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Laikipia infrastructure; providing way to achieving Vision 2030

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Providing long-term solution to water rationing in Laikipia

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Two-day medical camp to take place on 8th and 9th April 2022 at LHS-Nanyuki

# Cabinet Grants Laikipia Go-Ahead on Infrastructure Bond



The last day of March 2022, the County Government of Laikipia received a go-ahead to issue infrastructure bond by the Cabinet. Laikipia becomes the first devolved unit to make this bold move which serves as a supplement for funds for more development across the county.

# Branding Firm in Nanyuki for Customized products



*Brand House Firm proprietor Gaudencia Nyaboke (left) issues Laikipia County First Lady Maria Mbeneka with some of her designed products*

By Muriithi John

**B**rand House Firm is a branding company found in Nanyuki town. Started seven years ago, the organization has been transforming the society's view on branding.

"We started Brand House Firm in 2015 in the effort of enhancing brand visibility and memorability in the corporate world. Our main mandate is to make sure we create communication material and brand merchandise that will communicate effectively to a company's targeted audience which most companies tend to ignore or downplay," said Gaudencia Nyaboke, the sole proprietor.

Though she a journalist by profession from Multimedia university, the hustle of looking for a job landed her in an advertising agency. Little did she know that

her three-year experience in the industry would create her love for advertising and branding, something that she now does with great passion while enjoying being her own boss.

Nyaboke's firm deals in professional designing of customized gift items, indoor and outdoor branding, branded promo merchandise, corporate giveaways, among others.

The conducive business environment created by the political goodwill -destination Laikipia- has provided a good name attracting investors, and thus providing an assurance of ready market.

"We are newly located in Nanyuki town where it is considered a tourism hub hence the need to have our visitors/ tourists carry away a locally branded merchandise as a souvenir from

Nanyuki and Kenya at large," Nyaboke said.

Describing her normal day, the proprietor says she is mostly behind a computer making unique designs according to customer specifications for maximum satisfaction.

"My daily routine is mostly spent behind my computer, designing and adjusting clients' logos and artworks in readiness for printing. Sometimes it takes days before a client settles on a final design and so being patient is a must as a designer, she explained.

Looking forward, the proprietor wants to encourage others to believe in themselves and dare to dream and actualize those dreams. She also hopes to have positively impacted the general society.

"I the next, say five years, I want to be a household name in Nanyuki in terms of branding, corporate promotional merchandise and customized gift items, giving many youth employment opportunities and encourage others on how best to start and maintain a business especially during challenging times," she said.

To make orders for the unique branding products, reach Nyaboke on **0723785186**





# National Cabinet Approves Infrastructure Bond



By Nahashon Maina

**T**he issuance of the Laikipia infrastructure bond is coming to a close as the Cabinet approved the bond last week. The only awaiting bit is approval by the National Assembly.

Laikipia will be the first devolved unit to float the bond in the market to raise the fund in the Nairobi security exchange. The county government has been in a process of issuing an infrastructure bond to unlock the huge investment opportunities in the city.

The Ksh 1.16 billion infrastructure bond is expected to finance transformative projects in the county such as smart town, water for production, and road construction. About 10 towns in Laikipia are targeted for an upgrade with street lights, paved walkways,

and sewerage lines, making them attractive for new businesses.

The bond will accelerate and enable the county to have access to funds for development which will accelerate the growth of the local economy. Smart towns will provide a better quality of life while at the same time building on local assets.

On the water for production, the county intends to accelerate the area under irrigation, the establishment of feedlots, and fish production. Availability of water will enable Laikipia households to start kitchen gardens not only to improve their nutrition but also for sale.

This will elevate residents who will have adequate water to carry out economic activities such as tomato growing in Wangwachi, Gatirima, and Kariunga. With enough water for production, Laikipia will be taking ad-

vantage of its vast land to grow enough crops and rear adequate numbers of livestock for local and export markets.

For road networks, opening up transport corridors across Laikipia will enhance connectivity. This will create a linkage between farmers and the market to ensure they access the market easily.

Achieving all-weather roads in the county will reduce the travel time and enable faster movement of perishable produce from farms. Transport infrastructure is a key enabler of economic takeoff. A robust transport network will also attract investment in the county.

When it comes to sewerage expansion, the systems will be expanded to be in tandem with the growing population and the general process of urbanization. While achieving smart towns is the end goal, there is a need to have smart towns that have a good sewer system. It will improve urban planning as it will equip them with a proper hygiene waste disposal system.

A good sewer system improves the value and quality of land, solves sanitation problems, and creates a conducive livable environment.

## Achievement of Laikipia Revolving Fund From 2017 to Date



*Ng'arua Coffee growers Cooperative Society member tending to their seedlings*

Since 2017/18 financial year, the County Government of Laikipia through Laikipia County Co-operative Development Revolving Fund has disbursed Ksh 150, 393,550 to 107 Cooperatives.

