



Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

WEEKLY
BULLETIN

Free Trade Area Beckons....

as Cereb-Member counties start trade negotiations in earnest



Governor Ndiritu Muriithi with senior officers from the Central Region Economic Bloc (Cereb) member counties at the end of a two-day retreat discussing creation of a free trade area

Ten member counties of the Central Kenya Economic Bloc (Cereb) have agreed to form a free trade area to grow the region's Kshs 2.7 trillion economy by five percent in the medium term.

At the end of a two-day meeting on Friday, technical officers resolved to develop protocols to expand markets and reduce the cost of doing business for goods and services originating in the ten counties.

This is an unprecedented move by any of the economic blocs which were formed soon after advent of devolution.

The objective is to raise the market share of goods and services originating from within the bloc to grow the region's trade by Kshs130 billion to begin with.

The Cereb counties include Laikipia, Nakuru, Kiambu, Murangá, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Meru, Nyandarua, Embu and Tharaka Nithi.

The specific tariffs being negotiated include distribution fees for manufactured goods, transit and market cess/fees for mining and agricultural goods.

Propose

The team will propose to their respective County Executive Committees to develop CEREB Common Trade Policy and Bill to guide decision-making on ease of doing business by Feb-

ruary 2022.

It also proposed to review and harmonize the licensing regimes, definition of terms, rates and units of measurement/assessment; consider reduction and/or waiver of distribution fees and branded vehicles selling manufactured goods originating from a member County. The proof of origin will be a single business permit issued by a Cereb-member county government.

Also for consideration is reduction and removal of cess and all levies on agricultural products originating from member-counties based on a traceability system to proof they are from a member county. There is also effort to remove restrictions for transporters of passengers and goods operating within member counties provided the business has a business permit originating from a member county. The transporters will pay parking fees.

Protocol

The County Executive Committees are also expected to consider a structure for sharing revenues to compensate for revenues lost from these concessions and effect these resolutions in the CEREB-member counties beginning with Finance Bills for 2021/2022. To recommend the concessions, Finance CECMs will integrate their revenue management systems to verify origin of the beneficiary businesses. To constitute sectoral technical meetings which will lead

stakeholder engagements to work out details of implementation of aforementioned recommendations. The Committee is expected to be constituted immediately.

Negotiations

The team hopes to complete negotiations for protocols covering all other sectors within 24 months.

The counties will plan to sign protocol that will waive licenses and fees for producers and manufacturers and service providers provided the firm is licensed by another member county on reciprocal basis. For instance, Kiambu traders who get hay from Laikipia will only have to pay cess only to Laikipia.

"If you have a single business permit for manufacturing in Kiambu, you will not need to pay for a distribution license in Nakuru or any other member county," explains Githuku Mwangi, senior economic advisor Laikipia County.

Other protocols will cover trade in services such as transport and ICT. Among the major beneficiaries will be public service transport saccos operating within the bloc to be allowed to operate without restrictions within the bloc.

The expected outcome is accelerated growth and retention of income generated by businesses originating in the counties commencing October 2021.

Why Youth Should Be Key Actors in Environmental Conservation

As the priest in charge of Youth and Children, Fr John Baptista Kiratu, has been mobilizing youth, leaders and residents of Umande ward to clean up Kalalu/Maili Nane centre. Some cities across the world carry out similar exercises on weekly basis. Could this be the way to keep our towns smart and clean? Our writer Joshua Maina talked to the catholic priest about the idea of keeping the environment clean

You have been leading youths from your parish in the clean-up of Kalalu/Maili Nane market, why?

Environment should be the responsibility of every person in their little and great ways and to be concerned about the welfare of all that is around us, is caring for ourselves too.

Where is this practice borrowed from and how do they do it there?

I'm trying to run a program I developed. The program proposal is titled, 'Use Waste to Reduce Waste'. It seeks to collect waste then use it to grow trees, collect and recycle polythene and pocket like bags for propagation of trees most preferably indigenous and environmentally friendly trees. It also seeks to clean and perforate the papers for reuse and easy storage. The program will also create self-employment for young people especially those from informal settlements (street, dwellers and families) by creating cottage industries for recycling of waste packaging papers.

