

Bomet Newswire

The Weekly Newspaper: Trending- Politics and Lifestyle

COUNTY

Solar-powered water project ends decades of thirst for Bomet resi-dents



The project is a climate-smart approach to water resource management, utilizing solar energy to ensure water access and enhance community well-being.

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Chebiriir Resi-dents Demand Action on Over-flowing Sewage



Community members are demanding that the county government address their concerns immediately, stating that their repeated complaints have been ignored.

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Game Changer or Passing Clout

Described in Bomet County as either a political **game changer**, a **gambler**, or just a **passing clout**, depending on who you ask. Known as the new "**Mr. Moneybags**" in town, Dr. Michael Bonge was virtually unknown just two years ago. Even his own villagers couldn't accurately describe his childhood, schooling, social life, or professional journey.

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SHOFCO Partners with Bomet County to Empower Youth Through Vocational Training



The County governemnt of Bomet unveils 20 needy stduents who will benefit from funding to undergo training at Kaplong Vocational Training Center. Photo/Courtesy

By Kimagata Marindany

Kaplong, Bomet County — Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO) has patnered with the county Government of Bomet to support 20 students undergo vocational training. The trainees who were unveiled during a workshop at Kaplong Vocational Training Centre in Sotik will have their studies funded by the Community based organization. They join other trainees who are being funded through county scholarship program a move Education and Vocational Training Chief Officer Dr John Keter has described as a boost to effort to equip local youth with life skills. Dr Keter who was the chief guest during the event lauded SHAFCO saying teir intervention was timely.

“We cannot thank SHOFCO more for their intervention and we would like other Organisations to emulate the gesture so that many needy students wo are still languishing can get support to pursue studies,” said Dr Keter. Vocational Training continues to play a vital role in equipping young people with practical skills essential for sustainable livelihoods. In line with this vision, the County Government of Bomet, through its 33 Vocational Training Centres (VTCs), remains steadfast in supporting youth empowerment and economic development. The new trainees were officially welcomed during an orientation ceremony held at Kaplong VTC,

presided over by the Chief Officer for Education and Vocational Training, Dr. John Keter. Dr. Keter expressed his appreciation to SHOFCO for their timely intervention and commitment to youth development. He applauded the organization's Regional Coordinator for Sustainable Livelihoods, Mr. Marvellous Ochieng, and his team for their dedication to empowering communities through education and skills training. “This sponsorship is not just an investment in individual lives; it is a catalyst for societal transformation,” said Dr. Keter. “By supporting these young trainees, SHOFCO is helping to build a brighter and more resilient future for

our county.” Over the years, the Bomet County Government has provided both full and partial scholarships to trainees from underprivi- leged backgrounds through the Department of Education and Vocational Training. The new partnership with SHOFCO is expected to further expand access to training opportunities and enhance the impact of the county's vocational programs. The event marked a significant milestone in the ongoing collaboration between government and non-profit organizations in the pursuit of inclusive, skills-based development.

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Bomet Health Officials Bust Flamingo Meat in Crackdown on Eateries

By Radio the Sherriff

A major operation is underway in Bomet after county officials discovered that several eateries were secretly selling flamingo meat to customers. The County Health Chief Officer, Felix Langat, announced the crackdown, stating it is aimed at protecting both public health and endangered wildlife. Langat described the discovery as alarming, warning that consuming unregulated game meat



could expose residents to dangerous diseases. He confirmed that health inspectors have been deployed across Bomet town and nearby areas to inspect food outlets. “Protecting public health is our priority,” he said. “This crackdown will continue until every illegal supplier is brought to book.” Several eateries have already been raided, and meat suspected to be from flamingos has been confiscated.

Langat warned that those found guilty of selling the illegal meat will face prosecution under public health regulations. The revelation has shocked and concerned locals, who were unaware that the birdswere being hunted for food. A restaurant owner was arrested with nearly 20 kilograms of suspected flamingo meat and is currently being held by police, with a search for other suspects underway.

Dr. Michael Bongei: Game Changer or Passing Cloud?

By Kiprono Arap Kalya

A real game-changer, a political gambler, or just a passing cloud—that's the description of Dr. Michael Bongei (pictured), depending on who you ask in Bomet County." But they all agree that the short-statured man from Nukiat village in Tarakwa, Bomet Central, has given the veteran politicians—led by Bomet Governor Isaac Ruto—a run for their money. Known as the new 'Mr. Moneybags' in town, Dr. Bongei was 'virtually unknown' two years ago, even to his own villagers. No one could aptly describe his childhood, schooling, social life, or professional growth. This is a strange phenomenon in a society where people grow famous as they climb the social and economic ladder. His name, 'Bongei,' further complicated the matter, as it is not a common name in the Kalenjin nomenclature. But that was one year ago. They say money changes people, and that is exactly what has turned around the fortunes for Dr. Bongei. Now, political brokers and actors from all corners of Bomet County can describe the man to you like the back of their hands. But who is Dr. Bongei? Just like his name, there is little online or offline trace of him except his LinkedIn profile, in which he describes himself as a procurement professional and a holder of a PhD in procurement, among other credentials. During an interview with a local radio station, he described himself as a civil servant, a visionary leader, and a family man. Other than that, his other 'testimonials' have been littered all over social media, thanks to his spirited online brigade. As the dust settled following the 'Gen Z' protests mid-last year, a new online awakening emerged in Bomet and

