



Pastoralists' Cooperative Using Internet to Penetrate Markets



By John Nyapora

How do you utilize internet connectivity? To hurl insults and mudslinging other people? Well.

A co-operative society for pastoralists in Laikipia North is capitalizing on internet connectivity to sell livestock in and outside the county. Members of Laikipia Livestock Marketing Co-operative Society are reaping good returns from marketing their livestock by use of multiple channels including Facebook and other e-platforms.

Between July 2020 and March 2021, had reaped more than KShs 7.8 million after selling a total of 613 sheep to markets outside Laikipia.

The cooperative has been receiving orders to supply various organizations and individuals with sheep and goats.

The most recent arrangement was to supply to Community Driven Development Committee (CDDC) in West Pokot County with 300 Doper sheep as breeding stock valued at Ksh 3,990,000.

Recently, the society has also supplied 600 goats to Samburu County, 250 Galla goats to Catholic Diocese of Meru, 18 Dopers to farmers in Kirinyaga County and 45 Dopers to Kenol

Butchers' Association.

The West Pokot was done in two batches, first batch of 130 heads was delivered to the CDDC on March 16, 2021 with the second batch delivered on March 23, 2021.

"When given such an order we go to different members and each gives the number that they will be able to supply," the manager Mr Francis Ngaiduri says.

The cooperative is a peoples' grass-root organization operating in the vast Laikipia North Sub-county which started as common interest group six years and later to a marketing cooperative.

Currently it has 105 members, 52 women and 53 men. Membership is based on one being a livestock farmer.

One of its objectives is increasing market access

by the small livestock farmers through aggregation and market linkages. Members rear the livestock individually with the cooperative assisting them in improving the breed.

The cooperative supplied 30 rams to members in order to reproduce them and have a pure quality breed for sale.

The cooperative intends to become a leader in value addition and improvement of livestock in the county. They have also ventured in leather production with women making leather belts for sale.

According to Mr Ngaiduri that pastoralists are able to earn twice the usual normal price as the improved Doper sheep attract high prices.

The cooperative has a livestock loading yard at Kimanjo town to coordinate the supply.

Destination	Qty	Description	Value (Kshs)
Meru county (catholic dioceses)	250	Galla goats	3,250,000
Kirinyaga county	18	Dorper sheep	216,000
Kenol Butchers Association	45	Dorper sheep	390,000
West pokot County 300 goats	300	Dorper sheep	3,990,000
Total	613		7,846,000

I Would Like to See an Industrialized Laikipia-Speaker



After the 2017 General Election, Laikipia found itself in a presumably precarious situation. Governor Ndiritu

up. Generally, it has been a mixed kind of experience.

As a legislature, how is your relationship with the executive?

Our relationship is in two ways. One, it is harmonious, where we achieve common goals of things beneficial to the people of Laikipia. We harmoniously work together because as a government we have the same mandate. For example, the governor wants to provide water and the legislature as to pass that bill if it is not in place. Two the legislature is also independent and therefore at times we do what we have to do and let the governor do likewise but ensure we work with an overall goal of uplifting the lives of the people of Laikipia.

How does a Jubilee-dominated House work with an Independently-elected Governor?

It is possible, because though we are a Jubilee-dominated House, the Governor also has a vision for the people of Laikipia. The Jubilee manifesto and the Governor's manifesto in one way or the other seem to relate. We are able to work together because as Jesus said, "Whoever is not against us, is for us." All of us are working to achieve the promises made to the same people of Laikipia.

The County Assembly has in the past been blamed on delaying in discussing Auditor General's report? What's your take?

This started in the first assembly. You realize the first assembly did not discuss even a single report from the Auditor General's office. But we have discussed a number of them. It is only that we have a backlog because we started discussing the reports from 2013. We are trying our best to ensure that by the end of our term we shall

have discussed more than half, if not all.

If you had your way, what would you change in the County of Laikipia?

I think I would adopt the current and former governors did. I would have more interactions with the members of the county assembly. I would really get them to a level that they understand the government agenda and appreciate it. Number two, I would also involve the community more and more even informally. During formal public participation there are protocols and other people don't get time. During informal discussions, people are more relaxed, more truthful, more open which enables you to learn more.

What has changed in Laikipia since you became the County Assembly Speaker?