Streets of many towns and urban centres are often littered with carelessly-disposed waste, what do you think is the role of citizens in keeping their urban centres clean and smart?

This earth cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the good with which God has endowed her with. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness present in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated poor; she "groans in travail"(Rom 8:22). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements; We breath her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters and even in our end she shall preserve us in her belly. If the earth makes man and the earth is being destroyed by man, humanity is thus destroying itself, and should rethink itself and care for itself by caring for the earth. We are hence called to love our neighbor and mother earth and care for her with tenderness, that we may in return receive her blessing and nourishment. Likewise, man who shares in the spirit of the creator should use all that is dear to him to recreate the universe, conferring it to its

original glory as it was willed by the creator before greed tore it apart.

How effective is involvement of citizens in scheduled clean-ups of their urban centres which is often seen as a government/municipal responsibility?

The problem is in the upbringing. We should have a training for all children at their early stages and inculcate in them the importance of caring for the environment. Cleaning our environment cannot be effected by collecting garbage. It can only be achieved by not throwing away the garbage indiscriminately. Waste management is a recurrent agendum but has not been realized in action. This stems from increased consumerism and indifference. The common **Use and Refuse** culture has caused mother earth to be too heavily burdened with litter and she stinks with the stench of rot.

Why involve youth and not all the parishioners across all ages?

David Brower says that, "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children". With this in mind, the young people are major actors in environmental conservation for the simple reason that they are like the young saplings that the forest need to grow and glow in goodness in spite of the challenges they face. By embracing the cottage industry format, the young will be involved in recycling the waste papers hence creating jobs for them. This will also uplift the esteem of the youth, their will to do good, their patriotism and their love for mother nature.

What is your long-term goal/objective?

As indicated earlier, this activity of collecting papers and sorting them for reuse is enshrined in a proposal that I have developed. If funded, the program is a cycle that will touch the life of that person who lives near the garbage and the young people. When these papers are collected, the county and national governments can set aside funds to buy the papers from the young people after they are washed and perforated ready to be used for propagation of trees. If the government buys these recycled waste papers and distribute them to tree and flower nurseries, they will deal with introduction of new



waste to the environment and cheaper tree seedling that would encourage more people to buy and embrace agri-farming.

What's the expected outcome from this initiative?

A changed mindset among all of us to realize that caring for environment is a collective duty. If we destroy the environment, we also stand destroyed.

Your parting shot?

David Orr says "when we heal the earth, we heal ourselves".

Waste management is an inclusive concern and not a one man's show. Every person must play their part with guidance from passionate and competent authority for the common good. As Professor Wangari Mathai would say, 'we must be that Hummingbird, with our little beak (little capabilities), we must do the little we can for it makes a difference"

The government must enact policies that should be inculcated in the people and not ones that work with threats and coercion.

I wish to ask for support both financial and otherwise so that the project proposal I have developed may come to fruition for it seeks to address waste management from using the existing waste as well as inculcating care for the environment in our young learners through media campaigns.

For the full explanation and a perusal on the whole copyrighted document of use waste to reduce waste or for support reach Fr Shoe through: nanikamamachira@gmail.com; for pictures and short videos visit You Tube channel: ShoelCatho line: for youth information visit: @quovadisouthhubhttps://courses.Quovadisouthhub.org/

ASDSP II Links 20 Laikipia Self-Help Groups With Financiers



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Mr Francis Tepele of Youth Enterprise Development Fund explains to 20 self help groups how they can benefit from his organisation

By Muriithi John

Members of 20 self-help groups in Laikipia County have started reaping the benefits of coming together after the county government organized a platform to link them with financiers.

On July 29, 2021, several representatives of the groups in the county had an opportunity to meet with 10 financiers through a forum organized by Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme II (ASDSP II).

The participating groups were drawn from the county's agricultural value chain with the objective of commercializing agriculture, enhancing agricultural practices, increasing agricultural produce, and creating market linkages.

