



Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

**WEEKLY
BULLETIN**



Specialist Doctors, Professionals Join Laikipia Public Service

By Nahashon Maina

Various professionals have joined Laikipia county public service this year to fill skills gap in the organization.

A number of medical specialists have also rejoined the service after completing their advanced studies either locally or abroad. Many of them are now working at Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital (NTRH) and Nyahururu County Referral Hospital (NCRH).

“Some have undergone specialized training on general surgery and our expectation is that they will do specialist surgeries such as endometriosis, surgery of thyroid, prostate, complicated abdominal and chest surgeries,” Chief Officer Medical Services Dr. Donald Mogoi said.

Dr. Ann Gakenia and Dr. Isaac Nakhaima are based at NTRH while Dr. Francis Mungai is at NCRH. For the first time in the county, Nyahururu hospital will be offering ear and throat surgery following the return of Dr Salad Chari, an ENT specialist.

Many ENT patients were being referred outside the county-Nakuru or Nairobi- while others sought the surgery in private hospitals which is expensive. Others who have rejoined the hospitals after completing

their studies are; Dr. AnnCaroline Kendi, a pediatrician at NTRH, Dr. Freda Apiyo, a gynecologist at NTRH, Dr. Mercy Wanjiku an anesthetists and Dr. Geoffrey Nga’ng’a a physician who will be very instrumental to the surgical team at NTRH.

“We also have other specialist in orthopedic surgery, Neurosurgery and internal medicine. These specialists will help us to improve patients’ quality of life and reduce need for referrals outside the county,” Dr. Mogoi said.

The government is seeking to provide high-quality healthcare by ensuring continuous education for healthcare workers to be in tandem with continuously evolving medical technology.

The county will have highly skilled staff, high staff retention, magnificent reputation, optimized financial performance, better patient outcomes.

The county is acquiring high end medical equipment and this team will help the hospitals to run them effectively.

Orthopedic surgery

Six other medical officers are still in school pursuing gynecology, orthopedic surgery or anesthesiology. Among them is Dr. Zainabu Dida in Gynecology and Dr. Martin Kimani in orthopedic surgery.

The biggest number of the professionals have joined the Department of Infrastructure where citizens should expect faster service delivery. Processes like development of spatial plans, digitization of land records, plan approvals, road works under leasing programme are now moving faster.

These include Wilson K. Ruto (assistant Structural Engineer2), Betty Wanjiku Mwangi (plant Operator), Michael Midenyo (physical planner), Samule Dunda (quantity surveyor assistant), Wafula Benjamin (plant operator), David Thuita (land surveyor), Samuel Kareria (land surveyor2), Rose muthoni (quantity survey assistant), Alex Karari (Assistant Engineer), Richard Muchoki (physical planner), Grace Sampao (assistant architect), Daniel Sinet (Inspector, electrical), Esther Mathenge (administrative officer), Mercellus Maina (Inspector, Mechanical), Michael Lesuuda (plant operator), Chris Kimanga Ndung’u (director, Mining and Energy), Caleb Khabelwa (assistant quantity surveyor), John Ndwiga (Inspector, Mechanical), Kimeu Muli (assistant quantity surveyor) and Dennis Kip-limo (assistant quantity surveyor).

Engineers Dorcas Korir and Duncan Mwangi joined the department as chief officers while Engineer June Kawira-Opot joined Water Department, as a director.

Small Discipline, Consistency Lead to Great Achievement

With advent of devolution the actual role of spouses of county governors was a bit hazy to the citizens. But the confusion is now over and the County First Ladies have been quite active in participating in development especially in matters health through the County First Ladies Association (CFLA).

Specifically, they have waged a major war against cancer by setting up EMPOWER cancer clinics across the country. We talked to the current CFLA chair who is our very own County First Lady **Maria Mbeneka** (pictured) on the war against cancer, maternal health and general development in Laikipia

1. What is the role of County First Ladies in the development of their respective counties?

The County First Ladies Association is an organization that was set up in 2014 by the spouses of the first cohort of Governors in Kenya. It is a not-for-profit organization which has programmes centered on the thematic areas of health, women, youth and children improved livelihoods and empowerment through advocacy, establishment and implementation of programmes. The name CFLA was adopted in 2014 since it was suited to the situation at the time where all the elected Governors were male. It is apparent however that this has since changed with the election of female Governors hence the inevitable adoption of the name County First Spouses Association which will be formally adopted at our annual general meeting this year. Each County First Lady has programmes that have an impact in their specific county. However, as an association we have several programmes which we have embarked on such Menstrual Hygiene (MHeM)-with a focus of menstrual health, sexual reproductive health for both girls and boys, mentorship and Water Health and Sanitation(WASH). The Empower Cancer Clinics, Nutrition Advocacy, Clean Energy, Waste Management and Women and Youth Enterprise.

