



Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

**WEEKLY
BULLETIN**

Laikipia Citizens, MCAs Welcome Economic Stimulus Budget

**Coronavirus
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Finance CEEM, Murungi Ndai presents 2020/2021 financial estimates to a multi-stakeholders forum on June 18, 2020

Laikipia's 2020/2021 budget which is more focused on economic recovery after the ravages of Covid-19 has won praise from citizens of different walks of life.

The budget focuses a number of areas with an intention of stimulating the local economy which has been badly battered by the pandemic.

Some of the areas targeted to jump start the local economy are retail, tourism, agriculture/ horticulture and mining.

Laikipia business community, MCAs and citizens welcomed the budget with many of them terming as quite innovative.

The business community has welcomed the county government's focus to revive the economy which is almost on its knees due to Covid-19.

"The idea of providing cheap credit for local small and medium businesses is very much welcome and we thank the government for its," said the Laikipia chairman of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mr Ndegwa Gitonga.

Nominated MCA Chris Mark said the budget will go a long way in supporting and cushioning the youth against the devastating effects of Covid-19.

Health and medical services take up the biggest chunk of the economic stimulus package, with Kshs. 721.3 million shillings going into partial equipping of two Mother and Child Hospitals in Nanyuki and Nyahururu, NHIF subsidy to the vulnerable, community health workers among other areas.

About Kshs 402.6 million has been earmarked to boost farmers and pastoralists improve the production of crops and livestock. This will go into the purchase of farm inputs such as certified seeds and fertilizers, extension services and market creation, with additional projects in irrigation development and management.

Kshs. 34 million will go into livestock development, with improved livestock breeds, extension and vaccination services, while market development will take Kshs. 21.3 million. The remaining goes into the development of feedlots for sustainable beef production.

Over 5,000 business people, will get support from Trade and Enterprise Development budget of Kshs. 259.8 million. Kshs. 184.3 million will be used to support the entrepreneurs, cooperatives and tourism support, MSME trainings and the construction of Thingithu Market. Kshs. 58.6 will go into manufacturing support programme, mining and Vocational Training Institution Fund, with Kshs. 59.59 million going into efforts to revive the tourism sector.

The Laikipia Innovation Development Programme, which has been instrumental in plugging shortage of essential supplies during Covid-19, is set to receive set to receive Kshs. 30 million.

Major winners in the budget are second-hand clothes retailers in laikipia's urban centres who suffered losses after closing down their businesses following the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic.

Their businesses will need a bit of boost to start all over again and this year's budget is intended to achieve that.

Kshs. 2 Billion Laikipia-KCB Deal To Boost SMEs' Recovery

Further to having a budget that focuses on economic revival, the county government has secured a Kshs. 2.1 billion lending scheme with KCB Group to enable small businesses recover from the impact of Covid-19 crisis.

Last week, the two institutions signed an agreement that will avail the Kshs, 2.1 billion in subsidized loans to Laikipia micro, small and medium enterprises. The landmark agreement is a strategic financial partnership that will provide working capital to over 5,000 Laikipia enterprises, as the county explores innovative solution that achieve speedy recovery of businesses following the devastating effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"By providing loans to small businesses, we will be promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth and employment during this crisis," Governor Ndiritu Muriithi said.

The deal is part of other partnerships the government is exploring with other banks to avail credit to businesses, a step that will strengthen economic resilience by building a strong cash flow faster.

The step is a deliberate move to drastically cut down the time it would take for businesses to rebuild steady cash flow on their own.

Under the partnership, traders can borrow from as little as Kshs. 5,000 to Kshs. 2 million depending on the size of the enterprise, to be repaid between 12



The signing of the partnership that will avail Kshs. 2.1 billion in credit for at least 5,000 Laikipia businesses

and 24 months.

The County Government steps in to lower the interest for the businesses by paying five percent of the 12 per cent accrued interest, with the business owners expected to pay the remaining amount. The facility is expected to benefit and livestock and agribusinesses, the largest contributor the

Gross County Product standing at 60 per cent.

