'a county government, Chief Executive Officer for co-operatives, Bernard Wanyoike Kariuki, observed that the society has remained focused on its core line of activities.

Kariuki pointed out that co-operative societies have become strategic vehicles to drive local social and economic development.

The CEO noted that the county's economy is largely supported by financial transactions involving co-operative bodies.

To emphasize his data on the crucial role of this sector, Kariuki revealed some 658,000 people from the local population are active members in differents societies.

The county has a population of about one million people according to department of statistics.

He pointed out that co-operativesocieties operating in this county have a combined assert portfolio amounting to Sh16 billion, currently.

The officer disclosed that in 2018 the sector gave out loans to members totaling to Sh6.4 billion which are circulating in various economic activities.

He observed that the saccos have become popular for providing credit facilities which are affordable and with flexible terms.

Kariuki stressed the sector has rapidly grown since the establishment of county government with the number of societies increasing to 431 from 162 recorded in 2013.

He expounded that the local government has created an enabling environment for the sector to be vibrant in performance of business.

The officer noted that the local county assembly is enacting a co-operatives bill which will guide the governance of the sector in the region.

During the event Mentor Sacco was awarded for being the best in payment of highest dividend among workers' saccos.

Broad Border Chair Jeremy Karemeri and Vice Chair Lucy Nguru receive a trophy and certificate from County Co-operatives CEC Edward Muiruri. The co-op paid the highest dividents in Murang'a County this year.

State told to expedite formulation of national co-operative policy

By Collins Akong'o

The Co-operatives Alliance of Kenya Chief Executive Officer Daniel Marube has called on the government to speed up ratification of the national policy on co-operative development.

Speaking in Mombasa during Ushirika Day celebration, Marube said a standardized national policy on activities of co-operative societies will spur growth across the 47 counties.

He noted that the operationalization of the national policy to guide the sector will ensure harmony in the co-ordination of co-operative programmes in the country as opposed to the current scenario where each devolved unit is coming up with own regulations and rules.

"We hope that such a unified policy relating to the formation, registration and regulation of co-operative societies will eliminate the existence of pyramid schemes that fleece members," he stated.

"We are asking the relevant authorities to expedite the formation of a national co-operative development policy that guarantees the growth of the sector," he noted.

He expressed regrets that pyramid like entities masquerading as Saccos were giving the co-operative movement a bad name besides fleecing the public of their savings.

He said the co-operative societies in the country cut across the key economic sectors including finance and housing.

Co-operative Alliance of Kenya CEO, Daniel Marube.

Marube at the same time said the Sacco movement is paying a heavy price for failure by counties, public agencies and to remit workers' monthly contributions.

He pointed out Mombasa County Government owes co-operatives more than Sh100 million.

On his part, Mombasa Deputy Governor, Dr. William Kingi expressed willingness to remit the workers' monthly contributions.

He asked Saccos to partner with the county government in the provision of affordable and descent housing for the middle and lower income segments of the population.

COAST

Saccos to benefit from county revolving fund

By Tsozungu Kombe

At least ten co-operative societies in Kilifi have benefited from the county Micro Finance Fund (Mbegu Fund).

The fund was launched by Governor Amason Kingi to enable youth, women and Saccos access credit facilities to boost their activities.

Nahida Mohammed, the county minister for Co-operative Development, Trade and Tourism, who was speaking during Ushirika Day celebrations, urged agricultural co-operatives to venture into value addition.

She told co-operative leaders to enhance good governance in their institutions.

"The co-operative sector in the region has recorded remarkable achievements in improving living standards of the county residents," she noted.

The minister said they have enhanced supervision, education and training of co-operatives in the county.

"The co-operative department has so far come up with initiatives to improve the performance of agro-marketing co-operatives by facilitating them to participate in trade shows and exhibitions both locally and in the East African region," she said.

Currently, she said, the county government was finalizing on developing a co-operative policy that will address some of the challenges faced by the sector and revitalizing dormant societies in the county.

She added that the county will also strengthen marketing co-operatives and facilitate co-operatives to venture into value addition.

"We also intend to set aside funds for the capacity building of co-operative board of directors through seminars and other forms of training," she said.

She urged county residents to embrace Saccos for them to uplift their living standards.

Ms. Nahida Mohammed and Renson Ndoro during 97th Ushirika Day celebrations held in Malindi town recently.

TAITA TAVETA

County to audit co-ops

By Domnic Maraga

Co-operative societies have been urged to regularly conduct audits on themselves to stem fraud.

Voi Sub County co-operative officer Nickson Mwadime said members should also be adequately informed about their societies.

"We should always audit our accounts to know how much we have saved and how much we have as a group; this will help us during financial problem because banks only give loans to groups with audit reports of their accounts," he said.

He said members need to create funds for capacity building and each member should be challenged to know more about activities carried in their groups.

"There is need to employ a new audit officer at the county level after the officer who was holding the office retired," he said.