Kericho, with spirited youths from the region—mostly based in Nairobi and other areas—focusing on the leaders back at home. It was around this time that Bongei, with his 'new money,' emerged from the woodwork." Loaded, politically 'clean,' and generous to the core, his name and the description of his deep pockets spread like a bushfire. Some nondescript political brokers, who had been thrown off guard following a political agreement between President William Ruto and his erstwhile regional rival, Isaac Ruto, got a new lease of life through Bongei. The same applied to political activists who claimed to have been 'heartbroken' by current Bomet Governor Hillary Barchok's failure to consider them, despite supposedly campaigning for his re-election during the 2022 elections. It is because of these jilted political brokers—or perhaps his money—that Dr. Bongei has become the most trending politician in Bomet this year. So much so that the once overconfident and brazen camp of former Governor Ruto felt the impact. Using a wide network of political brokers, Dr. Bongei contributed to any fundraising that the brokers felt was worth his publicity and ensured that

his name was announced by the master of ceremonies. Delegation after delegation streamed to his home in Tarakwa, dining and wining there and being tipped agenerous allowance in exchange. It is said that from late last year to mid this year, he could spend a minimum of KES 2 million in a weekend. It is said that the figure has apparently dropped, based on his recent contributions at churches and the frequency of his visits. We could not independently confirm this, as his handlers dismissed it as 'propaganda' while others claimed it is a 'strategy.' His rivals claim that the man's fortunes are 'dwindling,' as they had predicted him to be a passing cloud. But this remains to be seen. But who are Dr. Bongei's competitors? Once a firebrand politician, former Bomet Governor Isaac Ruto's Jubilee-era feud with President William Ruto almost drove him to political oblivion, leading him to lose the 2017 and 2022 elections to the late Dr. Joyce Laboso and Prof. Hillary Barchok, respectively. Now out of power for two consecutive terms, the former Governor and Chair of the Council of Governors seemed to have learned his lessons, and in early 2023, he folded his party and joined the ruling Kenya Kwanza Alliance. His vast political network and outspokenness make him a candidate to watch, as does his political experience. But he is not the only one eyeing the seat; the current Konoin MP, Brighton Yegon, has also declared his interest in the Bomet's top seat. Youthful and vibrant, the two-time MP is using his development record in the utilization of NG-CDF to endear himself to the other sub-counties. The MP has also been an active member of the Kenya Kwanza Parliamentary Group and a spirited defender of the KK Alliance.

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Chebirir Residents Demand Action on Overflowing Sewage



Zakayo Maritim, Chebirir village elder addressing the press over the raw sewage that overflows into residential areas and to Nyongores river. PHOTO/Emmanuel Rono

By Kimagata Marindany

Residents of Chebirir village in Nyongores ward, alongside students from Bomet University College, are threatening a major demonstration in response to a persistent sewage problem they say poses a serious public health risk. For over a month, a blocked sewage line has been overflowing near the university, with the raw waste polluting their primary water source, the Nyongores River. Zakayo Maritim, a village elder, stated that the overflowing sewage is flowing directly into residential areas before contaminating the river, which the community relies on for domestic use.

them of failing to perform their duties and allowing sewage to litter various streets of Bomet town. Community members are demanding that the county government address their concerns immediately, stating that their repeated complaints have been ignored. Student representative Emmanuel claimed that the governor had previously promised to construct a proper drainage system around the university but has yet to deliver on that promise. Both residents and students have threatened to take to the streets in four days if the county government does not act. They argue that it is a



We have nothing else to wait for from here other than diseases," Maritim said, expressing fears of a waterborne disease outbreak. Residents closest to the blockage have been hit the hardest. Maureen Sang, a local resident, described the unbearable stench, saying it affects their daily lives. Caren Koech, another resident, criticized the County Department of Public Health and the Environment, accusing

costly and life-threatening burden to rely on polluted water when the government has the capacity to resolve the issue. The community is urging the governor to meet their demands promptly, or they will stage demonstrations at the governor's office next week, vowing to team up with students from the university and neighboring schools.