Over this period of 4 years, the revolving fund cherry has seen an increase in the uptake of the loans by the cooperative. Data shows that in FY 2017/18, a total of Ksh4,743,450 was disbursed to cooperative and FY 2020/21, Ksh 46,500,000 was approved.

The main aim of the revolving fund is to offer working capital to cooperatives involving in various chains in the county. Laikipia East leads with the highest

number of cooperatives applying for the loans at 52 while Laikipia West has 39 and Laikipia North is at 16.

The performance of the fund is

impressive as it has grown tremendously over the last couple of years with repayment also strong. In the FY 2020/21, the amount repaid stood at Ksh 34,877,861.

The county revolving fund support various values chains which include; cereals, steer fattening, milk production, coffee and honey farming, horticulture, hay transport saccos such as Boda Boda savings and credit and FOSAs micro finance.

The revolving fund has also supported five cooperatives in coming up with their business plans while seven others have benefited from strategic plans. The fund has partnered with Directorate of Cooperatives, ASDSP, KCB Foundation and world vision for capacity building to various cooperatives.

### Comparative figure for the four years' loan performance

ITEM	2017/20 18	2018/2019	2019/202 0	2020/202 1	2021/202 2 Nov	TOTAL
Loan issued	4,743,450	34,300,000	45,650,000	46,500,000	19,200,000	150,393,550
Loan repaid	525,000	14,071,155	31,394,394	34,877,861	25,000,000	105,868,410
Interest received	26,250	703,558	1,678,618	1,948,775	1,520,000	5,877,201
Outstanding	5,142,522	26,426,558	42,060,705	56,889,484	48,000,000	48,000,000
Employment opportunities	565	2136	4172	1958	1143	9974



# Laikipia Infrastructure; Way to Achieving Kenya's Vision 2030



The hard infrastructure which includes the physical networks necessary for the functioning of the modern County level, the roads, bridges, railways etc are get priority of resources with more than 25 % County funds allocation. The soft infrastructure maintains the economic, health, social environment and cultural standards of the County by educational programs, official statistics, parks and recreation facilities, law enforcement agencies and emergency services.

Most of the jobs in Laikipia are created by the informal economy and are concentrated in the low segments of trade, transport and hospitality. The government is aiding these by construction of good roads, through the leasing programme, in urban and rural areas for easier access of the products to the market. Trading is a way towards job creation, high productivity in the manufacturing sector and revival of agriculture, a pathway for poverty reduction.

Water essentiality, a critical segment for job creation has been addressed by the County Government with the scheduled maintenance of the 236 existing water pans in Laikipia and increase of area under irrigation from 11,337.19 acres in 2020 (according to 2021 Laikipia County Statistical Abstract) to more than 50,000 acres.

By Julius Murage

**I**nfrastructures plays a pivotal role in ensuring progressive economy. Large scale infrastructure is usually produced by the public sector or public regulated monopolies for instance County Government of Laikipia.

Kenya's 2030 development blueprint aims to create a globally competitive and prosperous nation transforming into a newly, industrializing, middle-income country providing high quality life to all its citizens in a clean and secure environment. The vision's pillars, namely Economic, Social and Political are anchored on macroeconomic stability and wealth creation opportunities for the poor from the County level gluing to the National level.

County Government of Laikipia

projects have been directed in achieving such from the county level, such that if all other counties would emulate, we would achieve the vision 2030. The development of the smart towns initiative which is currently on going in the county aims at injecting 74,166 additional jobs to the economy by creation of 31,698 new businesses, courtesy of the Infrastructure Bond and general conducive environment for business.

Planning of the urban areas for controlled development is also key for Laikipia growth. This is done through enforcement of building zones, street solar lighting for businesses to stay open longer, connected water and sewerage and setting up urban development fund to enable plot and buildings owners to develop higher density units.

# Linda Mama Maternity Cover; Assuring Expectant Mothers of Stress-Free Delivery

By Ann Ngunjiri

**T**he County Government of Laikipia is making long-term investments to improve maternal care services in all Laikipia Health Service (LHS) outlets across the county. Early this year, several maternities were commissioned to ease accessibility.

For the existing maternities, significant investments have been channeled towards increasing their capacity for quality service delivery. Together with Linda Mama, the county's increased investments in maternal care are facilitating access to skilled deliveries.

As the county is making efforts to better maternal care services at our LHS outlets, expectant mothers should take the initiative of enrolling as beneficiaries of the free Linda Mama Maternity Cover to avoid making out-of-pocket payments that can cause financial distress.

Linda Mama is a free health insurance plan exclusively for mothers and their newborns that eliminates financial barriers to accessing maternal care services. It is a government-sponsored initiative that was introduced in 2013 as a health financing strategy to provide affordable maternal care. This initiative is part of a strategic



plan to achieve maternal and child's health services, which will contribute to the country's progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The package is run by National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF), available in all NHIF-accredited hospitals, and primarily targets expectant mothers who cannot afford any medical cover, including NHIF subscriptions.