The event was meant to link agricultural groups with financial services providers to learn on what is required to qualify for a loan or grant, for the betterment of their groups.

The groups are involved in livestock and crop production such as buying, fattening and selling sheep and goats whom financiers are willing to fund their activities and help them up scale their businesses.

The groups included; Naretu Ngabolo Women Group, Il-Motik, Kinaap Youth Group, Tura Naitajeu Women Group, Solio Cooperative (has 500 members and are in dairy milk business), Ngenia Muungano Cooperative (50 members dealing in dairy milk business), Tigithi Umoja Cooperative, Umande Farmers (220 members in dairy milk business), Kimanjo Leather, Nashatisho, Ereto, Nasat Women Group, Nangingoi Women Group, Ololoingoik Self Help Group, among others. On the other hand, the financiers had an opportunity to sell their products to the poten-

tial customers within the county. Most of the financiers provide loans to groups at a favourable interest rate.

The financiers included; Agricultural Finance Corporation, Uwezo Fund, Gatao Company, Youth Enterprise Development Fund, Women Enterprise Fund, Enterprise Fund, Cooperative Revolving Fund, National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF), and Laikipia Economic Stimulus Programme

Of importance was that people need to have viable activities that can generate money to pay loans.

The county government works to facilitate the value chain actors (VCAs) access finances to help in their business growth or in starting new business adventures.

ASDSP II supports access to financial services to enhance uptake of technologies and increase productivity of VCAs in the agricultural.

This is done through; linking VCAs with financial service providers (inventory of all fi-

ncial institutions in the counties supporting value chain development), and keeping inventory of the different types of financial services including type of products and the amounts of each of the types involved and available.

The move will ensure that the grants do not go unutilized for lack of awareness of the groups that should have the money.

It will also save VCAs from exploitation by bogus financiers who are out to make money from groups that are not well versed with loans and their interests.

In matters business organization, ASDSP II and other financiers are willing to help groups update business plans that will enable them stand better chances of getting financed.

The county Government has a dedicated team of 200 Business Development Officers to handhold innovators and small and medium enterprises develop business plans, and access to finance as well as market linkage.



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Laikipia, Zetech University in Partnership to Upscale production, Manufacturing



Governor Ndiritu Muriithi with Zetech University delegation visits Mwireri Engineering in Umande ward

Laikipia is in discussion with Zetech University on how to support small and medium enterprises in county upscale their production. The discussions revolve around making machines for enterprises in the Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development Programme.

“I am grateful for the insightful discussion we

have had and look forward for successful collaboration between Zetech University and the county government of Laikipia,” said the Chairman Board of Directors Eng. Ken Mbiuki when the team paid a courtesy call to H.E Governor Ndiritu Muriithi.

So far the County Government incubating 717

SMEs under the programme. At least 200 staff members in the county government work as business development officers with a purposeful task of handholding the entrepreneurs through various stages of business development.

Zetech University will be a key partner in helping Laikipia realize the dream of making its own machines for mass production of Laikipia-made products.

“We are discussing how to bring about exploitation of mineral resources in Laikipia and beyond,” said Governor Muriithi, adding that minerals like iron ore are the basis for manufacturing.

Through the Finken Limited Holdings that is part of the university, the institution will focus on agro processing by supporting Laikipia businesses that are in the said category and mineral exploitation. Finken operates is involved in food processing, building construction and agro chemicals.

Eng. Mbiuki assured that they were going to plan and design of how Zetech is going to support businesses in Laikipia to be able to add value

In turn, this move will bring more money to the communities in the county, thus improving their economic status.

More Refuse Collection Trucks For Smarter Towns

By Nahashon Maina

The Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources has received two skipper trucks and two garbage trucks to help in collection of solid waste within the county. They will go a long way in ensuring employees are well-equipped with modern garbage collection trucks to improve their effectiveness.

“Population in our major towns has been growing and with it comes an increase in the amount of solid waste. These four trucks will speed up collection of the solid waste,” CEC Environment, Water and Natural Resource, Peter Matunge said.

