



Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

WEEKLY
BULLETIN

Taking Laikipia Yarning Business International



By Wanjiku Wambaki

Nyambura Munyua is a Laikipia based business woman who specializes in the art of thread work. Her yarning business has been that of resounding success in that she is exporting her commodities to Italy, Germany and Finland.

She is the proprietor of Thogithi254 Yarn Community Project. The initiative which is under the Jenga Mama Community, started in November 2020 where their base of operations is Nyahururu Market. Her inspiration was rooted from the severe cold that is experienced in Nyahururu, Laikipia West. Her passion for thread work is evident as she is seen to be making a variety of products such as socks, scarfs, table ware, leg warmers and sleeve protectors.

Nyambura has offered jobs to over 75 women in Laikipia County. They in turn, support 30 more women in Mathare and Kibera who provide buttons from recycled materials. In a day, each woman knits one to two pairs of socks. The employees are paid every fortnight. The women are dependent on the venture for their livelihoods which they say has helped pay for their upkeep and that of their young ones.

“We have been able to make retirement plans through the project as well as pay for NHIF cover for health security. The women give one another the motivation to keep going because of their friendly nature and readiness to help each other,”

Mama Akinyi, one of the women working under the Thogithi project umbrella said.

The project has some pillars they adhere to; economic empowerment to the local community especially women and youth, preserving a dying craft for the coming generations, assimilation of Persons Living with Disabilities (PLWDs) in the society and conservation of the environment through mitigation of carbon footprint and prevention of sound pollution by hand knitting. Nyambura works hand in hand with Posta Kenya for postal services all over the world to distribute their merchandise. Posta has offered credit facilities for them since it is still an infant in the business.

The First Lady Maria Mbeneka donated an electric sewing machine and a large amount of knitting ropes on their one-year anniversary. This supply will help a great deal in boosting the business especially in doing finishing for the products. She was accompanied by Cooperative officials who helped in financial advice to the women entrepreneurs on saving and credit facilities. They were also advised on loan procedures to help uplift themselves.

“As Madam Nyambura pays your salary, it is your personal initiative to make sure you save your money and make wise financial decisions,” Maria Mbeneka advised. She promised that she was in talks with the ward administrator re-

garding provision of more space for production of Thogithi.

“Laikipia is the home of industry and in partnership with Kenya Railways, we will continue to transport and market Laikipia products outside the county, not just locally but to global consumers,” she added.

In future, the project wants to produce a trailer-full of supplies for a bulky production. They hope to expand to flour business come 2022 to increase their income sources. “I will be a fulfilled person once I see that each and every beneficiary has erected a water tank in their compound courtesy of the Thogithi project,” the Executive Director of Jenga Mama, Nyambura Munyua expressed.



What It Will Take to Industrialize Laikipia

Innovation stakeholders at Bradshaws Engineering in Nanyuki town for experiential visit



By Muriithi John

Industrialization is only possible when all the stakeholders in an economy work together with a common and convinced goal in mind. As such, the county government of Laikipia is determined to make this a reality and let the rest of the country to follow.

Just like the historical Industrial revolution, Laikipia county has focused energy on manufacturing through promoting local manufacturers and providing the utmost conducive environment for industrialization.

According to H.E Governor Ndiritu Muriithi, there needs to be a change in the mindset of all the stakeholders involved to believe that it is possible for industrialization to take place from the county level. It being a rather complex thing, the county boss has been inviting different groups of

people for a consultation engagement to shed light on how it is practical if only everybody can play their respective role, the Wangari Maathai's humming bird style.

Headteachers, TVETs' managers, representatives from higher learning institutions and even high schools, financial institutions and BDOs are among those who have had such an engagement. All agreed that indeed it is possible for Laikipia to industrialize.

As one of the steps towards realization of the same, the county government through the Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development Program has helped in certifying 154 products with KEBS and 16 products filled for utility model. Over 400 made in Laikipia products have found their ways to local and international market.

The learning institutions can take part in the

industrialization journey by ensuring they offer purposeful education. It must have a significant portion dealing in innovation and industrialization. The school heads should also ensure that during school trips, the student do not only visit tourist attraction sites, but also industries for motivation.

