

Ground rent · Taita Taveta · 12 October 2026

# What This Project Can Pay In Rent

A branded 5-a-side centre, six courts in Taita Taveta needs 1.65 acres. On this county's own wages, prices and 15-34 population it would take KSh 8,093,241 a year net and leave KSh -3,608,768 before any land cost. Everything below follows from those two numbers.

## The site and the trading

|                                     |                                                               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Facility                            | Branded 5-a-side centre, six courts (Leisure and hospitality) |
| Land needed                         | 1.65 acres (6,677 m²)                                         |
| Net income a year                   | KSh 8,093,241                                                 |
| Operating profit before land        | KSh -3,608,768                                                |
| Market ground rent for that acreage | KSh 244,015 a year (3.0% of income)                           |

## What the project can pay

| Band                                                        | Rent a year | A month | Per acre | Or a premium instead | Profit left         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------|----------|----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Comfortable</b><br>8.0% of net income                    | KSh 0       | KSh 0   | KSh 0    | KSh 0                | Cannot pay any rent |
| <b>Tight but workable</b><br>15.0% of net income            | KSh 0       | KSh 0   | KSh 0    | KSh 0                | Cannot pay any rent |
| <b>Only on cheap land or a grant</b><br>25.0% of net income | KSh 0       | KSh 0   | KSh 0    | KSh 0                | Cannot pay any rent |

On these numbers this facility cannot pay a commercial ground rent at all. The operation earns KSh -3,608,768 before land, and the market rent for 1.65 acres here is KSh 244,015. The only workable routes are a nominal or peppercorn rent, a donated or public site, or a share of income instead of rent. This type does not cover its own costs from hire income, so the land has to come free or nominal.

## The terms worth asking for

- **A rent-free build period.** No rent until the pitches open. The site earns nothing while it is a building plot, and a rent charged through construction comes straight out of the build budget.
- **Rent as a share of takings, not a fixed sum.** A turnover rent moves with the business. In a quiet year the landowner earns less and the facility survives; in a good year the landowner earns more than a fixed rent would have paid.
- **A term long enough to recover the capital.** Fifteen years is the minimum anything permanent is built on. Below that the pitches outlive the lease and no funder will put capital in.
- **Reviews on a published index, capped.** Rent reviewed against inflation with a stated ceiling, so a twenty-year plan cannot be undone by a single review.
- **Security of tenure and a registered lease.** A registered lease, a clean search and consent from every interested party. Funders lend against title, not goodwill.
- **Community hours written in.** Guaranteed hours a week for schools, girls' sessions and the county league, at a stated price. It is the reason the project exists.

## Method

Ground rent is the commercial yield on our modelled land value for the acreage that facility type needs, at the location chosen. Income and operating profit come from the facility planner on the same county's living wage, 15-34 population and utility prices, with the land line removed so the rent is not charged twice, and restated at the live exchange rate so they match the planner exactly. Anything above a quarter of net income is treated as unaffordable at market rent.

- Planning estimates on both sides — the land and the trading. A valuer's report and a real operator's budget replace them before anything is signed.

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