The county government has been implementing the transformative projects to create smart towns all over the county. As smart towns shape up and attract people in urban centres, proper waste collection methods are paramount. The county wants to create a conducive working environment where individuals can work, live and invest. One way of achieving this is by ensuring a clean environment.

“We truly appreciate the relationship we have with the county government of Laikipia. This is a beginning; we know the journey will be good in the future. The reason we appreciate the county is that Laikipia has been trailblazing in this leasing business. In every county we visit to propose adoption of the leasing program, Laikipia's name pops up,” Sales Manager Simba Corp Nixon Oduor.

The trucks will supplement the old ones in the service and ensure coverage of many areas.



The Delta Variant Strain of Covid-19 is Raging! Get Vaccinated



By Dr Timothy Panga

We are now well into the 4th wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in Kenya. There has been a high absolute number of people getting infected, and the positivity rate has jumped to double digit percentage points from the beginning of July.

In Laikipia, we have now exceeded 200 new cases in the month of July alone, of which 39 have been admitted so far at NTRH for severe COVID19 disease. Unfortunately, our records show that all the patients with severe COVID19 disease that required admission and intensive treatment were not yet vaccinated, at the time of their presentation for admission.

This new wave is driven by the highly infectious Delta (B.1.617.2) variant of the virus. The Delta variant, which was first reported in India, now comprises most of new cases nationwide and has been detected in more than 96 countries.

While the Delta variant is currently the most prominent strain of COVID-19, Lambda variant is already emerging in some countries, and is feared could become of concern soon. We expect this wave to continue ravaging the population with many people, especially the vaccinated, continuing to be at a great risk for severe disease and death from the disease when infected.

We expect the wave to significantly constrain oxygen supply across the country and put immense financial pressure on the health system to provide other costly but necessary items like the PPEs, the required treatments and other consumables.

Variants of Concern

As long as a chunk of people across the world remain unvaccinated, new strains of the virus will continue to develop and cause problems. All viruses, including SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, change over time. Most changes have little to no impact on the virus' properties.

However, some changes may affect the virus's properties, such as how easily it spreads, the associated disease severity, or the performance of vaccines, therapeutic medicines, diagnostic tools, or other public health and social measures. The variants are monitored either as of concern (if it makes the disease more devastating) or of interest (if a genetic change is observed to occur and spread but is not proven to be more harmful to human health). Currently, the Variants of Concern (VOC) are Alpha (first seen in UK), Beta (first seen in South Africa), Gamma (first seen in Brazil) and Delta (first seen in India). The Variants of Interest

(VOI), at the moment, are Eta, Iota, Kappa and Lambda.

So, the Delta variant is a variant of concern that World Health Organization (WHO) is tracking and monitoring around the world. It's a variant of concern because we know it has increased transmissibility – resulting in too many people getting infected at the same time compared to other variants.

This has been demonstrated by several countries. And we know that where the Delta variant is identified, it really rapidly takes off and spreads between people more efficiently than even the Alpha variant that was designated around December 2020. There are several factors that are contributing to increased transmission around the world. Apart from the virus variant itself and its adaptation, we now have more social mixing and have increased our mobility after the initial shock of the first few months of the pandemic, which increases the number of contacts that individuals have. We have relaxed on or have not followed the public health and social measures. Proven public health and social measures that we know prevent infections, reduce the spread of somebody who is infected with the virus to others and save lives. But the most important factor is probably the uneven and inequitable distribution of vaccines which we now want to urgently correct.

We insist that the best way to protect yourself from the risk of severe disease requiring hospitalization or death is by PREVENTION. Knowing your risk helps you to take the measures to lower your risk every single day. There are many things that you can do yourself that can keep yourself protected and keep your loved ones protected against this virus, including the Delta variant. This includes making sure you

have clean hands and are wearing a mask; making sure that mask covers your nose and your mouth and that you have clean hands when you put on your mask and you take off your mask.

It involves avoiding crowded spaces, keeping your distance from others, making sure that if you are indoors, you are in a room that has good ventilation. Taking all of these measures will reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus; and reduce the possibility of you getting infected. Finally, when it's your turn, get vaccinated. We know that the vaccines are incredibly effective of preventing severe disease and death.