New Bridge Links Kapuswa and Kisaruni Villages, Bringing Relief to Locals



Sh7 million Kapuswa-Kisaruni bridge which connect Narok and Bomet County. The bridge was officially launched today in a colourful ceremony attended by the two Governors. Photo/Kimagata Marindany

By Kimagata Marindany

Residents of Kapuswa and Kisaruni villages in Bomet and Narok counties have a reason to celebrate following the official launch of a new bridge connecting the two communities. The bridge, valued at Sh7 million, was commissioned today, marking a significant milestone for the residents who previously relied on a rickety wooden plank to cross the Amalo River. Bomet Governor Prof. Hillary Barchok and his Narok counterpart, Patrick Ole Ntutu, presided over the ceremony, underscoring the bridge's potential to transform the fortunes of locals from both counties.

the river's frequent swells. For years, the community members risked their lives crossing the dangerous waters, with some tragically drowning in flash floods. "The intervention by Narok County Government, with support from Bomet County, is long overdue. We can finally cross the river safely and with confidence," said Bosek. The bridge is not just about safety—it's also a gateway to improved economic activity. Residents of both villages often cross the river to seek casual work, but the previous lack of a safe crossing restricted their mobility. Now, the improved infrastruc

changer for us," said Philip Korir, a Member of the County Assembly from Kipreres Ward. "We can now freely engage in economic activities without the constant fear of flash floods." Bomet Governor Barchok praised the partnership between the two counties, noting that the bridge symbolizes a spirit of unity. "This bridge is more than just a physical structure; it is a symbol of the strong relationship between Bomet and Narok counties," he said. Governor Ntutu, who expressed satisfaction with the bridge's construction, emphasized the importance of cooperation between counties. "We could not have achieved this without Bomet's support. This project is a testament to what we can accomplish together," he stated.

The launch event was also attended by members of the County Assembly from Narok West and Bomet East, as well as community leaders. Governor Ntutu used the occasion to address political tensions, cautioning against the politicization of development projects. In an indirect reference to Mara Ward MCA Kipngeno Chepkwony, who was evicted from the event after a confrontation, he urged leaders to prioritize the welfare of the people over personal or political gain.



Residents of the two villages having a feel of the newly opened bridge after the commissioning. Photo/ Kimagata Marindany

Wilson Bosek, a local resident, expressed relief, stating that the new bridge will save lives, especially during

ture will allow for easier travel and access to essential services, including healthcare. "The bridge is a game-

Solar-powered Water Project Ends Decades of Thirst for Bomet Residents



Joseph Korir, Chairman of the Oinab Tibik Spring Water Project, points at the ongoing project. Photo/Emmanuel Rono

By Emmanuel Rono

For years, residents of Kecheyat and Kinawet villages in Silibwet Township Ward, Bomet Central, were forced to walk up to three kilometers or pay hundreds of Kenya shillings daily to get water for domestic use. However, the long struggle has ended with the launch of a new solar-powered water project under the World Bank-funded Programme FLLoCA (Financing Locally-Led Climate Action), in partnership with the county government of Bomet. The project is a climate-smart approach to water resource management, utilizing solar energy to ensure water access and enhance community well-being. The Oinab Tibik Spring Water project, which was launched in mid-May 2025, is already supplying water to over 400 households in the region. Residents who once used donkeys and spent over Ksh. 400 a day to buy water for their homes, cows, and gardens, they now have readily available water from taps installed in their homes. Alice Bor of Kecheyat village is one of the beneficiaries. According to her, the initiative has guaranteed them access to clean water and made their lives easier. She used to spend up to Ksh. 400 daily on water vendors, who would make more than three trips with donkeys to a stream far from her home to meet her household's needs. "This initiative came at a perfect time,"

she said. "For years, I was spending a lot on water for general household chores. The money I used ranged from Ksh. 400 to Ksh. 500, but now this project has given us access to water in our homes. We can open the taps, and they've never run dry." Mrs. Bor is one of 400 households benefiting from the project, which is strategically located to supply water through gravity—a feature locals call a sustainable solution to their long-term suffering. Lucy Kosgei, a vegetable farmer, could not hide her joy as she watered her kales using the new tap water. "My daughters and I used to travel for kilometers in search of water to water this farm," she said. Mrs. Kosgei praised the program and the county government, explaining that due to their low living standards, they couldn't afford to buy water and were forced to carry 20-liter jerry cans on their backs for long distances. "I never used to buy water; my children and I would walk to the far end of the village to fetch it," she said. "But this project, bringing tap water to my compound, has made us say goodbye to years of suffering. Now, we can water our farm with ease." Joseph Korir, Chairman of the Oinab Tibik Stream Water committee, says the initiative is a relief for residents who were always forced to walk long distances in search of water. According to him, they are aiming to supply water to 400 households and

are committed to serving the community indefinitely. "We aim to supply 400 households with this project," Korir said. "We thank the government and this program and hope to carry on this project without stopping." Korir added that the project has also made it easier for young people in the area to set up and manage fish ponds, creating employment opportunities. "By using this simple solar system to supply water, our youth can now construct fish ponds

and become active fish farmers, ensuring they get self-employment," he added. Bomet Governor Prof. Hillary Barchok previously stated that the project not only helps alleviate water shortages but also aids in environmental protection. He said the county expects locals to contribute to climate mitigation through agricultural activities that advance environmental protectionny youths into acts of indecency.



Lucy Kosgei, a vegetable farmer, waters her crops using tap water. Photo/Emmanuel Rono