

THE



POINT

TOP Issue 007/2021



**PARTICIPATION
WORLD DAYS**
Inspired by
Youth Skills Day 2021

**OPTIVEN PROJECT
UPGRADE**
**Happy Gardens in
Kitengela gets
Infrastructure Upgrade**

**FOUNDATION
TRANSFORMS**
**Solar Powered Borehole
Commissioned at
Flomina Home**

WORD FROM THE CEO | Let all Mentor our Youth for Posterity



The place of youth in the future of any nation is the true priority area for us all if we are to meet both our social and economic goals. Over the last two decades I have had the rare privilege of interacting on a daily basis with many youth across the board. As a matter of fact, a large percentage of our work force both within the real estate company and across our strategic business units, we have a large number of youth. Based on the different platforms that I am engaged in, I have also had occasion to address different forums that are youth focused including at churches, universities, schools and other tertiary institutions. The other platform that has enabled me to learn how best to impact the youth is the Graduate Mentorship Programme under the Optiven Real Estate. Through the programme we have impacted at least 100 university graduates since the launch in 2019. Graduates from different universities have been able to gain meaningful exposure towards gaining employment opportunities and soft skills. Thinking of the milestones we have been able to achieve, I am grateful that Optiven has had a positive impact on the youth of this country and for the future generations. It is to this youth that I raise my glass in appreciation of their zeal to make our country better.

From my experience from way back in my university days, I can say confidently that mentorship of young leaders is the best strategy towards a successful future. My contribution during the Emerge Young Leaders Summit on 15th July 2021 was a privilege as I mentored young leaders from various universities across Kenya. One of my take outs at the summit was the clear evidence that the young leaders are extremely intelligent, sharp and possess extraordinary skills. The Mentorship was an eye-opener to the current leaders that we need to keep mentoring these brilliant minds as they position themselves to take over various leadership levels across the numerous sectors. I want to thank all these young leaders for attending, courtesy of the Inuka Program, and the Nairobi Chapel of Ruiru Branch. The session further galvanized my resolve to keep mentoring the young youths, through programs such as the George Wachiuri School of Mentorship. <https://www.georgewachiuri.com/george-wachiuri-school-of-mentorship/>

I have also found that reaching out to youth in informal settlements and especially those in children's homes has a great impact on the society. This July, we joined hands with philanthropists allied to the Optiven Foundation and together we were able to donate food, clothes, mattresses and beddings to the Flomina Children's home. While the home has been a beneficiary of sustenance under the Poverty Eradication Pillar, the home has been in dire need of water for the hygiene and farming. As part of our initiatives under the Environment Pillar, the Go Green Initiative will now donate a solar powered pump to the home located in Kayole to meet this need. I am happy that the community at Flomina Children's Home under Reverend Dr. Florence Mutinda is keen on self sustenance through engaging in income generating agricultural practices such as livestock keeping and vegetable farming. Through the Optiven Foundation Education Pillar, we have been able to provide a number of scholarships to some of the students at the school and welcome any other support to ensure that the youth in this home do not miss opportunities to better their education. Join us as we continue to transform the society and this we are doing in every way because at Optiven Group, we are inspiring possibilities.



ABOVE: Youth listen as Mr. George Wachiuri speaks on 15th July 2021 at Ruiru.

FOUNDATION CELEBRATES YOUTH SKILLS DAY| Chairman Addresses Summit

Chairman of the Optiven Foundation, Mr. George Wachiuri was among the key speakers at the Emerge Young Leaders Summit 2021. The day coincided with the global observation of the World Youth Skills Day 2021 under the theme, “*The future of youth skills*”. The day which is celebrated every 15th day of July, celebrates the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship. Since 2014, World Youth Skills Day events have provided a unique opportunity for dialogue between young people, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, firms, employers’ and workers’ organizations, policymakers and development partners. The Optiven Point had an opportunity to speak to Wachiuri on the role of the Optiven Foundation in empowering the youth.

According to Wachiuri, “*the Optiven Foundation has been in the frontline of making a difference in the lives of youth across the country. We not only support them financially in terms of providing education opportunities under the Soaring Eagles Scholarship Program, but we also mentor them to become responsible citizens of the future.*” Wachiuri added that the achievement of the mentorship programme has been a great catalyst to the action points of the George Wachiuri School of Mentorship. He says, “*we cannot demand of fresh university graduates to have experience in the workplace if we are not prepared to give them an opportunity to gain that experience. For example we shall be graduating the second cohort of the George Wachiuri School of Mentorship this July and we are happy that the graduands have become ready to make a difference in the society.*”

Speaking on the challenge of reaching out to youth, he advised that, “*from my experience from way back in my university days, I can say confidently that mentorship of young leaders is the best strategy towards a successful future. My contribution during the Emerge Young Leaders Summit on 15th July 2021 was a privilege as I mentored young leaders from various universities across Kenya. One of my take outs at the summit was the clear evidence that the young leaders are extremely intelligent, sharp and possess extraordinary skills*”.

