

Upcoming Sh2 billion business centre set to change the face of Meru town

The curtain has finally come down for the historic, colonial and ageless Pig & Whistle Motel in Meru town to pave way for a land mark integrated development mega project that will comprise an ultra-modern shopping mall, office blocks, apartments and a sports club.

Fusion Capital, an international private equity firm and local investors are investing a whopping Sh2 billion on the mega business centre christened, **Meru Greenwood Park** set to be located on the seven acre piece of land opposite Tusky's Supermarket where Pig & Whistle stood for decades. The construction of the facility that is expected to take about two years- by 2017 has indeed begun in earnest, with the fencing of the land.

countries to spur development and leisure activities in Meru. We anticipate creating employment and marketing outlets through providing professionals and SMEs an opportunity to enjoy top of the range facilities," said Mr Kinoti. Meru County governor Peter Munya has been in the forefront in calling upon private, corporate and other investors to put up offices in Meru town to address the problem of inadequate office space for government and business operations.

"Fusion is targeting the Meru County government with some of the office space and a few international brands. We expect to let out 90 percent of all available office space and sold out all apartments by end of 2015," Mr. Kinoti who spoke to **The County Focus** in his Nairobi office recently said. Governor Munya and Meru Senator Kiraitu Murungi have meanwhile welcomed the massive investment terming the project a landmark development and the biggest single private investment in Meru and the wider Mt Kenya region, tagged "*The Ultimate Destination*".

"We are taking advantage of the opportunities opening up in the



Mr. Daniel Kanau reviewing the architectural impressions of the Sh2 billion Meru Greenwood Park that comprises of the shopping mall, apartments and office block to be built in Meru town

provides support to the development plan of my government," Mr Munya said. Senator Kiraitu echoed the governor's sentiments saying the project, upon completion will create tens of hundreds of job opportunities, besides giving Meru town a new face given that the upcoming Meru Greenwood Park will be just at the town's entrance from Nairobi.

The Fusion Capital CEO notes that Meru town, considered the

commercial hub of eastern central Kenya, houses all major banks hence providing an ideal environment for investment. He urged corporate firms like banks, universities as well business people and professionals like lawyers, doctors and individuals to book for office space and business premises early. One is required to pay a deposit of 10 per cent of the cost to book a business, premise or office of their choice. This also applies to the 50 well furnished apartments which will be two and three bedrooms. Fusion Capital also hopes to tap into the 1.5 million populations and urban population of over 30,000 people while capitalizing on the planned Lamu Port and South Sudan Ethiopia Transport (LAPSET) Corridor.

Meru is among seven other counties- Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru, Kajajado, Kiambu, Kisumu and Muranga that have been prioritized by the firm for investments. Other similar projects undertaken by Fusion Capital in the region include a Sh1.4 billion 4th Ngong Avenue and Sh1.2 billion Flamingo Towers office blocks Upper hill in Nairobi, Sh1.1 billion Marian Creekside luxury apartments in Mombasa, Sh250 million.

Grande Park Estate in Nakuru, Sh270 million Goldmark Apartments in Kampala, Uganda and Sh3.4Billion

Kigali Heights in Rwanda. a office and retail development selected as an example of best designs by the city of Kigali, 2013.

Pig & Whistle

The Pig & Whistle was the first establishment in what is now known as Meru town after the legendary first Meru District Commissioner in the colonial regime, Sir Edward Butler Home (Kangangi) settled there in the 1920s. The DC had moved from Mwirari's homestead, located past Thimangiri along Meru-Mikinduri road, to the proposed location of Meru Greenwood Park as it was considered more secure due to its elevated geography.

In the 1930s Mr Home moved to what is now Meru Museum leading to the conversion of Pig and Whistle into a hotel. The facility is said to have had its fair share of fame when George and Joy Adamson of the famous "Born Free" movie boarded there, while Joy was married to her first husband, leading to her divorce. However, in a bid to preserve the name and ensure that the historical Pig & Whistle lives forever, one of the hotel facilities within Greenwood Park will go by the same name: Pig & Whistle.

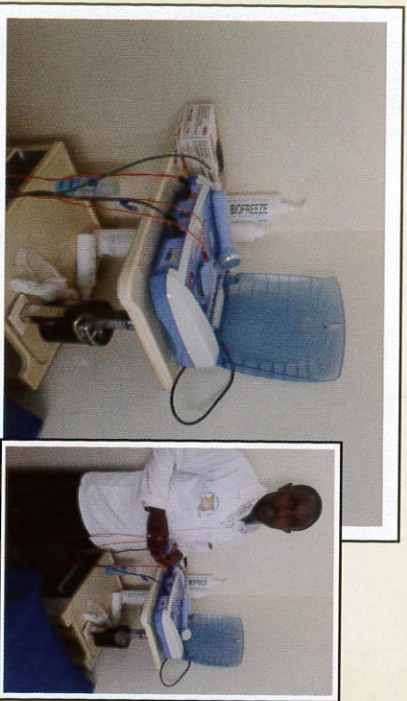


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