All Laikipia Health Service outlets are accredited by NHIF, you can get an instant Linda Mama registration by simply visiting any LHS outlet with your National ID and antenatal care records.

The main objective of introducing and implementing the free maternity service was to reduce the mortality rate by increasing acces-

sibility to skilled maternal care.

Under the one-year program, the Linda Mama insurance package covers four antenatal clinics, deliveries (both normal and caesarian birth), postnatal care, and three months care for the newborn, as per the national guidelines.

Expectant mothers who wish to benefit from this package must ensure that they are properly registered before their due date. A valid national ID and antenatal care records are the basic requirements before signing up. After a successful registration, expectant mothers will be able to access and enjoy free maternal care services at any of our LHS outlets.



# In Efforts to Resolve Water Rationing in Laikipia



By Murihi John

The effects of this year's dry season and lateness of the short rains has been felt across the country, Laikipia also witnessing the harsh impacts of such occasions. The main rivers in the county dried up which has forced the water companies to exercise water rationing for over a month.

Normally, the Nanyuki Water and Sewerage Company (Nawasco) which serves mostly the areas of Laikipia East and parts of the neighboring counties demand for this commodity is usually above the supply, a case that also happens in Nyahuwasco. The situation calls for an alter-

native that will address the issue in a longer term for sustainability "The demand for Water from Nawasco on a normal day is 14,000m<sup>3</sup>, but the supply is usually 10,000m<sup>3</sup> to 12,000m<sup>3</sup> per day. We are addressing this together with the national government by doing the Nnayuki Bulk water which draws water from Mt Kenya. We also want to shift to the Aberdare ranges to ensure consistent supply," said Hon. Peter Matunge, CEC Water and Natural Resources.

The logic behind the move is to have a guarantee of water supply and bid goodbye to water rationing. Usually, when there are no rains in Mt. Kenya catchment area, the alternative focus will be in

the Abadare catchment area.

The company has also engaged Murang'a Water Resource Authority to abstract water from River Honi that will see it get 8 to 10million litres of water. The design work has already kicked off for this project and will take around nine months. The source of water which is above the one for Solio intake to the treatment area will cover around 66 kms and will increase the company's supply by 10,000m<sup>3</sup> per day.

In the area around Laikipia West, the government is addressing the non-renewable water by ensuring no water especially from the water company is unaccounted for because of leakages from old pipes.

The government also continues with other efforts of getting water like water pans, drilling and equipping boreholes, construction and desilting of dams, among others.

Public sensitization on water management is also key to ensuring whenever there is a faulty structure in the source of community water, the issue is raised and addressed quickly.

# Free Medical Camp in LHS-Nanyuki

**L**aikipia Health Service is organizing a two-day free medical camp early this month. The camp that will be on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2022 will take place at the LHS-Nanyuki (Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital).

Organized by the Kenya Airports Authority in partnership with Mater Hospital, County Government of Laikipia through Laikipia Health, the camp will attend to issues affecting the community in matters health.

Services to be offered include: Specialists Reviews in all the major medical specialties - general surgery, physicians review, gynecology review and paediatric reviews; Sub-specialist Cardiology review; Surgeries; General Medical Consultations; and Pharmacy. These services will be supported by Laboratory and Radiology services as requested during consultations.

If you know anyone under the age of 18 who might have a heart condition or has been

**FREE MEDICAL CAMP**

**AT THE LAIKIPIA HEALTH SERVICE (LHS - NANYUKI)**

**ON THE 8TH & 9TH APRIL 2022**

**FROM 7AM-6PM**

**OUR PARTNERS**

**Mater Misericordiae Hospital**  
*Under the Sisters of Mercy*

Logos for Kenya Airports Authority (KAA), County Government of Laikipia, Mater Misericordiae Hospital, and 97.1 Central FM are also visible.

Kenya Airports Authority (KAA) in partnership with The Mater Misericordiae Hospital, The County Government of Laikipia, Laikipia Health Service, 97.1 Central FM and Dedan Kimathi university of Technology will be holding a FREE MEDICAL CAMP on the 8th & 9th of April 2022 at Laikipia Health Services, with the aim of benefiting the people of Laikipia.

previously referred for a cardiologist review, please encourage them to attend the camp. They shall be treated.

Also, if you have been feeling unwell and has not seen a doctor it is an opportunity presented for you to take advantage of.

The County Government of Laikipia prioritizes on ensuring the

people are free from diseases through encouraging for NHIF enrollment to ease the burden that comes with seeking medical services.

The medical camp is a way of helping residents not only to consider treatment when one's health deteriorates, but also to seek preventative measures through early detection of any health problem.