New Campaign

We expect to commence in the next 7 days a new campaign to get more people to receive the first dose of AstraZeneca/Oxford Vaccine. We expect the 6,000 persons who received the first dose of the same vaccine to come for their second dose within August. We also expect for at least two different vaccines, Johnson and Johnson (a single dose vaccine), and the Pfizer vaccine to be available in the next month or so. With that, we can increase the full vaccination rate of adults in Laikipia from the current 4% to 100%. We need your support to spread the message to all, to ensure that vaccine uptake is excellent. There is no room for hesitancy in such an 'asymmetrical' war, where any delay gives this elusive virus a chance to outsmart us all and threaten our survival.

Dr Panga is the CEO of Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital



A nurse at NTRH preparing a vaccine dose

Government to Assess, Map Out Laikipia Minerals Resources

In the FY 2018/2019, the County Government of Laikipia carried out a Mineral Exploration Survey Programme to locate, map and ascertain the presence of minerals within the County. This exploration exercise identified the presence of minerals such as but not limited to Iron Ore, Limestone, Gemstones, Laterites, Granites and Graphite.

During the month of August 2021, a technical team from the County and National Government is scheduled to carry out a Mineral Mapping and Assessment of Iron Ore and Limestone within three wards namely, Sossian, Mukogodo East and Mukogodo West in Laikipia County. The mapping exercise aims to ascertain the quality and quantity of mineral deposit to determine their economic viability for exploitation.

The minerals to be mapped are Iron Ore and Limestone. These two minerals are vital in the manufacture of Iron, Steel and Cement and therefore have great potential to spur economic growth, industrialization, creation of jobs and higher incomes within Laikipia County.

Reconnaissance Site Visit

The mapping team relies on local knowledge, amongst other primary and secondary sources of data. Locals with a good knowledge of an area are instrumental in guiding mapping teams to minerals within their localities.

Iron ore is chiefly used in the manufacture of steel. After extraction from the surface, it is taken to the furnace and smelted at 1538° Cel-



Governor Ndiritu Muriithi shows Zetech University delegation a sample of iron ore found in Laikipia

sus.

Iron ore deposits are formed by: -

Direct sedimentation forming bedded sedimentary deposits resulting into banded iron-formations and iron-stones.

Igneous origin formed due to magmatic segregation of iron-bearing minerals occurring as veins and tabular replacement bodies of magnetite and hematite.

Surface or near surface enrichment as less resistant minerals due to chemical and physical weathering by soil forming processes of pre-existing iron-bearing

minerals resulting in progressive concentration of iron oxides to form iron-rich deposits.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the exercise included;

To visually ascertain the presence of iron ore deposits in Ilpolei.

To map out all the possible locations of iron ore deposits within the area.

To ascertain the grade of iron through sampling and testing.

METHODOLOGY USED

The team carried an Iron Ore sample which was presented to the locals.

The locals with the help of the Area Chief and Group Ranch Chairman were able to immediately confirm the presence of rocks similar to the Iron Ore sample presented to them.

The locals guided the team to sites which contained the Iron Ore deposits.

Because of the magnetic properties of Iron ore, a magnet was used as a preliminary method of ascertaining its presence,

Rock fragments and Ores that had magnetic properties were picked as samples for further laboratory tests.



Sample of Iron ore collected at Ilpolei - Mukogodo West

Communication on the County Executive Committee Meeting held on 28th July, 2021

H.E. Governor Ndiritu Muriithi chaired a virtual meeting of the County Executive Committee (CEC) today, which considered the progress of various government programmes and projects as follows:

1. **Drought Situation and Response:** The department of Agriculture in collaboration with stakeholders has been monitoring the situation. An estimated 20,200 households will soon be in need of food aid should the drought situation persist. 10,000 cattle and 20,000 sheep and goats need supplementary feed. Livestock disease surveillance will be scaled up. Strategic vaccination against transboundary animal diseases will be scaled up, boreholes serviced and water pans and dams desilted. Taking stock and enhancing strategic feed reserves. Kshs 205.9 million is needed to provide relief food to the affected households, supplementary feeds for livestock, supportive

treatment for livestock and small stocks, targeted vaccination of cattle against Foot and Mouth, provision of acaricides and de-worming of small stocks.