The initiative will benefit 300 businesses per ward on an average of Ksh. 100 million in each ward. The county government has embarked on the training of over 200 officials who will be out to guide entrepreneurs through business planning, product

Government Allocates Kshs. 46 million to improve Thingithu Market

The County Government has set aside Ksh. 46 million in the next financial year to upgrade Thingithu market within Nanyuki Town. It is part of the government's stimulus package plan in trade and enterprises to facilitate faster recovery of small businesses following the devastating economic effects of Covid-19. The improvement of Thingithu Market is part of the government's strategy to improve the business environments under the Smart Towns Initiative. The upgrade of the market is set to promote commerce as traders and consumers transact in an improved market environment. Thingithu market upgrade is set to complete the last link as the market is already connected to the Nanyuki town by a network of new roads. The recent completion of an extensive parking yard is set to improve the market's access to motorists, further spicing up trade. The parking yard is constructed using the durable cobble stones technology.

From estimates; the market will provide 500 more direct opportunities and over 2,500 indirect opportunities besides more revenue to the existing trad-



Traders at Nanyuki Open Air (Thingithu) Market

ers. The county will also benefit from more revenues due to increased trading activities. Traders are expected to enjoy a fairly good trading environment considering that a number of improvements have been instituted within the market including construction of 3 sheds, cabro paving and murraming of open spaces, drainage works and improved sanitation after construction of a new toilet and renovation of the existing one. The market is currently being served by four toilets.

Besides, the traders will enjoy a relatively secure environment following the mounting of lockable gates and improved lighting system. More jobs will be created, which in return, will lead to more wealth creation for the market users. The direct jobs created from the operationalization of the market in October 2018 are estimated at 2,500, while indirect jobs are estimated at 5,000.

Strengthening Agriculture to Better Livelihoods

Agriculture alone contributes 60 per cent of Laikipia's Gross County Product. This means the largest population in Laikipia County depends on agriculture for livelihoods. It is the reason why the county government has allocated millions to continue boosting profitable agriculture.

In the 2020/21 budget estimate proposal, Kenya Cli-

mate Smart Agriculture has been allocated 236.1 million. The projects under this programme are aimed at increasing agricultural productivity and building resilience to climate change risks in the targeted smallholder farming and pastoral communities.

At least 12,638 people in six wards are benefiting from the programme, with the numbers projected to rise in future.

In a bid to provide water for crop and livestock production, Ksh121m has been set aside to benefit more than 12,000 households in Githiga, Mukogodo East and West wards. This has been made possible through such projects as Kinamba Water Project and Makurian Water project. The two projects which are ongoing will get an additional of 120m to be fully complete.

To boost irrigation activities, Ksh33.8 m will be directed towards development of water pans,

irrigation dams and equipment of the same. The aim is to promote water harvesting to make good use of the water from the scarce rains. There being a large population of livestock farmers in the county, Ksh. 21.4m will go into supply of improved livestock breeds, provision of extension and vaccination services and ensuring sustained market developments for the same. Already the county has started free livestock vaccination to minimize deaths though the Free Vaccination Campaign. KSh 13m has been set aside for feedlots development for sustainable beef production. In crop production, the county is investing in purchase of quality fertilizers and certified seeds, offering of extension services and market creation at an amount of Ksh. 30 m.

Kshs. 10 million to Support Artisanal mining



Laikipia County Government has set the exploitation of its mineral wealth within sight after it allocated Ksh. 10 million to kick start artisanal mining.

The amount is set aside in the budget for the financial year 2020-21, which has been tailored specifically to help the local economy get back on its feet following the devastating impact of Covid-19.

The amount will go into financing operations in mining, which has been identified as a priority sector key to swift economic rebound.

The allocation is targeted support investment in exploration, mining initiatives and development.

"The county government will encourage artisanal mining as a way to start the extraction," the CEC for Finance Murungi Ndai said.

In February 2020, Laikipia shared its report on mineral findings with investors and stakeholders during the inaugural Laikipia Mining Conference. The report detailed the findings of iron and at least 14 other minerals in Laikipia whose exploitation is set to transform the social economic status of the residents.