Laikipia County Assembly is ranked among the best....I think our slides were used at the County Assemblies Forum as far as public participation is concerned. What we have really done is to make sure we involve the common man so that we do not do things just for the sake of it. We have done fewer bills than the first assembly for we do not do laws just for the sake of it. We have come up with several amendments of the existing laws after consulting the public. We have done public participation on all issues. In some cases, after the Executive has done their public participation, we come in independently and conduct our own.

Where would you like to see Laikipia County in the next five years?

One, I do congratulate the Governor for he has a mind and a vision for this county to take it to some better height. He wants us to be a manufacturing county so that we have more products which originate from this county. So that we buy from our own and not from outsiders through promoting "Buy Laikipia Build Laikipia". I would like to see the county produce products like farm equipment in large quantities and in mass production. I would like to see an industrialized Laikipia.

What's your message to the people of Laikipia?

My message to you is that we have all we need for development, but human beings are also a resource. So, during this COVID-19 time, let us keep safe. We need you and we cannot develop without you. Whatever we are doing, whatever we are implementing, it is very important to understand the community, including their culture. If for example we are doing a road, is that the priority for the community at that time?

Let us prioritize on what the community needs.

You are one of the youngest county assembly speakers in the country. How has been the going for the last four years?

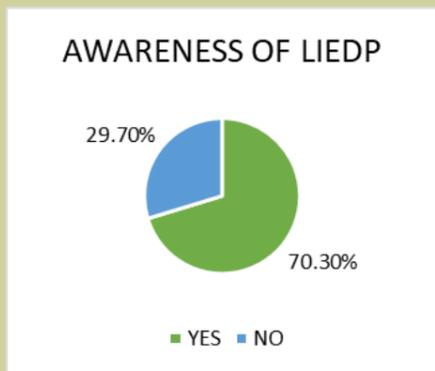
I don't think whether the going has anything to do with age. But it has been a good experience being a leader in the legislative arm of the county government. It has been an introduction to more politics. Coming from the private sector you realize in government there are many people involved with more lobbying, discussing again. You cannot wake up and decide to do something but you rely on teamwork. You have to move faster to cope with the quick learners, and at times reduce the pace for the slow learners to catch

Clergy, Media and Elders Believe in Made-in-Laikipia Products-Survey

Over 89 percent of religious leaders, media practitioners and community elders believe in products made in Laikipia, a recent perception survey shows.

Over 82 percent of those who responded to the poll strongly believe in the quality of Laikipia-made products while slightly over ten percent were neutral in regard to believing in Laikipia products and their quality.

The County Government of Laikipia has a robust innovation and enterprise development program as part of its commitment to proactively develop a viable response to develop enterprises in Laikipia County.



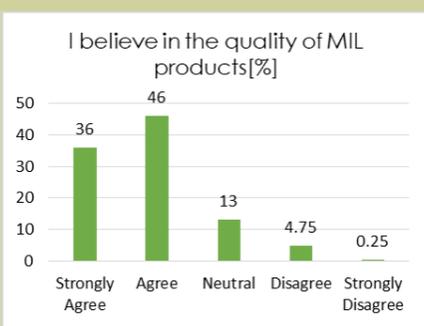
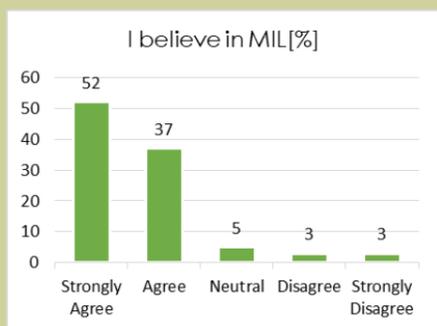
Several key pillars of the program have been activated, resulting in the design of a program that focuses on the identification, assessment and linkage of enterprises to product design, marketing and exposure, creation of an enabling business environment and mentorship. Others are strategic partnerships, financial access and training and certification services.

The county government has been training and sensitizing critical stakeholders to partner with it in supporting scaling up of enterprises for the mutual benefit of the citizens of Laikipia. This would achieve the fulfilment of the county vision and mission, to be "the Greatest County with the Best Quality of Life", where "Every household in Laikipia County leads a prosperous life".

A perception survey was therefore rolled out as part of the sensitization and training efforts to gauge the understanding and collect the views stakeholder groups. The response was done at the beginning of the training.

"I believe in made in Laikipia".

"I believe in the Quality of the products made in Laikipia[MIL]"



More than 70 percent of those of the participants surveyed are aware about Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development Programme. Only 29.1 percent responded that they were not aware about it.