2. The County First Ladies Association (CFLA) has been establishing cancer clinics in various counties. Why cancer clinics and not other diseases? How far are you in this initiative and where do you want to be?

Cancer has in the recent past gained prominence as a killer disease with little or no medical intervention attributed to either lack of awareness, lack of or late screening, poor management of the patients especially psychosocial support. In Kenya according to the Kenya Cancer Policy Cancer is the second leading cause of non-communicable disease deaths. In 2018 Kenya had an estimated 47,887 new cases of cancer out of which 32,987 deaths were reported. The leading types of cancer affecting men are prostate, esophageal and colorectal while among women it is breast, cervical and esophageal cancer while among children leukemia, Non-Hodgins lymphoma, kidney, brain cancer are more common. As CFLA we have successfully implemented with the help of our partners Roche, International Cancer Institute, Africa Cancer Foundation, Women 4 Cancer and individual counties the first phase of the project which we started in 2019 targeting 8 counties i.e Kisumu, Meru, Bungoma, Taita Taveta, Makueni, Laikipia, Marsabit and Kakamega. We are set to embark on the second phase of 8 clinics which we hope to complete by 2022.

Hopefully we will get targeted sponsorship that will enable us double the number of existing and phase 2 clinics.

3. The NTRH cancer clinic was among your first initiative after assuming the chairmanship of the CFLA. How significant is it in the Laikipia health strategy?

Yes, coincidentally this happened and it was quite a successful launch which was well received by the people of Laikipia. We have a vibrant Cancer Support Group in Nanyuki that has embraced the clinic fully and we have partnered with the support group in matters nutrition, awareness, advocacy and treatment. This has boosted our outreaches in creating awareness on the importance of early screening and immediate follow up and/or treatment at the clinic which is now offering chemotherapy and

cryotherapy. This means that patients who would ordinarily be referred to other counties or KNH or private hospitals for treatment can now get treatment here in Laikipia. The outreach programme through the Beyond Zero mobile clinic was ramped up from 8 outreaches in 2015 to 75 outreaches in 2019. In 2018 and 2019 we were able to screen 736 patients for cervical cancer out of which we discovered 24 suspicious cases and 1,108 for breast cancer with two referrals for mammogram while 8 men were screened for prostate cancer. Since the Laikipia health strategy is based on Universal Health Care which has the Community Health Volunteers as a critical component of the strategy, screening, preventative health and nutrition inform their role. Therefore, the approach taken by the Empower Cancer Clinic fits into the Laikipia Health Strategy.

4. Where would you like to see the cancer programme by the time your term as the CFLA chair is over?

Ideally in all, at least 30 (remaining) clinics in Kenya, that is in 30 counties.

5. A goat-for-hospital-delivery and Hongera Mama Kit are quite innovative initiatives. How did they come about and what are the successes so far?

The Hongera Mama Kit was an idea I had even before my husband was elected and it was informed by observations I had made over time on the unnecessary maternal and infant mortality cases I had come across in Laikipia. So when H.E. Governor Ndiritu Muriithi assumed office, I embarked together with my team to make the Mama Kit a success. Incidentally the idea had been a Baby Box which is an idea borrowed from Finland. However after a focus group survey of mothers, we came



up with the Mama Kit. The kit consists of a basin and a bag which has slippers, a baby shawl, petroleum jelly, soap, diapers, sanitary towels and a gel for the umbilical cord. The point of the Mama Kit is to act as an incentive to encourage expectant mothers to attend antenatal clinics (a minimum of 4), registration on the Linda Mama NHIF programme and deliver their babies in any of our 69 dispensaries and health centers. The goat for delivery programme also known as (Supen en Ndiritu) is related to the Hongera Mama Kit specifically among the pastoralists and far to reach areas where we have adopted Traditional Birth Attendants as Companions to expectant mothers, encouraging them to attend clinic and subsequently deliver their babies at the dispensary or health center. The Traditional Birth Companion (TBC) would ordinarily get a goat from the family of the expectant mother after a successful delivery and we saw it necessary to reward the TBC with a goat for every delivery by a mother brought by a TBC to deliver her baby at our health facilities.

