



PG 2



LHS Nanyuki successfully helps deliver and care for 5-month old infant

PG 5



Metropol Trains Laikipia BDOs for Increased Economic Stimulus loan Uptake

New Ombudsman Office in Nyahururu Brings Services Closer Home



Citizens from Laikipia and other six counties are set to benefit from making long journey to relay their complaints as an Ombudsman regional office was established in Nyahururu. These counties are Nakuru, Nyeri, Baringo, Bomet, Nyandarua and Samburu. Page 3

From Risky Early Birth to Full-Grown State: The Story of LHS Nanyuki's Youngest Preterm Baby



Charity Muthoni, team leader at LHS Nanyuki's newborn unit

By Ann Ngunjiri

Every parent desires a healthy and stable delivery. In some cases, however, births occur earlier than expected-preterm births. Babies born this way must be placed in a nursery, an artificial environment to enable vital organs to develop.

Excitement filled the Newborn Unit (NBU) as the unit's youngest preterm baby was finally discharged on Monday last week. It was a humbling moment for the parents as they reflected on their four-month journey to save their newborn's life.

Due to a separate medical emergency, Mary (not her real name) from Timau was admitted to LHS Nanyuki's Emergency Department on November 6, 2021. She was 24 weeks pregnant at the

time, but complications caused her to go into premature labor.

Shortly after, she gave birth to a five months old infant, and the fight to save her life began. At 680 grams, a sheer 1900 grams short of normal birth weight, the infant instantly took the slot as the youngest client ever to be admitted at the NBU. The baby's journey was not an easy one; she lost 200 grams in the first 10 days, a major concern for medics, as it was outside the normal weight loss bracket. However, the baby's weight steadily improved since then up until discharge. On the discharge day, February 28, 2022, the infant weighed 1.8 kilograms, the standard weight for transitioning a premature baby from NBU care to home-based care. This has become the first extreme preterm birth that the unit has successfully dealt with.

The four-month journey to save the baby's life involved almost every department in the facility. "It was an incredible journey and we thank everyone involved," NBU team leader Charity Muthoni said. "From our pediatrics specialists who provided overall guidance, to the medical officers who were present throughout, and to the incredible role played by our lab in providing the much-needed test results, I say thank you on behalf of my colleague nurses and support staff for a job well done." The team leader also thanked the administration and the nutrition department for their advice on the delicate dieting routine.

The social works office came in handy, boosting the mother's morale during her lowest periods of emotional breakdown. Her family was also there for her at all times. She received frequent visits from her spouse, who was very supportive and actively involved throughout the process.

"I am grateful to the NBU unit and LHS Nanyuki facility for providing all the services that my baby and I required for the four months we have been here. I am happy to take my baby home," the happy mother stated.

Follow-ups will first be done weekly involving the nutritionist, then progress to once every two weeks with a pediatrician until the baby weighs 2.5 kilograms.

Laikipia To Host the Fifth Regional Office of Ombudsman



Office of the Ombudsman, Nyahururu Town

Ombudsman Kenya commission has opened a regional office in Nyahururu as it seeks to bring its services closer to Wananchi.

Seven counties; Laikipia, Nakuru, Nyeri, Baringo, Bomet, Nyandarua and Samburu.

This is the fifth regional office to increase citizens' ability to access services. The office will serve the office opened its doors on Tuesday 1st March 2022 by Commissioner Lucy Ndung'u.

Once the office is operationalized it will be able to scrutinize and oversight the public servants to ensure the upholding of integrity.

The office will be of benefit to the members of the public as they will easily make complaints on administrative justice.

The opening of the office is in line with the commission's strategic plan (2019-2023) to devolve its services to the grassroots.

The office of the Ombudsman has the mandate of investigating any conduct of state affairs or omission in public administration.



It also investigates complaints involving abuse of power, unfair treatment, manifest injustice or unlawful, unfair or unresponsive official conduct.

The Ombudsman aims to decentralize the services of the Ombudsman to the lowest level of governance.

The services of the commission are essential as its scope of work covers both the national and county government.