The participants had heard about the innovation programme through public participation for a, various county government trainings, exhibition and trade fairs in Nyahururu, cooperative development for a, products made in Laikipia, interaction with SME beneficiaries and Governor's forums from as far back as when he was an MP.



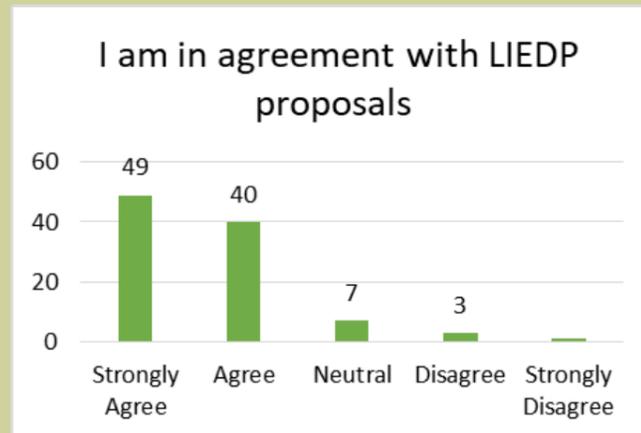
Other sources of information cited included MCAs, pastors' fellowship, peers and

friends, Media (social, radio, television, Laikipia weekly Bulletin and county website) and groups in the Jua Kali sector.

Participants were mostly aligned to strongly agree or agreed in their understanding of what the Jua Kali sector was. There however, no attempt interrogate their understanding, there was however a six percent with neutral response across all cohorts, with a three percent in the Nyahururu cohorts tending towards disagree in their response.

"I am a supporter of vocational/technical training"

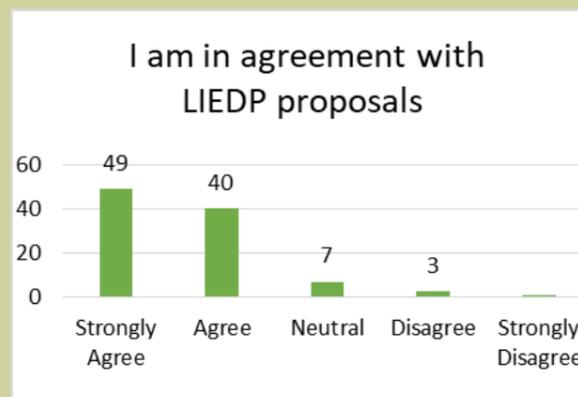
"I would enroll my child into a vocational training/technical centre"



These questions were asked of the participants to ascertain their perceptions of vocational training, in light of the fact that this was one of the key drivers towards positioning production and manufacturing as a key driver of development in Laikipia.

It was clear from the responses that participants, especially the media cohort, were strongly in agreement with the vocational /technology training initiative, and they matched their belief with the corresponding view that they would indeed enroll their children, indicating their alignment with this concept.

"I am in agreement with the proposals of the Laikipia innovation and enterprise development program"



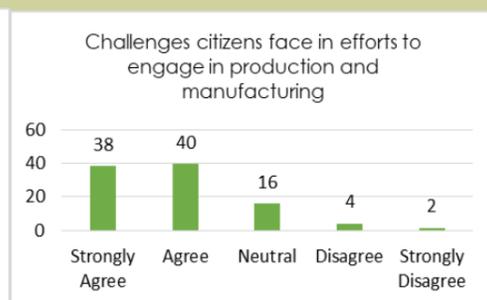
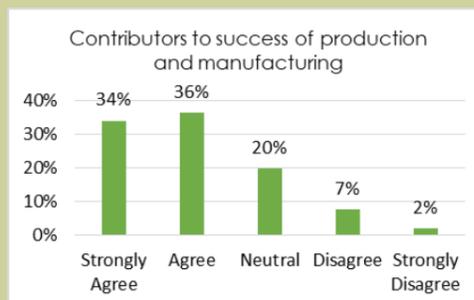
The final query was to find out the view of respondents with regard to the LIEDP, that was launched in the county 24 months ago to position enterprise development, and especially through production and manufacturing, as one of the key enablers of county development going forward.

Respondents were mostly in agreement [SA-49%],A-40%] with the proposed tenets of LIEDP, with a small percent[11%] tending towards neutral and disagreement.

"I am aware /familiar with the

Important contributors towards the success of production and manufacturing in Laikipia

Challenges faced by citizens in the effort to engage in production and manufacturing"



From political promises to action.....