Commercial exploitation of iron ore, for instance, is expected to hasten the county's pace towards manufacturing, the ultimate source of sustainable job market.

Kshs. 40 Million Civil Works Programme to Cushion Youth from Covid-19 Effects

Laikipia has allocated Kshs. 40 million to engage 2,000 youths on a civil works programme, as the county ramps up its efforts to hasten the economic recovery following the devastation by Covid-19 pandemic.

About 2,000 youths across the county are set to benefit from the programme whose piloting has started in Igwamiti Ward and is expected to be rolled out across the wards.

The move marks a major step in alleviating the impact of job losses on the youthful population in the county, a development that is set to inject a fresh approach on youth empowerment.

Governor Ndiritu Muriithi, in his address to stakeholders engagement on the proposed financial

estimates for 2020/2021, expressed optimism that the youth are capable of delivering quality civil works such as culverts and other drainage works, beyond the ordinary engagements in lighter duties such as bush clearing on road sides.

"The youths have demonstrated their ability to deliver quality projects in the construction of Pesi-Salama-Gatundia Road under the Roads Programme 2000," Governor Muriithi said, adding that the youth are proving their expertise in managing remarkable road projects under the county equipment leasing programme.

Nominated MCA Chris Mark led other MCAs in appreciating the programme saying it will create employment to the youth and cushion them against adverse effect of Covid-19 pandemic.



Youths rehabilitating road in Nyahururu, Igwamiti Ward under the civil works programme

NTRH Critical Care Unit Now Operational With Five Ventilators



The new ICU unit at Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital. A similar unit is coming up in Nyahururu County Referral Hospital

The critical care unit at Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital is now operational after the arrival of five ventilators last week.

Installation of a similar number of ventilators is in progress at the Nyahururu County Referral Hospital which will bring to ten the number of ICU beds in the two main public hospital in the county. The NTRH ICU, together with a 12-bed high dependency unit is set to address the needs of patients in need of critical care.

Equipping of the critical care unit of Nyahururu County Referral Hospital is set to be done next week. with the hospital set to hold five ICU beds that will bring the county's total ICU capacity to 10 beds. The move marks a major turning point in the county government's preparedness in response to the health crisis caused by Covid-19. Ventilators are the most sort-after equipment in the world today due to Covid-19 pandemic. The machines helps patients in critical condition to breath.

Acquiring the five ventilators has demonstrated how Laikipia is keeping its citizens life as a priority while aiming at achieving universal healthcare. The five machines at the critical care unit are mov-

able, thereby making it possible for critical care patient to be moved from a facility to another. It is part of the plan by the County government to intensify preparedness to fight Covid-19, where the county is currently expanding its isolation capacity to 328 beds. The government has engaged Nanyuki Vocational Training Centre to supply the hospital beds currently made at the institution. The centre supplies 40 beds per week to the NTRH Annex isolation centre. The expansion of the isolation capacity and the heightened screening of passengers are expected to contain a possible outbreak in the event the existing restriction of movement is lifted.

Laikipia Introduces Phone App in Covid-19 Screening



One of the screening points in Laikipia. The county has digitized data collection

Laikipia looks for better methods of capturing data on those who enter the county through various boarder points after shifting from manual to digital data collection.

The mobile phone application *Coronavirus Track APP* has replaced the tiresome use of pen and paper for passenger manifest at every entry to the county, a pioneer action from Laikipia.

Laikipia was the first in the 47 counties to start screening for the basic Covid-19 symptoms- temperature taking. Others have since followed suit to ensure to importation of the deadly virus into their counties.

With the Coronavirus Track APP, that other counties are encouraged to embrace as well,

contact tracing is eased in case need arises to do so. It has also reduced on the time taken to capture the name, phone number, car one is using and the temperature of an individual. This has greatly saved on time taken for a person to reach their destination. In addition to what was previously captured manually, the App has come up with a position of indicating individuals' next of kin, further making tracking more effective. Use of this mobile application began on mid-June and has been productive with users applauding the county Health Department and directorate of ICT for making their work easier and increasing efficiency. So far at least there have been around 800,000 since the program started in mid-March.

