

MERU

Work to upgrade Meru's oldest hotel begins

By PHARES MUTEMBEI

An ambitious plan to upgrade Meru's oldest hotel to international standards has officially kicked off.

Meru County Hotel will be given a multi-million shilling facelift to raise it to 3-star international standards with funding from the county government.

According to Meru County Investment and Development Corporation (MIDC) Managing Director Joel Imitira, the renovation works on the hotel, which was built in the mid-'80s, will take five months.

Once fully upgraded, the hotel will boast 41 guest rooms, a modern conference room for 100 people, a jacuzzi, sauna, gymnasium and an executive lounge.

Mr Imitira said the county chose to venture into the hospitality industry to tap into the high returns posted by the sector in the region.

The investment, he said, would create jobs for local residents and help generate income for the county government.

"The tourism and hospitality sectors offer many opportunities for us because the returns are good. That is why we want to turn this into a premier hotel," he said.

The MD was speaking at the signing of a contract with Jasir Contractors, who will be refurbishing the hotel.

The county government also plans to convert Leopard Rock hotel in Meru National Park into an eco-lodge.