"Not a single country has ever become rich without industrialization. The reason why we remain poor is because we keep on exporting our raw materials and importing the processed products," commented Governor Muriithi.

Traditionally, our forefathers used to make various products from the available iron like spears, needles and knives. However, in the recent past there has been huge importation of such products despite having iron ores and other minerals in the county.

Believing in the Laikipia-made is a step towards realizing an industrialized county. The manufacturers in the county produce quality products that attract even international recognition. For instance, Butty Box, a beverage manufacturing company are now exporting their products in Dubai.

Davina Engineers who makes fabricated machinery like chaff cutters, modern jikos and other related products has been repairing imported products after just a short lifespan. However, their products are of even higher quality after learning the weakness of the imported ones.

The government aims at helping these manufacturers to expand their capacity and produce in masses for export. As a result, the economy of the Laikipians will shoot and help in improving their quality of life.

It takes deliberate efforts to realise industrialization, from the policies and the mindset of all the people involved. The County Government of Laikipia has dedicated 200 staff members to work hand in hand with local innovators and SMEs to help in



County Recognizes Exemplary Performance by Staff

Individual Category

Laikipia East Sub County Agribusiness officer Joseph Waigwa, has been spotted for his excellence in E-Marketing after helping a farmers' group get market for their seedlings with Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) in Kabiru Village, Nanyuki Ward.

The group which had over 10,000 seedlings and no ready market were trying to sell tree seedlings to passers-by. The Officer conducted e-trainings to the group where they gained knowledge on digital marketing. Through his training, the group posted their products to digital platforms.

In less than three days the group made the following achievements:

- I. All the more than 10,000 seedlings had been sold to Kenya Army (KDF) at Ksh. 10 each, making more than Ksh. 100,000
- II. Three group members were engaged to transport the seedlings to KDF farm in readiness for planting. They earned a total of Ksh. 3,000 each
- III. Through the same initiative, the Kenya Defence Forces management has since engaged the group members in planting of more seedlings.

Further benefits to the group are:

- ◆ Increased production now that they have a ready market. They are expected to sign a contract with KDF for tree seedlings distribution and prepare a business plan
- ◆ Members income from seedlings will increase thus increased standard of living
- ◆ Knowledge gained on online marketing can be used in sourcing market for other products.

For Nursing Officer Intern at LHS Nyahururu Evaline Chepngeno, she was recognized for her excellence in nursing care. Evaline worked at the Casualty Department where she was spotted helping a sick mother take care of her baby as the mother was being treated.

The mother had come to the Hospital with her baby but had no one to take care of the baby as she sought treatment. The Nurse noticed that she was having difficulties seeking treatment and at the same time taking care of her baby as she was too sick and weak and offered to help her.

She stayed and carried the baby for hours while she continued with her other duties as the mother got treated. This selfless and kind action that went beyond her assigned duties and also went a great step in re-assuring the mother offering psycho-social support as she got to be treated.

The action also gives hope to those visiting LHS Facilities of the commitment of offering world class healthcare to all clients. The action also gave the Government a good face as a caring and client-centered Government.

The officer's kind action inspires hope and



H.E Governor Ndiritu Muriithi engages the leasing programme brigade working on opening of roads in Ol-Moran. This is one of the teams spotted for exemplary performance

captures county government aspiration to offer the highest quality of care in all LHS Facilities.

Group Category

Two teams from the Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources were spotted for outstanding work and Department of County Administration, Human Capital and ICT

Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources

The Department teams were spotted for mobilization of funds towards formulation of different legislations. The team engaged development partners targeting six focus areas: Forestry, Protected Areas, Clean Energy, Climate Resilience, Water and Green Enterprise for Laikipia County.

As a catalyst, in designing and planning to launch a sustainable development in the management of climate change and a total non-reliance on county government budget provision, the team through active engagement with the County assembly, state, non-state agencies, institutions and boosted by the support of local communities through public participation was funded by external stakeholders/development partners to a tune of Ksh 5million.