How Water for Production Will Change Laikipia Residents



Kariunga Dam (left) in Laikipia North, is key in provision of water for production (inset) Nganoini water Project, Salama ward will transform lives in the semi-arid ward



By John Muriithi

Over the last three years, the government has been delivering water to Laikipia citizens through numerous projects. The county has made remarkable progress in harnessing of water for agricultural production and domestic use. Concerted efforts have gone into borehole drilling and equipping, as the construction of dams and water pans promote water harvesting for irrigation use.

Bigger projects like Solio water project are in the home stretch with 2,000 households with an average of five people each expected to benefit. Kinamba and Makurian are also in progress.

While the Government seems to be fulfilling its part of the bargain with the residents, the big question is how the beneficiary citizens are taking advantage of the development to better their lives.

Once the government develops an infrastructure, its incumbent upon the citizens to play their part by utilizing it to bring transform their lives by increasing their productivity.

The following are some of water projects across the county:

Dams

Kariguini Dam in Ngobit ward, with a capacity of 20,000 cubic metres, is fully functional after rehabilitation work. It is providing water for livestock, domestic and irrigation to at least 2,000 households. In Mukogodo West, over 300 families are now drawing water from the recently rehabilitated Loshaki Dam. It has a capacity of 15,000m³. A minimum of 10,000 livestock also benefit from this dam. Mukuri dam spill way in Nanyuki ward is also complete and functional.

Water pans

The department has also invested in construction of household water pans which are mainly used for irrigation purposes. Nturukuma Household Water Pans in Nanyuki Ward, has been of great benefit to farmers in the region. There are 20 water pans under this project, each having a capacity of 530m³. At Iriuko Farmers Household Water Pans, 13 water pans are fully complete and functional. Farmers are can now irrigate from each with a capacity of 530 cubic metres.

Musul Household Water Pans is another project that has drastically changed the lives of Laikipians. It houses 13 water pans which are found in Mukogodo West ward each holding 530 cubic metres of water.

Equipped Boreholes

Machunguru in Rumuruti, Tetu in Umande, Murungai and Endana Community Boreholes in Segera are now operational after being equipped.

Work is in progress to equip the following eight existing boreholes; Endana, Mwiyo, Ethi, Ontulili, Arjijo, Nyakinyua, Daiga and Nyariginu. These boreholes support 3,000 families each.