According to International co-operative alliance, cooperative societies are responsible for providing jobs opportunity to 10 per cent population globally.

Meanwhile, the County government of Taita Taveta will work with all co-operative players in finding solutions affecting the movement.

County Trade Executive Bigvai Mwailemi said they are ready to address issues affecting the sector.

"We willing to sit down with all the stakeholders in the sector and find solutions to the challenges," said Mwailemi, who was speaking during an Annual General Meeting for 2T Sacco.

The Sacco chairlady Jane Nzige advised all members to apply for loans to boost their businesses and double their savings.

"We should save more and take loans to buy modern vehicles that can compete with our competitors," she noted.

Taita Taveta Saccos issue loans worth Sh 900m

By Pascal Mwandambo

Taita-Taveta co-operative societies issued out loans amounting to more than Sh900 million in the financial year 2018.

The county has a total of 174 co-operative societies boasting a membership of over 64,000.

Addressing officials from different co-operative societies at Dan Mwazo Hall in Voi town recently, county co-operatives director Erastus Gonzi pointed out that there were a total of 85 active societies in the county while the rest are dormant.

"Co-operative societies in the county have been on an impressive track record with an asset base of more than Sh 2 billion while mobilising deposits and savings of more than Sh1.4 billion," noted Gonzi.

The official pointed out that the societies still face numerous challenges among them lack of capital especially for the agro-processing societies, low financial investments, and the squatter problems for the land buying co-ops as well as lack of title deeds for members in the housing societies.

He also cited weak governance structures and staff shortages as the other challenges facing the sector in the county.

Gonzi called for the intensification of capacity building to strengthen the county co-operative movement as well as the establishment of a co-operative development fund to cater for training, research, consultancy and related activities.

Addressing the meeting KUSSCO board member for Coast and North Eastern regions, Alfred Mlolwa emphasized the central role of Saccos in fighting poverty.

Mlolwa urged co-operative societies to insure their property to safeguard their businesses in case of disaster.

He pointed out that insurance of society property should include cover for livestock, citing the case of the recent drought in Tana River where herders lost livestock worth millions of shillings.

Kilifi co-operative sector records growth

By Our Reporter

Kilifi County Co-operative Development department has registered nine new co-operative societies.

The county co-operative director James Mwasi said out of the 270 registered co-operative societies

61 are agricultural based and 105 are Savings and Credit Co-operative Societies (Saccos).

However, only 152 co-operatives are active and two Saccos are fully licensed by the Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA).

"Despite the bad economic times experienced in the county last year the performance of co-operatives has continued to improve. Saccos remain the most vibrant," he noted.

Accumulatively the co-operatives hold assets worth over Sh 8.95 billion and members deposit of more than Sh6 billion.

The county co-operative movement loaned members over Sh 1.96 billion in the year 2018, while the turnover stood at Sh 1.58 billion during the same period. Membership increased to 150,565 in 2018 as compared to 131,780 in 2017.

"It is imperative to note that Saccos create an incentive to encourage savings among members and at the same time promote financial deepening and access," he stated.

Mwasi emphasized the importance of good corporate governance in the co-operative societies in the area.

"Co-operative leaders should adhere to best practices and comply with provisions of the Co-operative Societies ACT and relevant legislation. Most co-operatives in the area have over the past years failed to beat deadlines on budget approval and presentation of audited accounts to members, this should stop," he said.

He urged co-operatives to embrace Information Communication Technology (ICT) to enhance efficiency in service delivery to members.

To reduce non-performing loans, co-operatives were advised to subscribe to Credit Reference Bureaus (CRB).

The county has registered 3,500 Boda-Boda Saccos.

County Ushirika Day Council chairman ,who is also Imarika Sacco Board of Directors chairman, Renson Ndoro urged the county government to facilitate capacity building for the co-operatives leaders.

During the event Kilifi Utafiti Sacco was rewarded for having the highest average savings per member and Imarika Sacco got the award for being the best in loan servicing.

Jaribuni Youth Sacco and Bahari Women Sacco were also rewarded for their exemplary work.

San Marco Sacco, Mafiwo Sacco and Mabati Sacco were feted for having the highest rate in payment of rebates to members.

Nahida Mohammed, Kilifi County Cooperative Development Minister rewarding a trophy to Mariakani Mabati Sacco for being the best managed during Ushirika Day.

FOCUS ON USHIRIKA AWARDS

Kenya's crème de la crème SACCOs

Agro-chemical Sacco official being presented with a trophy. The Sacco was voted Best Managed in Kisumu County in the 2019 Ushirika Day. *Photo/Erick Nyayiera.*

Nahida Mohammed presents a certificate to members of Malindi Handcraft Co-operative Society in the category the highest produce payment to members (marketing) during the 97th Ushirika Day celebrations.

NewFortis Sacco Board Secretary, Mrs Margaret Wangeci, Board Chairman, Mr John Githinji and CEO, Mr John Mathinji receiving a trophy and certificate from Nyeri Governor, Mutahi Kahiga for the highest interest rate on deposits during the 2019 county Ushirika Day fete.