The Mentorship was an eye-opener to the current leaders that we need to keep mentoring these brilliant minds as they position themselves to take over various leadership levels across the numerous sectors. I want to thank all these young leaders for attending, courtesy of the Inuka Program, and the Nairobi Chapel of Ruiru Branch. The session further galvanized my resolve to keep mentoring the young youths, through programs such as the George Wachiuri School of Mentorship. <https://www.georgewachiuri.com/george-wachiuri-school-of-mentorship/>. The Optiven Foundation will continue to empower youth through such and other Initiatives, as well as partner in global Initiatives such as the World Youth Skills Day 2021, held on 15/7/2021 under the theme 'Reimagining youth skills, post pandemic'. World Youth Skills Day 2021 takes place in a challenging context, with the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in the widespread disruption of the TVET sector. While vaccination rollouts offer some hope, TVET still has a long road to recovery, especially in those countries which continue to be overwhelmed by the spread of the disease. Youth skills development will face a range of unfamiliar problems emerging from a crisis where training has been disrupted in an unprecedented manner on a virtually universal scale. School and workplace closures are leading to learning and training losses.




ABOVE: Chairman of the Optiven Foundation Mr. George Wachiuri, addresses youth during the World Youth Skills Day at Ruiru on 15th July 2021.

REAL ESTATE NEWS AND INFORMATION | Information that advises your decisions

KONZA DROPS PROPERTY PRICES | INVESTORS PLANNING TO BUILD BY DECEMBER TO REAP BIG DISCOUNTS

The Konza Technopolis Development Authority (KoTDA) has discounted part of its land fees in bid to woo investors to the project. ICT Principal Secretary, Jerome Ochieng confirmed the report saying the agency discounted its standard premium charge for investors paying the premium by 31/12/2021 and ready to start construction before December 2022. According to Ochieng, the move is part of the government's commitment, to reinforce actions. The ministry's budget allocation for the year 2021/2022, has set aside over 70% of the budget for the development of KoTDA. Investors who have since made payments for their parcels of land have been given access to spaces. They include the Kenya Electricity Transmission Company Limited (KETRACO), the National Construction Authority (NCA), Sosian Energy, Makueni Housing Cooperative and the Parklands Baptist Church. George Wachiuri, CEO at Optiven Group welcomed the move noting that it is a step in the right direction. "Our projects in Konza have received amazing responses from investors with many now working on approval of their drawings in readiness for the groundbreaking of their dream homes. Through affordable pricing, we as Optiven have already sold out our project Prosperity Gardens and are now in the final stages of selling off our Abundance Gardens and Visions Gardens."

Vision Gardens, Konza



- Located **only 5.2KM** off the busy Mombasa Highway in the fast developing neighborhood of Machakos – Kola – Muuma Andu Hills
- It is appropriate for rentals near the Konza Technopolis.
- The property is sold as bare plots save for fencing.
- 1/8 acre Plots Cash Price of **Ksh 495,000**

KENYA TO BENEFIT IN PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT | MICROSOFT KENYA OFFICE SET TO ADAPT PV TECHNOLOGY

The largest PV integration project in Africa is set to be carried out in Nigeria following an agreement signed between Onyx Solar, of Spain. According to the agreement, Onyx Solar will install approximately 3,250 crystalline silicon photovoltaic glass spandrels at the Nigerian Bank's new headquarters building that is currently under construction in Lagos. The project will be carried out in partnership with PriVida Power Limited, a Nigerian-based world-class company dedicated to providing affordable renewable energy solutions, to improve the quality of life and sustain the environment. The installation will supply up to 1MWp of installed power, which will substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions and its ecological footprint. Onyx Solar pointed out that its PV glass has already been installed on many skyscrapers in Singapore, convention centers in Canada, and tourist attractions in Dubai in addition to railway stations in the US, hospitals in Norway, banks in Kenya, embassies in Indonesia, shopping malls in Mexico and universities/colleges in Australia. The Spanish company continues its international expansion in Africa with new photovoltaic integration projects for example the upcoming project at Microsoft's headquarters in the Kenyan capital Nairobi. Owing to this innovative technology, the tech giant takes a step forward to be aligned with the 10 sustainable development goals established by the United Nations.



ABOVE: Kenya's largest solar project located in Garissa, North Eastern Kenya.

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GOGREEN BY OPTIVEN SPONSORS RHINO CHARGE |

Conservation efforts to save the Rhino



Optiven Foundation was in Baringo, Rift Valley, Kenya as part of sponsors to the 2021 RhinoCharge Safari. Go Green na Optiven was among the sponsors of the 2021 event which is the 32nd edition of the #Rhinocharge that kicked off on 17th July 2021 in Baringo, Rift Valley.

Organizers of the event together with participants, the local community and other stakeholders all aims to raise funds for conservation mainly to reduce human wildlife conflict.

Optiven Foundation's chairman George Wachiuri says, "*as part of our contribution towards making our planet better, we have sponsored Stanley Kinyanjui in car number 62. We are happy that the organizer chose Baringo where our foundation has supported the community with wheelchairs and food*".