5. As the CFLA where would you like to see Laikipia in the next five years?

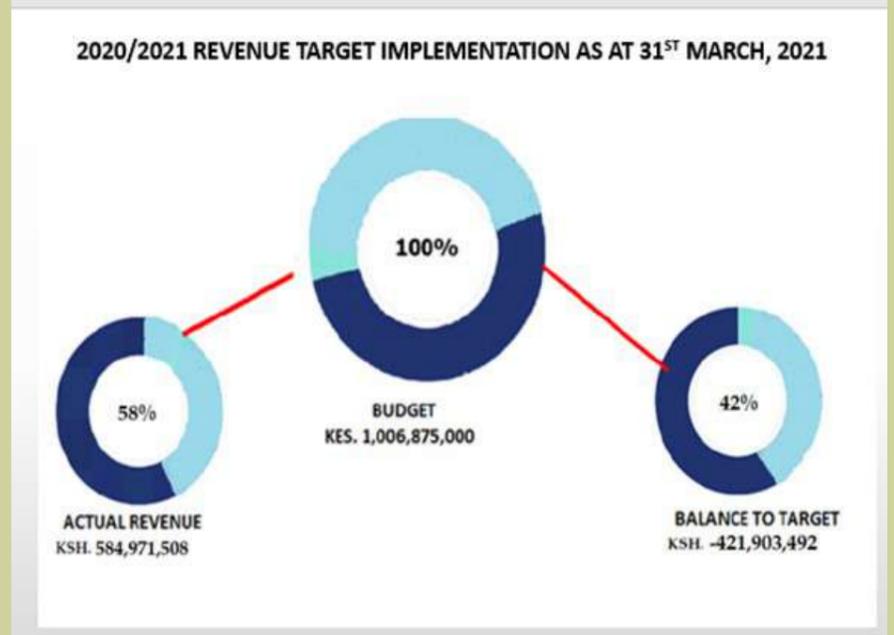
My wish for Laikipia is increased productivity through agriculture, manufacturing and enterprise especially by women and youth because access to ownership of land and access to capital is skewed; I would also like to see access to healthcare by at least 90% of Laikipians to comprehensive Universal Health Care; Finally it is my hope that our County Assembly will approve budgets that will support our ECD staff as well as a nutrition programme that will reduce stunted growth and promote healthier children and conducive learning environments.

6. Your parting shot?

In the words of John Maxwell “Small disciplines repeated with consistency every day lead to great achievements gained slowly over time” for me this makes sense because the only way you see results is if you stay consistent.

Growth Trajectory in Own Source Revenue Continues

THREE YEARS LOCAL REVENUE COMPARISON				
FINANCIAL YEAR	ACTUAL REVENUE			% BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION
	(July-March) 2018/2019	(July-March) 2019/2020	(July-March) 2020/2021	
TOTAL O.S.R	572,797,786	507,958,099	584,971,508	58%



Laikipia county government has posted an improved performance in revenue collection for 3rd quarter of financial year 2020/21 despite challenges related to Covid-19 pandemic. Own source revenue for the financial has hit Ksh 585 million which is 58 percent of the targeted Kshs 1 billion. This is the highest amount ever achieved in by third quarter of a financial year. The county departments have posted impressive increase in the revenue target despite the devastation effects of the covid pandemic. The government has adopted better strategies in revenue collection by introduc-

tion cashless payment through the Laikipiapay. The revenue base in the county has been increasing during the tenure of H.E Governor Muriithi and this has attracted many other counties to visit for benchmarking. The growth in county revenue will enable the government to meet its financial obligations and implement transformative projects in Laikipia.

Roundtable

During virtual County Revenue Board Governor’s Round Table Meeting, Governor Ndiritu Muriithi urged the revenue team to put more effort and enthusiasm to achieve the set target. “This is the best year. We are at the highest we have ever been at the end of a 3rd quarter in

spite of the effects of covid,” he said. The automation of revenue collection coupled with frequent engagement with taxpayers has contributed to an increase in revenue collected as citizen voluntarily remit their taxes. One of the initiatives taken by the government was waiving of land rate penalties and interest to property owner with aim of encouraging them to pay their dues. As the county seeks to raise the revenue it has also put in place economic stimulus package to support businesses from adverse effects of the pandemic. “We need to seek out ways of motivating payers, the lockdown has not affected travelers and matatu operators but also the business people operating here,” Deputy Governor John Mwaniki said.