Michael Mugo (left), CIC Group General Manager, Nairobi Metropolis, presents a trophy to Limuru Co-operative Dairy Society members during Kiambu Ushirika Day celebrations. *Photo/Azael Masese*

Bebora Baker, AMREF Sacco Board Chairman poses with a trophy after the society was recognised for being the Second Best Managed in the Employer-Based Saccos under Tier 3 category nationally.

Ginyali Matatu sacco members after the sacco was awarded for being the best in offering highest interest on deposits in Kiambu County. *Photo/Felix Wanderi*

SASRA moves to tighten oversight activity

The Authority seeks new tool to monitor emerging risks in the Sacco sub-sector and tauten up its supervisory powers

Co-operators follow proceedings during the 97th National Ushirika Day celebrations at KICC Nairobi. Photo/Wesley Ken

By Our Reporter

The Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA) is seeking to strengthen its monitoring tools to effectively regulate Savings and Credit Co-operative Societies.

It floated an international tender, in search of a vendor to install new ICT software that will enable it monitor the financial health and condition of all Saccos.

Although the Authority has been successful in identifying risks associated with the deposit-taking Sacco business, its response has been slow with delays in applying appropriate supervisory interventions in cases where a Sacco is in financial distress.

SASRA invited tenders from interested firms to supply, set up and maintain a Risk-Based Supervision System (RBSS) and Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) as well as related hardware infrastructure.

This new IT platform is aimed at assisting the regulatory agency to put closer surveillance on Saccos as well as rate them, based on their risk profile and compliance with the Act, regulations and other supervisory directives.

All bids, to be addressed to the SASRA CEO, were to be received on or before 30th July, 2019 and a pre-bid conference held on 9th July 2019 with all bidders given a tour of the current Data Centre.

This tender for installation of a new ICT infrastructure by SASRA follows funding received by National Treasury in October last year from the World Bank as part of its Financial Sector Support Programme (FSSP)

The understaffed Authority acknowledges that while it has been operating a manual Risk-Based Supervision model, the workload posed by this system has been overwhelming.

Implementations of risk based supervision activities have been based on manual process relying mostly on spreadsheets save for the receipt of monthly returns which is done through an in-house developed web based application.

SASRA receives monthly returns from the Sacco society upon their log ins. Analysis of these returns are done on a spread sheet. Activities such as licensing, corporate approvals, offsite analysis, task scheduling are done on spreadsheets, based on a designed template.

SASRA CEO, John Mwaka.

"With the receipt of several volumes of information to process, a number of deadlines to follow up, we face a challenge in meeting our maximum operational efficiency in our core mandate due to these manual operations.

Currently, SASRA's supervisory department has 30 staff members, all conducting the major tasks of licensing, corporate approvals, offsite and onsite analysis from 175 licensed Deposit Taking Sacco. This translates to a work load of 8-9 Saccos per person. Besides, there is a dedicated unit for data analysis and interpretation.

"Considering the workload based on the number of staff and the licensed deposit taking Saccos, it is imperative that a system is required to improve on the efficiency of delivery. In addition the workload is expected to increase with the planned regulation by SASRA of an estimated 200 non deposit-taking Saccos," says the Authority in its tender documents.

At the moment, SASRA continues to implement a risk-based supervisory approach based on a policy of "continuous supervision", through on-site examinations, off-site reviews, prudential meetings, co-operation with external auditors and sharing information with relevant stakeholders including other financial regulators and the Commissioner for Cooperative Development.

The Authority data indicates that at the end of 2018, there were 176 licensed DT Sacco, with total assets worth Sh 493,817 million and Sh 342,296 million in deposits.

Large Saccos dominate the Deposit-taking Sacco business and accounted for 65 per cent of the total assets for the 175 DTSs in 2018.

A notable development amongst the DTSs especially the large ones is the opening of common bonds and aggressive investments in branches, technology delivery channels, new products including business loans.

SASRA mentions that most of these financial co-operatives have also diversified into such areas as mobile banking, asset management, insurance and mortgage through partnership or subsidiaries.

> Considering the workload based on the number of staff and the licensed deposit taking Saccos, it is imperative that a system is required to improve on the efficiency of delivery. In addition the workload is expected to increase with the planned regulation by SASRA of an estimated 200 non deposit-taking Saccos.

These advancements have challenged the traditional management structures and business models of these societies. Members are also demanding more in terms of returns and service delivery, further piling pressure on these DT Saccos.

SASRA's plan in acquiring the new monitoring software is to improve on the efficiency of the supervision department by automating all the processes through implementation of a Risk Based Supervision System (RBSS) and EDMS.

The supplier is also expected to upgrade hardware in the current data centre and integrate to an ERP.

This new IT platform is aimed at assisting the regulatory agency to put closer surveillance on Saccos as well as rate them, based on their risk profile and compliance with the Act, regulations and other supervisory directives.

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