The engagement at this event under the GoGreen Initiative is part of efforts to make a difference by supporting environmental sustainability for a better planet. The initiative under the Environment Pillar of the Optiven Group Foundation has been working with different sectors and stakeholders to make this a reality step by step.

ABOUT THE RHINO CHARGE

The Rhino Charge is organised by a committee of professional volunteers from various disciplines. Each member of this dedicated team offers his or her time, expertise and resources to ensure that the event is run successfully and to the highest standards. The event is held in a different location each year in some of the most remote and wild areas of Kenya. The preparation requires the search for a suitable venue followed by the negotiations with the resident local community and the actual event organisation. Each competition venue is designed with full participation of local community representatives and is sensitive to local considerations. This process takes many months in which the Rhino Charge Committee volunteers their time and commitment to go on Rhino Charge recesses in their free time to organise the next event.

The event, supported by event sponsors, guard post sponsors and raffle sponsors takes place at the end of May/beginning of June each year around the Kenyan public holiday Madaraka Day and is open to all, subject to the Rules and Regulations stipulated by the organising Committee. The Committee keeps the event location secret until the day of the event. The secrecy of the location prevents people from being tempted to look at the site ahead of time.

The event is organised with the approval of the County Government, local District Commissioner, the Kenya Wildlife Service, the Governing Body of Motorsport in Kenya and the land owner(s) / host community.

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THROUGH THE OPTIVEN LENS| Inspiring Possibilities in July



ABOVE: The Optiven Real Estate Dance Team are joined by Geoffrey Odundo, the CEO at the Nairobi Securities Exchange and Mr. George Wachiuri, the CEO, Optiven Group on 9th July 2021, during a shoot for the new anthem.



ABOVE: Optiven Ambassador receives a gift from Assistant Customer Service Manager Lilian Waka at the Optiven Group Headquarters



LEFT: Optiven's Legal Affairs Manager, Ethel Kipoto (*left*) hands over her donation of wheat and maize flour to Anne Nyaga, Optiven Group Foundation Cordinator (*right*) at the head office, Absa Towers, on 7th July 2021.

RIGHT: Mr. Kenneth Nganga (*left*) a happy customer & proud investor at Victory Gardens by Optiven, receives his title deed from Documentation Team Member, Margaret Wairimu (*right*) and a customer surprise package of appreciation for his investment





ABOVE: Optiven Group CEO Mr. George Wachiuri (*second left and right*) when he empowered over 700 youth at the Emerge Young Leaders Summit held on 15th July 2021 at Trinity Chapel in Ruiru, and organized by Inuka.



LEFT: New mattresses, blankets and beddings in one of the dormitories at the Flomina Children's Home that were part of donations by the Optiven Foundation in Kayole in July.



LEFT: The staff from the Optiven Foundation join the community of children at the Flomina Children's Home during the donation of beddings and foodstuff. The event coincided with the commissioning of a solar powered borehole to be sponsored by Optiven Foundation.



ABOVE: Managing Director for Optiven Eastern, Mr. Peter Ndwiga speaks at the MkisiMkisi Event at the Nairobi Cinema. This followed a partnership signed between the theatre company and Optiven on 6th July 2021 at Absa Towers.



ABOVE: Team MkisiMkisi with Sales Advisors Joash Mose (left) and Ruth Muthoni (second right) at an empowerment session at Happy Gardens in Kitengela on 20th July 2021.

OPTIVEN FOUNDATION COMMISSIONS SOLAR BOREHOLE |

Flomina Children's Home Benefits from Donations of Beddings and Food

An aura of joy, mingled with excited celebration was the atmosphere at Flomina Children home in Eastlands. This was the reception of the commissioning of a borehole courtesy of Optiven Group Foundation. The project is expected to benefit the community at Flomina Children home where children aged from 1 to 19 are living without electricity and water.

The home has in the last 5 months been receiving psychosocial support thanks to the partners and donors at Optiven Group Foundation. Speaking ahead of the commissioning, Ann Nyaga of the Optiven Group Foundation noted that the support to the home will continue. She thanked the stewards led by Bishop Florence noting that what they do had greatly changed the home. Nyaga lauded the children and their helpers for working together for a better life at the home. Bishop on her part thanked the Optiven Group Foundation for the donation noting that it had come at a time it was most needed. Her remarks followed the delivery of a donation of over 30 mattresses, blankets, food and auxiliary articles to the home. Addressing the community in behalf of the Chairman of the Optiven Group Foundation, Cathrine Khasoa expressed optimism that the transformation at the home would be for posterity. She advised that the community at Flomina Children home had benefitted from the three pillars of the foundation covering education, poverty alleviation and Environment. Under the environment pillar, the Optiven Group Foundation will provide the home with a solar powered borehole this year. With this resource readily available, Khasoa added that the home will be able to manage the output at its farming and dairy units respectively. The borehole is expected to be complete by October 2021. Already, the Flomina Children home has received education scholarships from the Optiven Group Foundation under its Soaring Eagles Scholarship Program SESP.



LEFT: Team members of the Optiven Foundation pose with the donations of mattresses, beddings and foodstuffs at Flomina Children's Home in July 2021.

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