This was to put in place governance structure by lobbying support for enactment of pieces of legislations as follows:- The Laikipia County Climate Change Act 2021, Climate Change Policy 2020, Draft Climate Change Regulations 2021, County Environmental Action Plan 2020, Ewaso Narok Management Plan 2021, Rangelands management policy in collaboration 2021 and Invasive Species Management Plan 2020

At the same time, through the team's initiative again with total non-reliance on county government budget provision, procured tree seedlings and other relevant logistics.

This was through engaging development partners including Kenya Forest Services, Kenya

Wildlife Service, NEMA, Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC), World Vision, FAO, SNV, education institutions, neighborhood associations, ranchers, women and youth groups and business and local communities among other stakeholders rehabilitated and improved existing forest ecosystems by planting over half million tree seedlings. The estimated cost saved in this initiative was Ksh 25m.

Department of County Administration, Human Capital and ICT

The team was spotted for excellence in grounds work and has the task of maintaining and managing the compound and facilities at the Office of the Governor.

The officers, have gone out of their way to facilitate the utilization of the compound in a great way as a site for hosting meetings and events.

This has in turn not only saved the government money through savings on external hosting but they have set a bar on the nature of delivery of events at various levels.

The team has also been at hand to support key Government initiatives at every level across the county including past working hours and including weekends.

Notably, the team has on its own motion taken a responsibility to plant trees and other greening efforts for the facility. Constantly, they have shared their own ideas on scope of improvement with the management for further uptake.

Whereas their contractual terms are on a casual basis, the gender composition of this team is remarkable and sets a good benchmark for uptake and integration within the establishment.

Preparation on High Note to Ng'arisha Mtaa to Welcome 2022

By Muriithi John

Nanyuki Town will mark the end of this year with a clean up exercise courtesy of the partnership between The Realtor Expo, the County Government of Laikipia, and various sectors in the county.

Some of the reasons for organizing such an exercise is to invite everyone to take active part in taking care of the environment as it is not the mandate of the government alone.

According to the David Nderitu from The Realtor Expo, this is an annual event that has been taking place from 2016. It has now been much easier because the county government has been ensuring clean towns.

“We acknowledge the government is doing a commendable job in waste collection and disposal. What we are doing now is just a complementary job as the government has done its part,” Nderitu said. He added that if the society can reduce on littering the environment, the government can channel the resources in other areas of development in the county.

The county government has bought more skip bins to facilitate in the waste collection within towns. Through the Smart Towns Initiative, the government has constructed proper drainage systems and planting of trees and flowers in towns for beautification and as a purifier of the breathing air.

Over 30 businesses have partnered in supporting this noble course and more continue to provide their contribution.

On the D-day there will be at least 100 young people who have volunteered to take up an active role in environment conservation. On the same day, there will be a tree-planting exercise at strategic places which will contribute to rising the forest cover in the county.

The people involved will also avail more branded dustbins in Nanyuki town for people



Promoting a green environment with more vegetation and less soil

to dispose off waste in the right places, having marked them whether plastic organic or otherwise for proper sorting.

The exercise also wishes to urge the business community to take an active role in taking care of the environment as most of the products that litter the towns come from this community.

Waste management is possible and can be much easier if people would recycle products and not disposing off everything just because of having an available new product. For example, recycling a shopping bag when going to the market instead of buying one every time is a commendable activity.

Taking care of the environment starts from home. If people can sort their waste at the house level and recycle the necessary materials, the waste that reaches the skip bins in towns would reduce and thus minimize on the government's

expenditure on waste management.

The cleaner the environment, the better the quality of life. Laikipia county leads in the life expectancy, standing at 72 years, surpassing the national average.

“In keeping our town clean, we want to improve the quality of life and warrant that when others hear about Laikipia they will be willing to come and live in the county with the best quality of life,” Nderitu said, adding that we should all emulate Mr. Francis Githui widely known as Thuti in caring for our surroundings.

All are called to ensure a clean environment from their houses, in the working places and also encourage others to follow suit.



Branded bins for putting strategic places in town for waste disposal

Laikipia's Potential of Manufacturing and Industrialization



By Nahashon Maina

In a move that will change the mindset in Laikipia, Governor Ndiritu Muriithi is continuously holding a series of meetings with stake holders in manufacturing and innovation sector. It is through a robust manufacturing sector coupled with innovation that will create a fundamental path to development and economic growth in the county. The idea is to ensure that Laikipia is able to industrialize through supporting MSMEs.