Tracking Governor Ndiritu Muriithi's Election Manifesto

The Governor's manifesto was incorporated in the county's development masterplan, the CIDP, immediately after the election.

The CIDP seeks to fulfil the pledges made ahead of the 2017 General Election.

The Manifesto was anchored on 12 pillars that included (i) Proper Governance and Accountability, (ii) Job Creation: 30,000 Jobs, (iii) Farming Becomes a profitable business, (iv) Access to clean and Reliable water, (v) Access to Quality and Affordable Health Care, (vi) Employable youths and Entrepreneurship, (vii) Opportunities and Talent Development for young people, (viii) Protection of Life and Property, (ix) Light-up of homes and Markets, (x) Upgrade of roads and Building bridges, (xi) Develop Smart and Green Towns, and (xii) Destination Laikipia.

Beginning with this issue, and in the subsequent ones, we will be doing a critical analysis of the progress made in regard to each pillar.

(i) Proper governance and accountability

The County Government of Laikipia is citizen oriented. It has established a vibrant public participation office that ensures that critical decisions such as budgeting process, are through citizen involvement. The directorate of public participation had conducted more than 350 meetings with citizens across the county-with over 51,000 citizens participating.

The engagements help in prioritizing what

the residents want to avoid investment in expensive structures only to lie idle.

A new county organization structure is in place for proper governance, geared towards personal development and responsibility for better service delivery.

The government has also maintained a transparent governance by ensuring timely preparation of financial documents and making the public by uploading in the county website.

Over the past years, there has been a 100 % transition to E- procurement and compliance with procurement procedures and regulations every. The procedures help in controlling wastage and buying only the required equipment with transparency for auditing.

COMS is the county's core operating system. Revenue collection has been automated as part of e-government systems to improve on service delivery

The county is now consistent in producing statistical abstracts which help in informed and evidence-based decision making. The document is also an important guide to investors Production of the fourth annual statistical abstract is at an advanced stage.

Reforms

After his election, the Governor embarked on reforming the county public service with an aim of making it more productive and world-class. The staff are on performance based contracts.

Staff Performance Appraisals are done bi-



annually. Spot awards have been introduced for exemplary performers. Meetings start at their set time. It's compulsory for the county government staff to wear identification badges. The staff present annual work plans which are related to the departmental work plan which in turn is a portion of CIDP.

The county staff are required to fill time-sheets capturing their daily activities towards the achievement of the CIDP.

Numerous training take place at different levels of government to ensure every staff duties align with the current needs.

Ward offices

The government has also further devolved administrative responsibilities to help the ones residing in the remotest places of the county to access government services. Construction of ward offices is complete in Sorian and Umande wards.

In Mukogondo East, the construction of the offices is ongoing. The County Headquarters offices in Rumuruti are undergoing final touches.

As a result of the good governance, more than 36 counties have been sending representatives to benchmark with Laikipia with some visiting more than once.

Right: Governor Ndiritu Muriithi consults with staff from Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries at a field site



Enjore's Motorized Bicycle A Sensation in Rumuruti



Motorized bicycle at Rumuruti Investment Forum

By Jackline Wangari

Having never stepped into a classroom in his life, has not deterred Dominic Enjore to become innovative.

But this has not blinded him from pursuing his dream and vision of changing the world through innovation.

In 2014 he harboured a desire to help people with disabilities with an inexpensive vehicle that could ease their mobility from one point to another. The idea crystalized into a motorized bicycle this year.

Even if he did not achieve his initial intention of a four wheeler cycle, he says that the encounter with physically disabled people has

been a motivating factor.

"It became difficult to achieve that but I never gave up and eventually I came up with the ideas of a bicycle with an engine," Enjore says.

The engine mounted on the bicycle comes from old scooters which he buys from various dealers at a cost of Ksh 8,000- Ksh 10,000. He then buys metal from dealers and assembles them to fit his unique design of the bicycle.

The motorized bicycle has elicited interest from the residents as it passes through the town.

It was exhibited at the inaugural Rumuruti Investment Forum. The forum showcased business opportunities in Laikipia.

He says that expectations after the investment

forum is to receive an order for the motorized bicycle and be able to make more of them.

The bicycle is cheaper to use for long distance as the petrol engine require little fuel to cover the distance. Enjore says that he usually spends Ksh 150 to travel from Rumuruti to Sipili and back a distance of 36 Km.

