Notice for the Regulatory Impact Assessment

PRINTED BY : THE STAR

Kenya Ports Authority reports record growth in cargo thoroughput

KPA General Manager for Corporate Services Edward Kamau (left) presents a tour golf bag to Nyanza Golf Club's David Odhiambo who won the KPA sponsored western circuit golf tournament in Kisumu.

BY CHRIS MAHANDARA(KNA)

The Port of Mombasa has defied a global economic crunch to post improved performance over the last twelve months by growing cargo thoroughput at the port by an impressive 6.2 per cent, reaching 35.98 metric tonnes.

The growth is attributed to a substantial increase in containerized cargo, which registered a remarkable 14.8 per cent rise, accounting for over half of the cargo handled at the Port.

Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) Managing Director, Captain William Ruto, said the port also registered double-digit growth of 11.9 per cent in container traffic, reaching a total of 1.62 million twenty-foot units.

This, he said, reflects the port's efficiency and economic resilience in the region, driving demand for imports and exports.

Ruto attributed the growth to improved vessel turnaround times, container vessel productivity, and truck turnaround times, which have shown marked improvement.

KPA, he said, will continue to improve operational efficiency through capacity expansion and modernization efforts to meet the growing demand for trade.

This, he said, will ensure that the Port of Mombasa is well-positioned to maintain its status as a key player in the global trade landscape.

"As we move forward, we remain committed to enhancing trade facilitation and economic development in Kenya and the broader East Africa region," he said. In a speech read on his behalf by KPA General Manager for Corporate Services Edward Kamau during a golf tournament in Kisumu, Ruto said the transit market segment has also grown by 11.5 per cent.

Construction of the Homa Bay pier, he said, is ongoing with others slated to begin later in the year.

First Lady supports 7,000 learners with porridge flour for improved nutrition

BY MUTURI MWANGI(KNA)

More than 7,000 learners in Laikipia County have benefited from porridge flour to improve nutrition courtesy of the Office of the First Lady Rachel Ruto.

Laikipia County Deputy Governor Rubeen Kamuri, speaking in Nanyuki during the official flagging off of the food aid consignment, said that the 250 bales of flour would address malnutrition among the school learners in the county.

"We are glad to receive this food aid that is expected to benefit our learners across the county. We have received 250 bales of porridge flour and will benefit over 7,000 students," Kamuri said. He pointed out that the porridge would ensure pupils do not miss out on school due to hunger and, at the same time, lauded the initiative, noting it was timely.

The Office of the First Lady, Mercy Works Secretary Edward Ngaira, said that the government is committed to alleviating hunger in the county among the learners aimed at boosting education.

"The First Lady is committed to reaching out to the families and children with no food, and I call upon other partners to join us in making such children-geared initiatives successful in a bid to keep them in school," Ngaira said.

Additionally, he said Laikipia has arable land and fertile soil suitable for farming and urged stakeholders for collaboration to increase the food basket through agriculture as a lasting solution to hunger in the county.

DP assures Kenyan diaspora of country's economic recovery

BY JOSEPH WANGUI (DPCS)

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has assured Kenyans working and living abroad that the country is secure, and the economy has recovered.

Addressing over 400 members of the Diaspora Community in Kigali, Rwanda, the Deputy President urged Kenyans living abroad to invest in Kenya and purchase the government's affordable houses. He stated that there is political stability in the country. He was in Rwanda representing President William Ruto during the 30th Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi ethnic community.

"Kenya's security is high. Interior Cabinet Secretary Prof Kithure Kindiki has helped restore security in North Rift and Lamu. It will continue so that the government can create the right atmosphere to attract investment and tourism. Kenya is great again, we have political stability, everybody is busy, and we are back on the right trajectory in terms of economic development," Mr. Gachagua said.

"Invest back in home and especially in the housing program. The houses are affordable, and the mortgage is manageable and payable for the long term. You won't even feel it," he continued.

Urging the Diaspora Community to invest in the affordable housing project, the Deputy President described the initiative as a safe investment for the future and business.

The Government plans to build over 500,000 housing units by the year 2027, with the intention of transforming the lives of Kenyans. Housing projects are one of the pillars of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

Deputy President Gachagua added that the Government upholds democracy, adding "We have tolerance, we are democratic, and we run an open system where the government and the President are ready to be criticized in any manner. We don't want dictatorship, we want to be held to account," DP Gachagua stated.On Kenya's economic situation, the Deputy President said the economy is showing visible and greater signs of recovery.He said President Ruto has also contained the cost of living.

Mr Gachagua highlighted appreciation of the Kenyan shilling against the dollar, hiring of 56,000 teachers to bridge the teacher-student ratio and development programs of the government.

"We are on the right trajectory in the economy and policies put by the President are bearing fruits," DP Gachagua said. During the Diaspora Engagement Forum, the Deputy President also apprised the group on the implementation of various government's development agenda such as the affordable housing and enhancement of the diaspora affairs.

Principal Secretary State Department for Diaspora Affairs Roseline Njogu, the Kenya High Commissioner to Rwanda Amb. Janet Mwawasi Oben, Members of Parliament and two Kenya university student leaders were also present at the event.

Pastoral communities in Laikipia reap windfall from carbon credits

BY MUTURI MWANGI (KNA)

Pastoral communities in Laikipia have benefited from more than Sh370 million in carbon credits, thanks to their rangeland conservation efforts.

The funds, expected to benefit about 14 community conservancies across Isiolo, Samburu, Marsabit, and Laikipia counties, will be utilized for infrastructural development, bursaries, and improving access to water through borehole sinking in these four counties. This move aims to bolster economic sustainability through environmental conservation.

During the launch of the Third Round of the Community Carbon Fund by the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) at a Nanyuki hotel, Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu praised the communities in the four counties, highlighting the benefits of their continued conservation efforts in the region.

"We appreciate receiving money through carbon credits, and residents should understand that by conserving our environment, we will continue to reap benefits," Irungu said.

He noted that out of the total Sh379 million, the county had received over Sh12 million from NRT, which will be used to initiate water projects in Laikipia North Sub-County.NRT, Rangelands and Carbon Program Director Mohamed Shibia said that Kenya produced the least carbon pollution globally adding that communities are committed to rangeland conservation through rotational grazing.

"This is a pastoral-geared project to improve their grazing fields and carbon sequestration as a modern way of rangeland conservation. Carbon in the air is what contributes to climate change and that is what we are committed to addressing," Shibia said.

He revealed that, Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project, which is the world's largest soil carbon removal project, is estimated to remove more than 50 billion tons of carbon dioxide in 30 years and generate funds for rangeland communities.

He revealed that the carbon credit fund had helped them improve their lives through community-led projects.