Lighting Up Castle City, Pesi Businesses With Solar Power



Laikipia’s transformation is not confined to bigger urban centres. Smaller business centres are right at the centre of government’s agenda. Our photographer Alice Mbaki (pictured) was once again out there assessing development at Pesi in Salama ward and Castle City, Tigithi and recording through photos. Note the vibrant market at Castle. With sustainable lighting system, businesses can extend their operating hours to achieve higher productivity and incomes.



Photos credit : Alice Mbaki



From political promises to action...

Pillar IV: Attaining Access to Clean and Reliable Water



Top: Luoniek centre; Right: Solio Settlement scheme



The County government of Laikipia has consistently maintained a good progress in fulfilling the promises made to the people during the 2017 elections.

Governor Ndiritu Muriithi's election 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. In our third installment of 'From Political promises to Action' we are focusing on Pillar number Four.

(iv) Attaining Access to Clean and reliable water

The government has been focusing on providing enough, clean and reliable water for both domestic and production purposes.

Water is an enabler and vital commodity for creating a healthy population free from water related diseases.

The government has drilled new boreholes to utilize the underground water. These boreholes are Katonga, Bokish, Mirango, Muramati, Gathanji, Muwarak, Baraka, Kurum, Muthengera, Emgwen, Machunguru, Milimani, Mwenje, Mwiyo, Mlima meza, Ndaragwiti, Kinamba Sosian, Silati, Mbo-goini, Mutara Kaharati, Nguu, Mutamaiyo, Kaiti,

Bustani, Mahianyu, Yard, Reli B, Ainampoi, Olmunichoi, Majani, Limunga, and Munyu.

The boreholes have transformed the living standards of the people in the area through irrigation. The residents of the respective areas no longer walk for long distances in search of their water and for their livestock.

The government has also equipped 41 boreholes with solar power. They had been drilled but could not be used because they were not equipped. They include: Kiwanja Ndege, Nosorai, Katonga, Bokishi, Tangi Nyeusi, Nkando, Mirango, Muramati, Gathanji, Muwarak, Baraka, Muthengera, Suguroi, Emgwen, Luoniek, Ndemu, Mwireri, Milimani, Mwenje, Mukuri Umoja/Nturukuma, Kagaa, Shalom, Kaichakun, Mahianyu/Kiandege, Suguroi, Lolora, Tetu, Murungai, Endana, Machunguru, Chemu, Kurum, Ethi, Arjijo, Mwiyo, Ontulili, Nyakinyua, Daiga, Nyariginu and Mlima Meza

The department of water has also rehabilitated a total of 32 boreholes. These are; Ethi, Kiamariga, Munyaka, Shalom, Thome, Mithuri, Olmorani, Tandare, Ngaremare, Sipili, Nyambogishi, Wangwaci, Naiperere, Loborsoit, Ipolei, Doldol 3, Doldol 1, Riachu, Gloise, Naibor, Uaso, Ol-Moran, Doldol 2, Wangwaci, Kahuruko, Tandare, Ol-Moran 2, Kihato, Ipolei, Sipili SD, Tandare and

Doldol 3.

Rehabilitating these boreholes has led to an increment in the water holding capacity to cater for more people and livestock. In some instances, the government has availed water closer to residents through pipeline extension from community boreholes. The activity has seen residents start farming in areas that were thought to be dry beyond allowing any crop to sprout. Thirty-six (36) Community Water project have been supported with pipeline extension service. They are; Ntrukuma, Jikaze, Nyambogishi, Kabage, Muruai, Munyaka, Tandare 1, Tandare 2, Kiriti, Gatami, Mwiremia, Chumvi (Osirwa), Ngano-ini, Pesi, Canaan, RDU, Kabati, Depatas, Chui-Muhotetu, Ngaremare, Mukuri, Salama/Nganoini, Karima, Jericho-kiahuko, Kiandege, Osirwa, Chui, Muthengera, Karaba, Muguongo, Mackenzie, Nkando, Solio, Sirimon and Kaichakun.