The strategic intervention by the county government aims at unlocking manufacturing potential which will facilitate industrialization, drive sustainable growth able to absorb large swaths of workers who will engage in productive and decent paying jobs.

Currently, the county is supporting over 1500 enterprises as it seeks to grow the economy and offer services to innovators to be able to produce in large quantities. Through Laikipia Enterprise and Innovation Program, there exist services ranging from access to finance, product development and design, mechanization of enterprises to enable manufacturing and market linkages.

Promotion of innovation for manufacturing is the way to attract investment in the county and nurture industry. Some of manufactured products in Laikipia includes the M500easy dry maize dryer by Mwireri Engineering. The dryer has been exported in countries such as Congo, Rwanda, Uganda and Nigeria. Through this innovation, maize farmers are able to reduce the post-harvest losses by drying maize to the recommended moisture level of below 13.5

%.

Other manufacturers are Nina Yoghurts, Davina engineering, EM Naturals for beauty products, and Sagak Tech Automobile-making BJ50.

The county government has targeted sectors of the economy that will create the necessary industrial capacity needed through partnering with the private and financial institutions to get the ball rolling.

The introduction of rebate is set to benefit the manufacturing in offsetting the electricity bills. The action will have a positive effect to local manufacturers as it will improve their productivity and be competitive with other imported items.

To support innovation in the county and acceler-

ate commercialization in the sector of manufacturing by becoming a lead customer to products made in Laikipia. Through Buy Laikipia, Build Laikipia, the county has identified 72 items that will be given preferential in procurement process through free competition.

It is also reducing risks of innovation as 200 county staff members have been trained to handhold entrepreneurs and innovation through their journey. This offer an opportunity to be given advice on the process. County will continue to broaden its role and expand efforts which will enhance Laikipia's industrialization competitiveness.



Strategies of Curbing Teenage Pregnancy in Laikipia



Mentoring students in Rumuruti on avoiding early pregnancies

By Vivian Wachira

Teenage pregnancies are a major challenge to the socio-economic development as young girls lack opportunities to further their studies and also attain their career in future.

Adolescent girls between the age of 15-19 years are the most affected victim of teenage pregnancies or early pregnancy in Laikipia county. Rumuruti ward has the highest percentage of teenagers who have been admitted to the hospital due to early pregnancy with a total number of 598 cases.

The first lady Laikipia county Maria Mbeneka together with several stakeholders including the health service department Laikipia county, area chiefs, youth leaders and also teachers came together to discuss on what has led to this rise of teenage pregnancies and how to eradicate or the possible solution to this crisis. Some of the causes of this teenage pregnancies included lack of information about sexual and reproductive health and rights, sexual violence, inadequate access to services tailored to young people, lack of education or dropping out of school among many other factors.

In a discussion led by the First lady several possible solutions were offered to help curb early pregnancies they were as follows;

As most students use bodaboda rides to and from the school, there should be a buddy system which should be a training program among the bodaboda riders and also parents where-by they will have an agreement on pick-ups and drop-off of their children.

Landlords should have lease form to be filled with parents whose children are schooling in day schools away from home and need to rent

a house nearby. Also parents should do a regular follow-up of how their children are progressing where they live.

Mentorship programs should be highly embraced in schools to educate students on issues related to sex as well as teenage pregnancy. If this mentorship programs are well implemented pregnancy cases among young girls will reduce drastically. This is because students get the message very well when they are told by people whom they consider as successful in the society.

Rescue centres should also be created in especially in Rumuruti town for children whose parents cannot be traced. Also this rescue centres will facilitate in rescuing young girls who have been victims of

sexual violence and those who are forced to enter into early marriages.

According to the World Health Organizations early pregnancy and childbirth mostly have complications which leads to death among these young girls while others are at a high health risks of getting fistula.

The ongoing mentorship program which commenced at Kiamaina village all the way to Rumuruti targeting young girls aims to educate them on abstinence from sexual activities in order to prevent teenage pregnancies and also encourage to complete their education.