2. **Makurian-Osirua water project:** The project will provide water to 20,000 people in 7,600 households in addition to seven schools, two dispensaries and three market centres. The contractor has started connecting the main pipeline from the intake to Lolomarik head tanks. Excavation has commenced from Loruko towards Ol Kalkar. Delivery of pipes is ongoing. Two head tanks are complete.
3. **Kinamba water project:** The project aims at supplying portable water to residents of Kinamba town and its environment which has a population of 5,000 people with daily water demand of approximately 550 cubic metres. Four boreholes have been drilled and equipped in Ngárua Dairy, Karungubii, Munanda and G G Secondary Kinamba. More boreholes will be drilled and equipped to meet the demand of the town.

4. Nanyuki Bulk water:

The project involves construction of a reservoir across Likii Central River, expansion of the treatment plant, construction of additional storage tanks and water distribution network. It also includes bulk water supply to upcoming market centres and bulk raw water for smallholder irrigation schemes

targeting organized farmers' groups/ co-operatives in Nturukuma, Sweet Waters,

Njoguini, and Jua Kali \ Mukima. It will ensure that Nawasco has enough water reserves to meet demands from consumers within Nanyuki and its environments. It will also enable Nawasco expand its coverage to unserved/ underserved areas, enhance access to clean, affordable and sustainable water supply even during dry periods and control flooding and related erosion affecting downstream users. Request for Proposal to undertake a topographical survey, Geophysical exploration, and geotechnical exploration, dam engineering and water treatment design was issued on 12th July 2021. The process will be closed on 30th July 2021.

5. **Kirimon Game Reserve:** The CEC also discussed ways of actualizing the Laikipia (Kirimon) Game Reserve and the opportunities it presents to the county.

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2021 INTAKE IN PROGRESS

MOTTO: TRAINING TO EMPOWER

Wiyumiririe VTC focuses on Training and Empowering the youth by imparting them with necessary skills in order to make them all round and better kenyans

COURSES OFFERED

- MOTOR VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY
- HAIRDRESSING & BEAUTY THERAPY
- COMPUTER STUDIES
- ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION
- FOOD TECHNOLOGY
- TAILORING AND DRESS MAKING
- EXECUTIVE MODERN HOME AND OFFICE CURTAIN MAKING
- WELDING & FABRICATION

Mission
 To provide skill based training in Technical courses to a dynamic market through research and technology

Location: Wiyumiririe Ngobit Ward

THE INSTITUTION IS THE EXAMINATION CENTER FOR NITA GRADE I, II, III



Dr Lenai to Head MoH Directorate

The County Government of Laikipia has recently witnessed the transition of some of its senior managers to join international and regional organisations.

This is an indication of how highly our staff been regarded both nationally and internationally after our bold step of reforming the county public service. It also dispels the general notion that counties lack in human resource capacity, yet do have very competent staff.

Indeed, the Council of Governors and the Ministry of Health have been in consultation to get the best capacities to head directorates and departments at Afya House to realize better health outcomes.

Last week, Dr Joseph Lenai, the CECM of County Administration and Public Service Management, was been picked to head the directorate of Health Coordination and Intergovernmental Relations.

He will be key in ensuring development partners, NGOs and all health stakeholders are well coordinated and rallied behind the Ministry of Health's vision in Kenya. In addition, he will be the focal person for international health relations and agreements in Kenya, coordinating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the East African Community, among others.

He is also expected to coordinate county health services in liaison with CoG and Health CECMs at the devolved units.

We wish Dr Lenai all the best in his new assignment as he serves Kenyans at the local, national and international levels.



Revolving Fund Boosts Growth Laikipia Cooperatives



Produce bought by Ngarua Cereals Farmers and Produce Cooperative Society LTD

By Nahashon Maina

Laikipia County Cooperative Revolving Fund has been supporting cooperative societies to increase productivity in the county.