Drilled Boreholes Awaiting Equipment

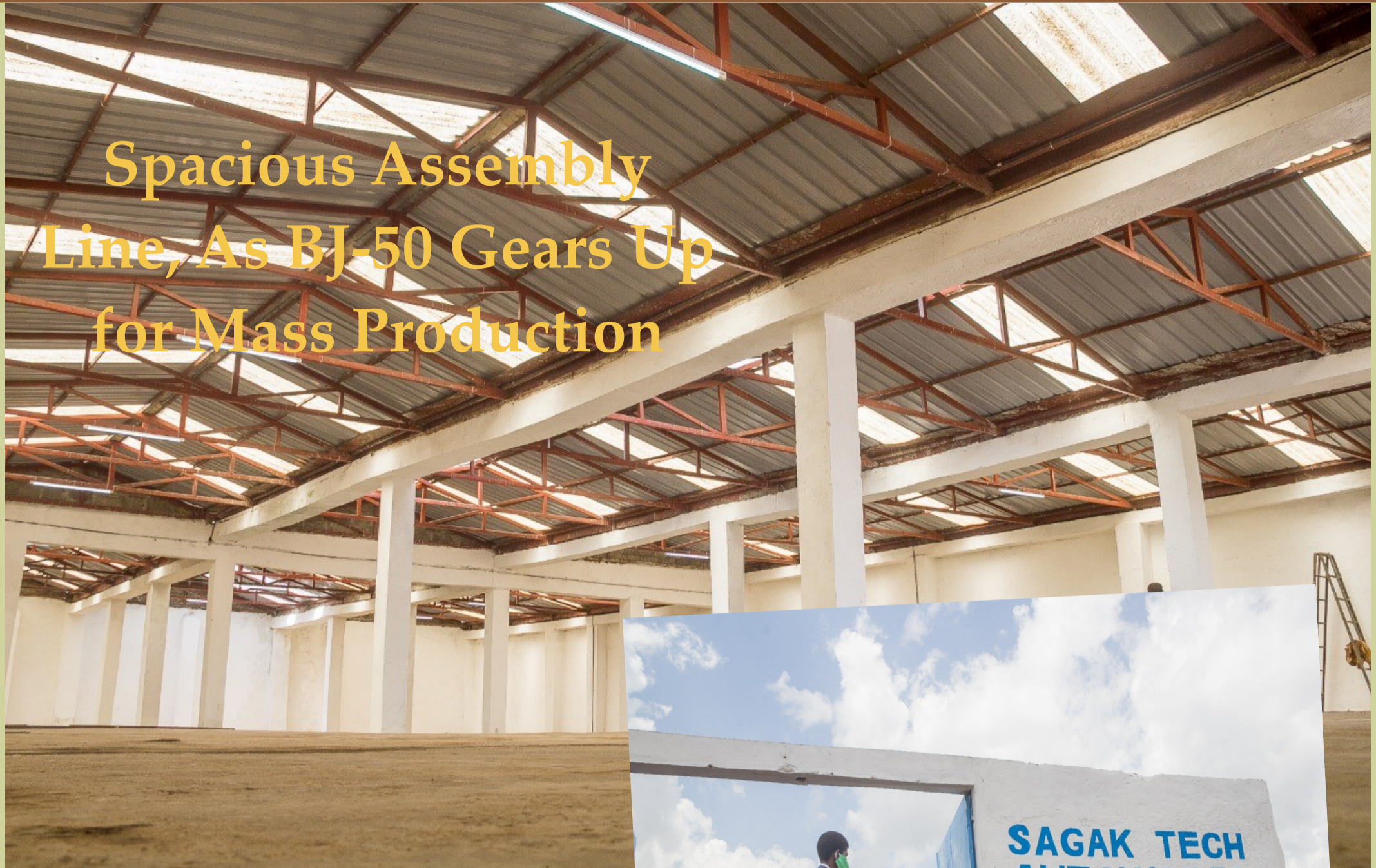
Mlima Meza borehole in Olmorani ward is complete and equipping is ongoing. Yard primary borehole (Thingithu), Reli B borehole (Thingithu), Nguo borehole (Salama), Kaharati borehole (Olmorani), Mutara borehole (Salama), Mutamaiyu borehole (Marmanet), Ainabmoi borehole (Rumuruti), Bustani primary borehole (Githiga), Majani Gatitu Borehole (Marmanet) and Kaiti Borehole (Igwaimiti). Equipping will be done in the next financial year.

Ongoing Drilling and Equipping Of Boreholes

Drilling and equipping of the following new boreholes is ongoing; Mwiyo Borehole in Tigithi ward, Sirat Primary School (Segera), Daiga primary Borehole in Umande, Mukuri borehole in Nanyuki, Ethi Secondary community b/h in Mukogodo East, Olmunichoi borehole Mukogodo West and Kurum borehole in Mukogodo West. They are expected to be complete soon.

Repair and servicing of three boreholes is already complete. They are Sipili School of the deaf, Ilpolei and Doldol 3. Efforts to repair and service Tandare borehole are ongoing. Springs have also not been left behind as a source of water in the county. Rehabilitation of Kandoro Springs in Salama ward is complete. At least 300 households are benefitting from the springs. The department has also embarked on emergency repairs of six dams during the rainy season by providing extra spillway and drainages. They are distributed as follows Solio 7, Gatirima, Kanyuka, Wangwaci, Ndindika and Lobere dams. Other ongoing projects aimed at ensuring availability of clean water for usage especially in times of low rainfalls include construction of a masonry storage water tank in each of the following areas Mikubune, Jikaze, Chumvi and Salama.