Rumuruti municipal youth Leader, Sammy Edupu says that Enjore has become a sensational name in the area due to his innovation and it will play a huge role of encouraging other young people in the area to believe in themselves.

He adds that Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development Programme will help individuals like Enjore to become more successful in their venture. The program supports innovation in the county financial and market linkages, product positioning as well as development.



Governor Signs Finance Act 2020



Governor Ndiritu Muriithi assented to Laikipia County Finance Act 2020 last week after the County Assembly passed . The

Act will guide the county on matter revenue collection.

This is important as it will help the government in budget process as the law that will backup revenue collection.

The Governor noted that Laikipians were involved in the formulation of this legislation as the consent of the governed is very important in all processes.

"This is what we aspire to do as government," added the Governor.

The Act outlines the sectors of the economy which the government will be targeting and the amount payable in form of taxes, levies and fees.

Of important to note is that the finance act 2020 has lowered the fee for businesses in the county to mitigate the effects of covid-19 pandemic.

"We have lowered the license fee from Ksh 2,500 to Ksh 2,000 and there is nowhere we have increase," CEC Finance Murungi Ndai said.

He added that county will be taking over collection of library fee from the national government as that function belong to the devolved units.

By Nahashon Maina

Development of water and natural resources will be undertaking desilting of Lobere dam in Githiga ward to improve provision of the commodity to the residents.

The government is taking step to invest in expansion of dams in the county and installation of irrigation infrastructure.

The ward has huge potential in tomato farming and the government is keen to ensure that there is adequate water for irrigation. Githiga ward produces about 1200 tons of tomatoes every year earning the residents approximately Ksh 28m.

This will motivate the residents to produce more of the commodity. This is one of the initiatives of the government in ensuring that Laikipia is food secure and their livelihood is improved.

“Our approach is to ensure that where we can harvest water, we do

that and enable wananchi to have it adequately and produce,” CEC water Njenga Kahiro

He added that people have desire to irrigate but inadequate water is hindering that. The department want to have an intervention in water for production in Githiga ward.

Mr. Kahiro adds that three years ago, about 3000 acres of land was under irrigation in the county and right now it has jumped up to around 10,000 acres. He says that the ambition of the government is to achieve 50000 acres in the county.

The work on Lobere dam will also create employment opportunities to the youth during the implementation stage of desilting and spillway work and employ 10 skilled workers after the completion of the project. It will also help in 29% reduction cost of water for irrigation and achieve nine-fold increase in revenue

Director Water Services, June Kawira said



Desilting of Lobere Dam Will Enhance Tomato Production in Githiga Ward

that Lobere dam serves about 2,000 residents of Githiga ward whose main agricultural activity is tomato farming.

She said that the project will look into ways of rehabilitating the dams to increase the water capacity enough to undertake large scale farming in the area. The spillway of the dams will also be improved to prevent flooding in the locality during long rain season.

“We want to have a good and improved reticulation of water to the residents,” said Director Kawira.

It is intended to also reduce the cost of water to the residents of Githiga by introducing efficient ways of water use and irrigation system.

The government is also opening up transport corridors across Githiga to enhance connectivity. This will create a good linkage between farmers and the market in

order to ensure they access market with ease. The county leasing Program intended to Achieve all weather roads in the county to reduce the travel time and enable faster movement of perishable produces such as tomatoes from farms. Transport infrastructure is a key enabler of the economy takeoff.

With a robust transport network, the residents of Githiga ward will be able to engage in tomato farming with assurance of faster evacuation of their produce in all seasons. The county leasing of road construction equipment strategy target a minimum of 1,000 km of agricultural roads in the county.

The roads will also help in accessing the dam. Gachemi-Murange road has been graded using the leased construction equipment. Githiga Mca/Majority leader Peter Thomi said that the work on the roads will help farmers. He added that as leaders, their work is to deliver on the mandate to the residents.



Gachemi-Murange road in Lobere, Githiga ward (Graded)



Laikipia Participates in Violent Extremism Training

By Bernard Matu

Laikipia was represented in a two-week training on preventing violent extremism. John Lemuna-Director Security and the Benard Matu cybersecurity officer from ICT directorate represented the county to become the trainer of trainees.

The training brought together 37 civil servants from North Eastern, Coast, Nairobi, border western counties and staff from national government, youth and gender to learn on measures of keeping safe.