Its role touches on maladministration, administrative injustices, misconduct and integrity issues, advisory opinions and recommendations, capacity development in government, promotion of constitutionalism among others.

How Urbanization is Changing Life in Laikipia



Nanyuki town

By Julius Murage

Clearing out of the blighted areas is necessary for a place to grow to create room for development. The County Government of Laikipia for years has been working to make sure that this is always happening through putting up measures and strategies that have resulted in urban revolutionary aided by urban planning mechanisms that have led to more investors coming to Laikipia. The Urban planning mechanisms put in place include:

- **Strategic Urban Planning**-plots of land which can't be developed right now but could be at some point in the future.
- **Land-use planning**-the process of regulating the use of land by the County Government of Laikipia.
- **Urban revitalization**-a set of

initiatives aimed at recognizing an existing city structure, particularly in a neighborhood in decline due to economic or social reasons.

- **Master planning**-a dynamic long-term planning document that provides a conceptual layout to guide future growth and development.

Environmental planning-this coming up with a win-win situation for society and the environment. Principles under environmental Management include:

- a) The polluter pay principle
- b) User pay principle
- c) The principle of effectiveness and efficiency
- d) Principle of participation
- e) The principle of responsibility
- f) The precautionary principle
- g) principle of proportionality

- **Strategic environmental planning**- a systematic decision support process, aiming to ensure that environmental and possibly other sustainability aspects are considered effectively in policy, plan, and program making.

- **Economic development programs**, policies, or activities that seek to improve the economic well-being and quality of life for a community. The consideration of the businesses start-up requirements to moderation and public awareness of business gaps by the County Government has supported economic development extensively.

The drastic revolution of Laikipia County over the years has attracted a lot of people to invest and reside in it accumulating economic benefits as well as unleashing its potential, keeping it on the move.

Metropol Trains Laikipia BDOs for Increased Economic Stimulus loan Uptake



By Muriithi John

The County Government of Laikipia's Economic Stimulus Fund has continued to receive traction as the government puts extra measures meant to ensure more businesses in Laikipia benefit from this fund.

Recently the government invited a team of 20 trainers from Metropol to train the lead Business Development Officers (BDOs) from every department to be a trainer of trainees and help spread the good news to the other BDOs across the county at Beisa Hotel Nanyuki.

The government has 200 dedicated county government staff to handhold local SMEs to upgrade their businesses.

Metropol provides credit rating services that enable corporates to

raise capital and meet their financing needs.

The training means good news to the local businesses as the BDOs will provide them with information on how to improve their creditworthiness and make the local banks have confidence in providing the loans. The economic stimulus is a kitty that the county government of Laikipia came up with in partnership with some banks to provide loans at a subsidized rate for any business operating in Laikipia. The kitty has about Ksh 3 bn.

The government pays five percent of the interest for any loanee. Some of the reasons why some businesses are listed negatively are because of some minor issues that can be easily solved but some of the entrepreneurs give

up just upon realizing they are blacklisted. The lack of adequate information has disadvantaged many needy businesses and left them anguishing through the economic hardship brought about by COVID-19 as it negatively affected many businesses.

CRB services leverage full-file credit information sharing and alternative data sources from MFIs, SACCOs, HELB, Utilities, Mobile phone companies, and providers of goods and services on credit to help customers improve their access to finance and increase the credit providers' capacity to lend profitably to more customers.

It is envisioned that with this new knowledge, there will be an increase in the uptake of the economic stimulus loan this year.

Already there are about 900 approved applications and more keep on coming. For those intending to take loans not exceeding Ksh. 100,000, the government acts as the guarantor.

Scaling Up Strategies

The government is engaging with the banks to design loan products favorable to the crops and livestock farmers including seasonal payments for facilities to match the production cycles.

There is also an extension of the engagement period with KCB bank beyond June 2022 which gave a reprieve to Loanees of large facilities through an extended repayment period.

