

BUSINESS

Urithi unveils a Sh400m housing project in Juja

BY JAMES WAKAHIU

Juja, Monday, June 6, 2015 -- Urithi Housing Cooperative Society has launched a Sh400 million housing project in Juja.

While launching the project Urithi chairman Samuel Maina said the project dubbed "Gem Juja" will provide 150 housing units.

Dubbed "Gem Juja", the project will provide 150 housing units, Urithi chairman Samuel Maina said.

Maina said a bungalow on a 60 square metre will cost Sh2.35million, a maisonette on 70 square metre will go for Sh2.65million and a 4 roomed maisonette on 160 square metre will be sold for Sh5.2 Million.

The chairman indicated that the initiative is only 2.2 km from Thika superhighway along Juja farm area is well developed with water and electricity available and the gated commu-

nity project will have enhanced security, buyers are required to raise 30% of the cost with the balance payable within 6 months.

The ground breaking ceremony will be held in July.

Maina said Urithi's cherished goal is to ensure that rent payers become house owners in affordable and stress free arrangements by the society.

According to Maina Urithi constructed houses at half the market cost.

"When we pull our resources together we are able to drastically reduce the cost of our houses by half or more than that. We want to build an integrated community concept where we have different people living in an enclave estate with the which will cut down the cost of requisite amenities. Urithi want to create an enabling neighbourhood for people especially those heading for retirement age", he said.

He said members will be given time to mobilize deposit and pay for

their houses. He said building together in a society like Urithi would cut land price, cost of construction, pre-requisite approvals and professional work and provision of security. He said materials would be acquired at whole sale price.

He said Urithi sold its products at cost since they were not commercial oriented by wanted to help disadvantaged Kenyans to own property.

"We are motivated by our members becoming better by acquiring property easily by staggering payment of the cost we ensure strict supervision of our project to ensure they are of high quality standards", said Maina.

Gem housing was the first ever low cost project that was first rolled out in Witeithie and Mang'u areas. The units comprise of 1, 2, 3 & 4 bedroom semi detached houses.

"The project is aimed to provide a housing solution to middle low income earners, giving them an opportunity to



Urithi Housing Cooperative Society staff member showing the public the model of houses to be constructed at the Gem Juja Housing Project

own a home or/and became a landlord. The concept has now been rolled out in Thika, Juja and Mombasa and will be spread in various counties in the country.

Coming soon, Jiko that charges phones



PowerSpot Chief Executive Officer, Javier Pascual (left), Winnie Michaels (centre) and Chief Marketing Officer Alfonso Acebal (right) during the launch of the Power Jiko recently. PHOTO/DAVID KIPKORIR

BY DAVID KIPKORIR

Kiambu, Friday June 10, 2016 -- Soon you will be able to cook, charge mobile phones and recharge batteries using a charcoal jiko.

PowerSpot, a Spanish company has pioneered the research, development and manufacture of user-end portable solutions for thermoelectric generation. The company develops and sells jikos capable of supplying power to up to 20 LED bulbs.

During the launch in Kenya recently, the company Chief Executive Officer, (CEO) Javier Pascual said the jikos produce electric power by a temperature difference.

He said that in order to function properly, the Power Jiko requires a

heat source at their base (biomass, gas, kerosene, or any type of fire in models designed for home use) whereas the top is cooled in some cases with water and in others with air.

"The power obtained with the PowerSpot portable generators ranges from 5W up to 30W and allows for the charging of mobile devices and continuous lighting with LED bulbs," revealed Pascual.

He explained that the charging speed achieved with the products depends on the power of the flame applied to the base of the generator.

"All Powerspot generators offer a range of 50,000 hours of continuous use," he said.

The CEO said Power Jiko will provide people with a source of free ener-

gy that is easy to maintain regardless of their location or the environment they find themselves in.

"This aim has led us to develop our product range by thinking about harsh environments where repairs or the replacement of parts are difficult to carry out," said Pascual.

"And for the same reason PowerSpot also offers solutions for supplying electricity in areas that are particularly deprived of energy such as refugee camps, isolated pockets of population in developing countries, emergency camps and so on," he explained.

PowerSpot collaborates with various NGOs and offer power solutions in settings where they are most needed. They are currently looking for distributors to market their products locally.

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