The inaugural security course was conducted by security management institute in conjunction with national counter terrorism center, CSOs and KSG between 8th and 19th March 2021.

The aim of the course was to help learners unlearn, learn and re-learn on what they knew of terrorism, radicalization, Islam and ideologies. Some of the course units taught were; preventive security, terrorism financing, radicalization, impacts of violent extremism and psychology of terrorism.



It has been realized that there are now new frontiers due to counter-terrorism initiatives in traditional hotspots of Nairobi, Coast and North Eastern. Today, recruitment is happening deep in Nyanza, Western, Central, Rift Valley & other Kenyan regions.

Also, tactics have changed that a typical extremist today not necessarily a male Muslim Youth. Online Violent Extremists have their propaganda permeated on social media and

Techno-savvy (digital) as youth spend huge time on social media networks.

Social media environment facilitates radicalization processes whereby extremists share information. Therefore, many practitioners and policy makers who are “Analogue Generation” - may miss out numerous online red flags.

Ground shifting to target recruits who are well-educated university, college students from well-off backgrounds.

Reconstruction of Laikipia Urban Centres Continues



Ongoing roadworks in Nyahururu and Rumuruti towns as the government strives to make Laikipia urban centres smart, attractive, habitable and business friendly for increased productivity

Integrating Geospatial Technologies In Development Processes



Staff members from Infrastructure department during a GIS training

By Nice Nguru

The County Government of Laikipia has adopted an evidence-based approach in the development process. Collection and analysis of data on various aspects is at the core of this approach. This has been reinforced by documentation and dissemination of the growth trends through periodic publications such as the annual Laikipia County Statistical Abstract. The integration of Geospatial technologies (GIS) in this approach will play an instrumental role in strengthening this approach by providing a spatial facet. The County Government of Laikipia has made tremendous steps

in the use of Geographical Information Systems in data management and decision-making. With support from Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Laikipia County GIS Lab was established in 2019 and domiciled within the Department of Infrastructure, Land, Energy, and Physical Planning. The Lab is well equipped with requisite hardware, software, and human resource. Presently, the main activity has been the digitization of cadastral maps. These are the maps containing all the land parcels in the county. The activity is being undertaken in collaboration with Survey of Kenya as part of the development of the Laikipia County Spatial Plan. About 20% of the cadastral maps have been digitized. The output of the

activity will be a digital land record known as Land Information Management System (LIMS). Other non-spatial data such as land owner, plot number, size, and current use will be included. The system will be used to enhance aspects such as land use planning, development approval, tracking payment of permits and rates, siting of projects, and support management of land related disputes. Another key activity has been the collation of thematic data from various departments like health, education and social services, agriculture, livestock and fisheries with the aim of enriching/developing a database for the County. Recently, over 100 staff from various departments and five sub-counties were trained on data collection using smart phone applications. The collected information will be received and stored in the server for analysis and retrieval when required. It is anticipated that this will activate continuous collection of up-to-date graphic and textual data, which will be relied upon in making key decisions as well as report on socio-economic growth trends. Additionally, all projects being undertaken by the County Government of Laikipia will be mapped through this strategy. This will allow for real time viewing of these projects and their distribution on geospatial platforms by citizens. The use of GIS as a tool in determining and addressing development needs is expected to further enhance efficiency and bridge the gap between the current situation and desired future.

Mugumo, Kalalu Markets Have Business Opportunities for Traders From Far



By David Kamwveru, Umande Ward

Until a regular market day was established two months, few people would have pointed out the location Mugumo trading centres in Laikipia's Umande ward. But the introduction of a market day is changing the fortune of hitherto nondescript shops on slopes of Daiga Hills. Lorries have been coming all the way from Meru, Murang'a, Othaya and Karatina to bring bananas and other types of fruits. Business has been good. The Market day has attracted many investors as well as traders. Due to limited space, traders use unoccupied spaces to display their merchandise. The county administration is currently in consultation with other leaders and stakeholders with a view to establishing a livestock market/Auction. We have a meeting with all the brokers on Tuesday next week so as to assist in mapping the way forward. The progress is commendable. Umande MCA Daniel Mugweru and the Laikipia East Sub County Admin have been of great support and encouragement to the same. The area residents are really impressed with the progress of the market. They are requesting for Street/Security light to enable them extend business hours. The county government has already provided water and provided six toilets and a dispensary. It will light up the market. Kalalu Market started one month ago. The structures have been there but not operational. Now it's operating every Thursday and Sunday.