LHS Nanyuki: Joy as Mothers, Newborns Move into New Maternity Complex



The new Mother and Child Hospital at LHS Nanyuki. The 120 bed complex was opened last week, and will house all the referral needs for mothers and their newborns

By David Serem

Tuesday evening, last week, will be a memorable day for mothers who delivered at LHS Nanyuki. It is the day the hospital's stepped in to move the mothers into the new Mother and Child Block, ending the long-anticipated move since the commencement of construction over two years ago.

After the long wait, the hospital finally made the move, ushering a new era of unparalleled service experience for mothers and their newborns who have had to endure the previous old, cramped unit.

Throughout the night and the next day, the mothers' joy was literally palpable, as the

mothers reeled in excitement in their spacious, sparkling wards with colourful lights along the corridors to boot.

Charity Gitobu, the nurse in charge of the Maternity Department said the move is a sigh of relief for clients and staff who for long have had to contend with the old and tiny old block.

"We moved in last (Tuesday) night and the mothers couldn't conceal the joy. Most of them made phone calls to their kin to inform of the exciting developments," Gitobu said, adding that some equated the new facility with country's premier health facilities.

Mothers who spoke to us shared their delight

with the spacious building, saying it is a huge relief for them having stayed in the previously crowded maternity wing. One Rose from Ngarengiro, who been referred from LHS Lamuria following complications during labour, was all grateful following a safe delivery through caesarian section. She and her bouncing baby daughter seemed to enjoy the ambiance of the new facility.

LHS Nanyuki continues to record high deliveries, with mothers choosing the facility for convenience of having specialists in case the need arises.

The shift to the new maternity is a boost not only to the mothers, but also to the entire in-patient department which will benefit from an additional room from the old maternity.

On full equipping and occupancy, it will hold 120 beds, and will cater for all the referral needs for mothers and infants. The complex comes complete with consultation, examination, antenatal and delivery rooms, theatre, doctors plaza, and expansive wards, drugs stores.

The recent developments at LHS Nanyuki are part of larger development that seeks to overhaul health service provision for the better. It will see LHS Nanyuki focus more on secondary healthcare provision.

The development will also see structural overhaul to boost service delivery by facilitating proximity between frequently visited service points such as customer care, registrations, billing and NHIF desks.

Focus on improved customer care has seen staff being trained on the same, and is set to boost client experience throughout the facility.

The New Phase of Ol-Jabet Town



Escalating Fish Farming in Laikipia



Visit by the fisheries section led by Mr. Peterson Njue and other officers from the department

By Molin Wanjiru

Laikipia farmers can now easily rear fish as they can buy them within the county boundaries. The farmers can also get training one of the demo farms in the Laikipia Aquaculture Ltd, an ultra-modern fish hatchery and fish rearing farm established in 2020.

The firm was started with the primary goal to provide quality Fish and Fish farming Services in Kenya.

One of the main aims of the company is to introduce innovative technologies and the top aquaculture practices from around the globe, in order to enable farmers improve their yield as well as tackle the current challenges faced in the fish industry.

The farm has a production capacity currently of 150,000 fingerlings per month, and with room for expansion. They can offer a sustainable supply of quality tilapia fingerlings for farmers country wide.

The farm has used raised ponds under the Greenhouse Technology for production of fingerlings and fish. Mr. Adil Butt the proprietor of Laikipia Aquaculture Ltd, advises the farmers to use raised ponds as the pond can be easily managed and water can be easily conserved

The hatchery together with the farm is a private provider of fisheries related goods and services such as quality fingerlings, brooders, fish feeds, technology transfer, capacity development, on

farm training and market linkages.

The County Department of Agriculture, Livestock section led by Mr. Pererson Njue the head of fisheries has closely been working with the farm to ensure that the fingerlings supplied to farmers in Laikipia come from within the county. This is to promote buy Laikipia build Laikipia. Previously, the department has been sourcing for the fingerlings

from neighbouring counties.

The CECM Agriculture, Mrs. Wangari Wachira has visited the farm several times to ensure that the production is ongoing in the right manner and quality.

Laikipia County farmers can also visit the farm for training and they can easily buy the fingerlings from the farm. This is a good way to help farmers rear Tilapia as the team can walk with them step by step.



Nursery pond for fingerling