The fund has been availing affordable credit facilities to promote innovations, financial services, wholesales, and retail trade.

To date, the fund has disbursed Ksh139,143,450 to cooperative societies in the county of which Ksh 131,193,450 has been issued under the current regime.

The fund ensures that cooperatives can access revolving funds for employment creation in agro-processing and value addition. It has also engaged in capacity building through educating, training cooperative society's members.

In the financial year 2019/20, the revolving fund disbursed Kshs 45 million to 25 cooperatives, with most of them in cereals in a sector

where many residents are carrying out farming activities.

In the year 2020/21, the fund was able to disburse Kshs 46 million.

Seven co-operative societies have been supported to develop their strategic plans, namely; Ngarua Dairy, Muhotetu Dairy, Solio Settlement, Tigithi hay, Laikipia Livestock, Olooing'ok Livestock, and Oramat Livestock.

"The county is taking necessary interventions of availing affordable and accessible revolving funds to enhance funding to cooperative ventures," Cooperative Revolving Fund Manager Richard Murigu said.

The County directorate of cooperatives wants to ensure there is robust and competitive co-operative movement that will promote growth in the economy.

The fund has supported cooperatives in live-

stock rearing for beef, dairy, and hay farming. There are Oramat Livestock Farmers Co-operative Society Ltd, Olooing'ok Livestock Farmers Co-operative Society Ltd, Tigithi Hay Farmers' Co-operative Society Ltd, Sweetwater Farmers' Co-operative Society Ltd and Laikipia Dairies Farmers' Co-operative Society Ltd.

According to the Fund manager, the performance of the revolving fund is outstanding as they can recover a high percentage of loans advanced to cooperatives.

James Senjura, chairman of Olooing'ok Livestock Cooperative based in Makurian, Laikipia North, says that loan from Cooperative Revolving Fund has enabled them to grow their business. They deal in the fattening of cattle before selling to the market.

"We applied for the first loan in 2019, and we were able to buy 54 cattle. We expect to sell them, repay the loan and have a profit margin of Ksh 1.5 million," Senjura said.

He added that initially, they used to buy cattle rear them for more than one year, and sell at a small cost.

"Now we only rear them for three months through the fattening process which has increased our earning," said Senjura.

The cooperative is proud of having 40 members from the initial 15 since it was formed in 2016. Fund Manager said that Cooperative Revolving Fund has directly supported over 8,000 households over a period of three years. This is a big contribution to the creation of 30,000 jobs within the county.

"We are also optimistic that the fund has reactivated co-operators enterprise through funding their respective co-operative societies especially those that were affected by the COVID-19. Our target is to issue Ksh150 Million to over 10,000 direct beneficiaries and job creation in the county," Fund Manager, Murigu said.

Nyahururu Meeting Sets Out Conditions for Liquor Sale

By Julia Wachira, Igwamiti Ward

Following an unfortunate incident that happened in Nyahururu Town on Sunday 11/07/2021 where one man succumbed after allegedly consuming alcohol, and 5 others were hospitalized and discharged a meeting was held with Liquor business operators in Nyahururu Town. Among some of the things discussed were a few important points that were shared by officials from Kenya Bureau of standard (KEBS) Nakuuru.

KEBS have an SMS platform to verify that the product has been approved by KEBS. Text the code on the KEBS sticker on the product and send to 20023. A reply will be sent to confirm if the products has been approved by KEBS.

For alcoholic drinks, consumers/customers are advised to conduct a

visual inspection. They should decline drinks with peeled labels/stickers, cracked bottles or with particles in them.

For business operators they should listen to complaints or remarks from their customers. These are like a change in the taste or smell of a certain product.

Storage condition should be clean and keep alcoholic products alone. Good storage practice should be practiced. They should always practice "First in, First out"

Where an outlet has been reported officers from KEBS visit the premises, collect samples and and confiscate for testing; and conduct investigations.

Reports are handled with confidentiality.