

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF UASIN GISHU
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, PHYSICAL PLANNING, HOUSING & URBAN
DEVELOPMENT

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When Replying, Please Address to:
Chief Officer – Housing & Urban
Development
Uasin Gishu County
P.O. Box 40 – 30100
Eldoret, Kenya.

DATE: 29th January 2024

Mr. Bernd Nussbickel
Vogelsbergstraße 29C
55129 Mainz
Germany
Mail: info@nussbickel.com

Dear Sir,

RE: TWINNING INITIATIVE: ELDORET AND GERMAN CITY

Eldoret, currently experiencing rapid growth, is Kenya's quickest expanding town, with a population of approximately 475,716 residents. It is encircled by Kericho County to the south, Nandi County to the southwest, Bungoma County to the west, Trans Nzoia County to the north, Elgeyo Marakwet County to the east, and Baringo County to the southeast.

As the administrative center of Uasin Gishu County, Eldoret ranks as the fifth-largest urban center in Kenya, with a diverse and international urban population, trailing only Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru, and Kisumu. The town is on the verge of achieving city status. Eldoret is also notable for being the residence of Kenya's second president, the late Daniel Arap Moi, and the current, fifth president, His Excellency William Samoil Ruto.

Eldoret's economy is multifaceted, featuring extensive agricultural operations with primary crops such as maize, wheat, various horticultural produce, and vegetables. The town boasts numerous industrial and food processing sectors, including the well-known Rivatex East Africa Limited for textile manufacturing, flour milling companies, Coca-Cola bottling, bakeries, international hospitality chains, and the artisanal 'jua kali' sector, as well as water treatment facilities and large retail centers like Rupa Mall. Additionally, the town is famed for its cheese production. The Sisoni River flows through the center of Eldoret, providing natural resources to the area.

The town is also celebrated for its sporting excellence, earning the title 'City of Champions' due to its history of producing top-tier marathon runners who excel in long-distance and track events globally, including legendary athletes such as Kipchoge Keino. Eldoret's altitude, terrain, and supportive community contribute to it being an ideal location for training both emerging and professional athletes. The town features prominent stadiums like Kipchoge Keino Stadium and 64 Stadium, as well as various athletic training facilities.

In terms of transportation, Eldoret is a crucial gateway for the western regions of Kenya and neighboring East and central African nations including Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo. Located conveniently between the capitals of Kenya and Uganda, Nairobi and Kampala, Eldoret has benefited from the World Bank's Urban Support Programme, which has contributed to the development of asphalt roads, pedestrian walkways, street lights, and modern infrastructure, making it a secure environment for investment.

The town has a railway station, two vital highways connecting to Uganda via Malaba and to South Sudan via the Eldoret-Kitale-Lodwar route, and is serviced by Eldoret International Airport, which manages over 400,000 passengers and 1.2 million tons of cargo annually, as well as a smaller airstrip.

Eldoret serves as the seat of the Catholic Diocese of Eldoret and is the location of Moi University, a premier institution for medical training in Kenya. It also houses the third national polytechnic, Eldoret National Polytechnic, the Catholic University of Eldoret, and numerous other educational and technical institutes. The city is a commercial nexus with the highest concentration of banks and financial services in the area and has more telecommunications companies than any other Kenyan city. Eldoret's dynamic nature and wealth of opportunities in business, health, and education attract a constant influx of new residents.

Eldoret enjoys a climate that is generally warm and moderate. Throughout the year, the town receives a considerable volume of rainfall. Due to its high elevation, Eldoret experiences agreeable warmth in the daytime and a cooler temperature once the sun sets, occasionally becoming quite brisk at night. The lush environment makes it an appealing destination for visitors. The optimal periods for engaging in activities suited to warmer weather in Eldoret span from the end of August to early October, and again from late November through to the end of March.

We are grateful for Mr. Bernd Nussbickel's suggestion to establish a sister city relationship between Eldoret town and a German city of his choosing. This collaboration aims to strengthen economic, social, and cultural ties, including mutual visits. During our discussion with Mr. Bernd on December 20, 2023, we focused on several potential areas for partnership:

Improvement of Road Infrastructure

Eldoret town is a fast-growing hub for business with a strategic position as a gateway to Uganda and other countries in East and Central Africa. The increase in population and commercial activity has led to traffic congestion. Eldoret Municipality is working on expanding and upgrading roads, adding streetlights, and constructing pedestrian

pathways. A partnership with a German city could enhance these efforts with additional support and the sharing of German expertise in technology, policy, and transportation management.

Healthcare and Research Enhancement

Eldoret is proud to host the Multi-Specialty International Teaching and Referral Hospital, which caters to a vast region. Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital serves as both a healthcare facility and a teaching institution for Moi University College of Health Sciences. The hospital offers a variety of specialized medical services and has developed strategic partnerships resulting in Centers of Excellence. A partnership with a German city could assist in expanding the hospital's capacity, facilitating research to shape healthcare policies, and offering exchange programs for medical professionals to gain experience from German healthcare institutions.

Trade, Investment, and Energy Initiatives

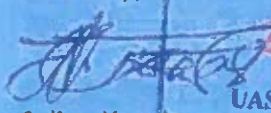
Eldoret is an attractive destination for both local and international investors due to the business-friendly policies of the Uasin Gishu county government. There is potential for growth in various sectors, including agro-processing and renewable energy. We acknowledge the existing collaboration between Germany and Moi University on renewable energy projects and hope to see similar initiatives in Eldoret. This partnership could create opportunities for German and local investors to delve into these markets.

Sports and Tourism Development

Eldoret, known as Africa's paradisaal town, is a beacon for tourists and athletes alike, thanks to its climate, landscapes, amenities, and natural beauty. The town is renowned for producing world-class athletes who have promoted the area through sports tourism. Mr. Bernd pointed out that Eldoret's prominence is not widely recognized in Germany. By twinning with a German city, we aim to enhance international awareness and provide opportunities for athletes and tourists to experience both cities.

We have entrusted Mr. Bernd Nussbickel to identify a suitable German city for this partnership and to facilitate necessary support. We are open to further discussions and eagerly await a productive alliance.

Sincerely,


**CHIEF OFFICER
HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT**
9 JAN 2024
UASIN GISHU COUNTY
P.O. BOX 2011
ELDORET

Julius Koech
Chief officer

Urban planning and Housing