

## Sh33m grant to enhance youth employment

The USIU-Africa Global Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship (GAME) Centre has been awarded a grant of Sh33.9 million by Cultivate Africa's Future (CultiAF), a joint programme of the International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC) and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). The 18-month grant is for undertaking a project entitled, "Expanding Business Opportunities for Youth in the Fish and Poultry sectors in Kenya". This unique research project has been designed to identify and field test innovative business models for taking agricultural innovations to scale, and support Kenya's youth to actively engage in profitable agribusinesses. Using USIU-Africa's metropolitan living-lab model, the project will guide current and aspiring youth entrepreneurs in developing profitable agribusiness enterprises in the fish and poultry sectors. Speaking at the launch of the research project, USIU-Africa's Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) Francis Wambalaba said that the living-lab will build on existing entrepreneurship content that has proved to be highly successful.

## processing

By MOSES MICHIRA

The Government has launched an ambitious 10-year plan to add nearly half a million jobs in the manufacturing sector by 2020.

Through a new initiative launched by Industrialisation Cabinet Secretary, Adan Mohamed, it has identified 10 pillars to increase manufacturing sector jobs to 435,000 additional jobs in the next 5 years, more than double the current numbers.

The blueprint will also see creation of an industrial development fund, industrial parks along infrastructure corridors and support agro-processing, textiles, mining among other sectors.

"As an emerging economy, moving from agriculture based, low income economy to an industrial, middle income economy is paramount if we are to increase manufacturing share of GDP," explained Mohamed.

He was unveiling a government blueprint that would guide revival of the industrial and manufacturing sector in Kenya. His ministry is establishing an industrial development fund that would provide financial support for businesses and small industries.

Among the pillars identified in-

unprocessed, according to the Industrialisation ministry.

The country's leather sector is estimated to be worth Sh10 billion but could be more than ten times bigger through manufacturing shoes locally.

Kenya would also slash the exports of unprocessed tea and coffee, in the development plan, significantly adding value to the products locally before they are sold in the international markets.

About Sh1.5 trillion in new investments are expected in manufacturing plants, which the State hopes to tap from global investors.

### FOREIGN INVESTORS

Mohamed said the State hopes to attract investors to develop three to five large integrated value chain 'Agropolis' projects with potential to create up to 60,000 jobs.

Several incentives had been lined up, including the newly enacted pieces of legislation on Special Economic Zones, that could grow the exports to the American market to Sh100 billion, under the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA), which was extended by 10 years.

"We will be expanding to new geographical markets in textiles and apparel growth and building an industrial park with a textile cluster in Naivasha to take advantage of natu-



ral power sources."

Kenya Association of Manufacturers Chief Executive Phylis Wakiaga said the manufacturing sector blueprint was critical in the revival of industries.

**Adan Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary Industrialisation during a visit at Kariokor leather market. Leather processing is one of the key sectors targeted by the blue print. [PHOTO: FILE]**

# Uganda could nick Tanzania over Kenya for oil pipeline says official