Efficient Water Use for Maximum Productivity and Profitability



Farmers from Wangwaci Dam area visit established farms to learn on maximum utilization of water for production

By June Kawira and Winnie Gathoni

The County departments of Water, Agriculture and Trade have been working together for the benefits of Laikipians. On Friday, 4th March a team drawn from the three led a group of farmers from Wangwaci Dam area on a tour of four farms in the county with an objective exposing them to efficient and improved farming methods to improve quality of their produce for productivity.

The farmers visited four sites which included AAA Growers, Mr. Githinji's Farm in Oljabet, Mr. Kihoro's Farm in Gatundia and Mr. Theuri's Farm in Munyu. The visiting farmers appreciated the application of various agricultural best practices including drip irrigation on open field, conser-

vation farming, land reclamation, as well as value addition, high value crop farming and enterprise development. The farms visited grow a variety of high value crops including Lettuce, parsley, carrots, strawberry, baby corn, pepper, avocado and French beans

The farmers were happy for the learning experience, and expressed positivity towards the adoption of drip irrigation. They were also open towards production of different high value crops.

The Wangwaci Dam Project is one of the Infrastructure Bond projects to be implemented in this financial year. The project, which aims to deliver on Pillar 3 and 4 of H.E Governor Ndiritu Muriithi's manifesto, will provide water to 630 farmers at farm gate through a pumped irrigation system.

Currently, farmers pump directly from the dam, some as far as 2 km away, and are forced to invest in expensive diesel pumps and pipelines, which leads to loss of time and money and reduces their profit margins. The improved system will deliver water to farmgate using a centralized, solar powered system. In addition, the project will support the farmers with extension services and improved marketing for their produce.

The scope of work to be implemented through the infrastructure bond includes desilting and rehabilitation of the dam to increase storage to 312,000m³, installation of a solar powered pumping system, reticulation network, on farm storage and drip irrigation kits.

Kawira is the Chief Officer, Water, Environment and Natural Resources. Gathoni is the Wangwaci Dam Project Manager



Pubic Participation Driving Development in Laikipia



Public participation meeting at Muwarak, Sosian ward on the upcoming Muwarak Smart Town

By Muriithi John

There are many expensive development initiatives carried out by national and other county governments, yet they lie idle without anyone bothering.

Such problems arise because of the lack of locals' involvement in design and construction. This is what the County government of Laikipia has been taking advantage of to avoid resource wastage.

Numerous public participation has taken place in the county from creating public awareness on possible new policies to inquiring from them that they would like the government to prioritize.

The government organized a citizen engagement on finance bill to educate them on the revision of some clauses affecting their taxation.

Consequently, more public participation has been done on the need to enroll in NHIF, update the personal details with the insurance, and register biometrically as the scheme goes digital.

The resultant effect is that Laikipia has become the leading county with the highest number of people enrolled in NHIF, no wonder it is the only county surpassing the national life expectancy!

After engagement with citizens who embraced giving birth at

home, many came to appreciate the importance of delivery at a health facility while retaining their cultural practices. It is way safer. It has reduced the mortality rate of children below five years.

On matters of development of the Smart Towns Initiative, the government makes several engagements with the people from the affected areas way before the actualization of the projects.

The residents take part in designing how they want their town to look by providing suggestions that are incorporated into the town plan.

Also, the locals are psychologically prepared on how their normal programs may be temporarily affected for the upgrading of the town to take effect.

The community also choose some of their own to be on the management committee to warrant the delivery of what has been agreed.

It is such actions of public engagements that help the community to have a sense of ownership and pride of any development happening in their locality.

People feel they matter when the government provides an ear for their suggestions and concerns.

Governor's Official Residence Opened at Rumuruti Town



County officials led by H.E Governor Ndiritu Muriithi and First Lady Maria Mbeneka, County Assembly members and members of public attending mass service to bless Governor's residence at Rumuruti town.

The county has been availing the necessary amenities as the operationalization of the county headquarter move closer.



A hundred-and-fifty-six county enforcement officers have graduated today from two-week intensive training in Rumuruti.

Training is a key component of public service reforms initiated by Governor Ndiritu Muriithi to make efficient and globally competitive.

Chief Officer administration Ikinya Matindi asked the officers to serve with discipline, commitment and determination.