Spacious Assembly Line, As BJ-50 Gears Up for Mass Production



Sagak Tech Automobiles, the enterprise behind BJ-50, will be moving into this new production unit as it gears for mass production



Production of Laikipia-made car, BJ-50 is moving to a new and spacious assembly line following its approval by the country's premier standards body, the Kenya Bureau of Standards.

Sagak Tech Automobiles, the Nyahururu-based car maker is readying to move from the current garage into an expansive complex that is set to house the new factory, as it gears up for mass production.

Its targets to produce 2,000 units of the four-wheeler Tuk-tuks, with its eyes firmly cast on the Kshs. 2.1 trillion Central Region Economic Bloc (Cereb) that brings together 10 counties.

A recent breakthrough saw the certification of the four-wheeler tuktuk by the Kebs, having passed all the tests done by the agency's technical team.

The car is in the final steps of being issued with the number plate, a step that will see the car officially hit the road. On completion, the factory will 10 cars roll off its assembly line per day, creating tens of jobs directly and indirectly along the supply chain.

A number of firms in Nyahururu have been sub-contracted in the manufacture of BJ-50, creating the foundation for a sustainable business model that will create other jobs for various levels of skills. Nyahururu VTC, for instance, produces and supplies nuts

and bolts used in the production of BJ 50.

The national government has set aside Kshs. 600 million to purchase locally manufactured cars in the economic stimulus programme.



The first two units of the Laikipia Car, BJ-50

Railway Revival Has Exciting Commercial Prospects



After months of intensive restoration work, the Nairobi-Nanyuki railway line is finally roaring back to life.

The passenger train made its maiden inter-stations trips last week, with leaders and members of the public joining the exciting rail ride that started in Nanyuki and made stops at various stations along the route. The rail trip is the first in more than 20 years following the collapse of the services on the route in the 1990s and is expected to bring excitement to hundreds of tourists who are expected to board the train for a

nostalgic cruise between Nairobi and Nanyuki.

The revival of train services marks an exciting turn, as it brings back the convenience of a cheaper and safer alternative to transport agricultural produce, manufactured goods and raw materials.

Railway engineers are currently working on a 200 metre extension of the railway to serve the new Vivo Energy fuel depot in Nanyuki, the largest one outside Nairobi having a storage capacity of 11.5 million litres. As it expands to the north, the railway line set to link southern Kenya to the north, where the government has intensified transformative infrastructural development.

The new rail is expected to revive agriculture in central Kenya, as the convenience in access to the Lappset corridor is set to ease movement of produce to the neighbouring counties to the north.



Laikipia First Lady to Head CFLA



Laikipia First Lady Maria Mbeneka has been elected chairperson of County First Ladies Association (CFLA).

She took over from her Makueni counterpart Nazi Kivutha at a virtual annual general meeting held in May this year. She is also the Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA) member and representative for East Africa and Seychelles.

The association been tackling diverse issues among them teenage pregnancies. The first Lady takes over the association leadership at a time when there is concern over surging numbers of teenage pregnancies in the country.

"It is shameful that as a society, the first blame is being channeled towards the girl child. But there is little or no emphasis given towards educating the boy child who also have a part to play. This is a wakeup call to all of us as Kenyans to deal with these cases decisively," Ms Mbeneka says.

First Lady Launches 'HONGERA MAMA KIT'



The Hongera MAMA KIT is an initiative by County Government of Laikipia directed towards providing an incentive for mothers to deliver their babies in health facilities. Therefore ensuring efforts geared towards achieving better health care for the people of Laikipia in line with the Governor Ndiritu Muriithi's pillar on access to universal health.

MAMA Kits will also lead to more skilled deliveries, reduced infant and maternal mortality as envisioned in the Laikipia County EMTCT Business plan 2018 -2020. MAMA Kits are designed to help expectant mothers deliver their babies with professional medical assistance before during and after child birth.



H.E. Governor Ndiritu Muriithi and Thingithu MCA Kagonda engage leaders of Nanyuki Mitumba dealers on how to support businesses affected by Covid-19 pandemic and protocols of re-opening the economy.

The county government has come up with a budget that mainly focuses on stimulating the economy back to life