The government has also renovated Nyariginu, Ntrukuma and Ruai water tanks. At the same time, it has constructed six similar water storage tanks in Tigithi 1, Tigithi 2, Chumvi, Nganoini, Jikaze, Mikubine, and Salama.

Additionally, the department of has rehabilitated 21 dams across the county to expand the water holding capacity and certify enough water for irrigation. These dams are; Doldol, Mbombo, Tiemamult, Kariunga, Wamura, Loshaki, Kariguini, Kanjul, Mirera, Ositat, Mahianyu, Gachogu, Imenya, Kalalu, Imenya, Karungu B, Leporos,

Longomot, Musul, Salama and Solio 4.

The increased water from the dams has allowed the locals to engage in farming cash crops for sale. The result is improvement in the living standards from the crop sale. Construction of 13 water pans in Musul, 20 in Nturukuma and 13 in Iriuko has happened as county government directs efforts to provide enough water to the household levels. Apart from irrigation and consumption, the water has improved the hygiene of the people.

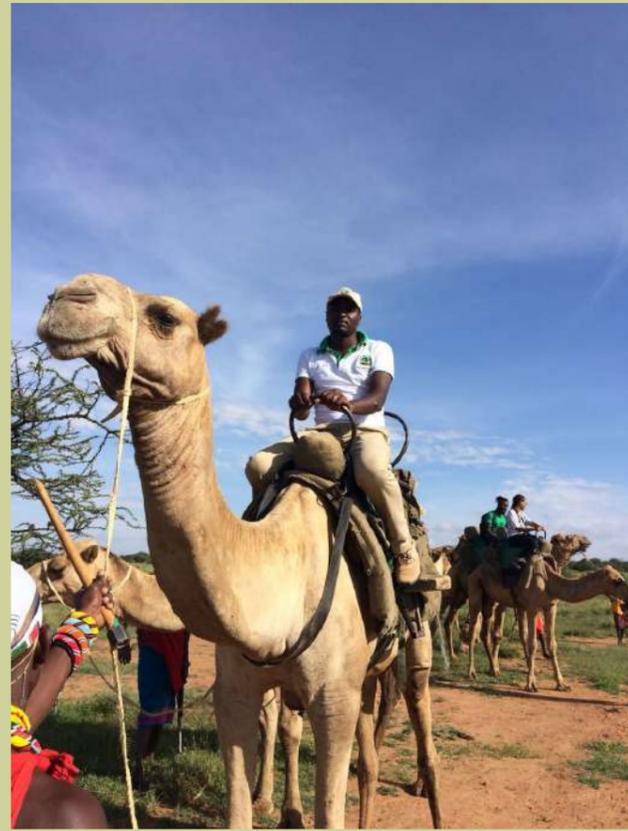
The government has also engaged various schools to tap rain water and store for use during the dry season. Some of these schools are Thama, Tangi Nyeusi, Mutaro, Mategithi, and Nkando.



BEFORE AFTER

Karionga Dam

Why You Should Have Laikipia on Your Next Safari Plan



*The author
whiling his
time in several
wildlife con-
servancies of
Laikipia*

By Paul ole Kimiri

One of the most compelling reasons why you should consider Laikipia while planning a safari adventure is an opportunity to view an abundance of wildlife outside protected areas. The Laikipia safari model is based on rooming capacity of sub-conservancies making it affords you room and exclusivity the perfect choice for those who desire an exclusive African safari experience.

Depending on where you are staying in Laikipia, some local activities you can engage in include game drives, bush walks, horseback riding, camel walks and camel rides, helicopter and bi-plane safaris, traditional manyatta and village visits, quad biking, mountain biking, fishing and much more.

While game drives are the most widely-available excursions in East Africa, your wildlife-seeking drives in Laikipia are truly unique – available day and night.

A limited number of guests means that you may very well have vast expanses of gorgeous landscape all to yourself or to share with just a few close friends or family traveling with you. Laikipia safari guides are also able to give you the personalized attention that you need to have an engaging and intriguing connection with the flora and fauna. Laikipia conservancies also allow night game drives that give you an once-in-a-lifetime chance to see the nocturnal behavior of the varied fauna, from stripped hyenas, pangolin, armadillo, genet to bush baby and more and black panthers.

The smaller creatures of your conservancy are explored during walking safaris. Guides show you footprints, scat and other signs of animal activities that are missed during the game drives. Listen intently as guides from local Maasai and Samburu tribes share their folklore, traditional uses of plants, tracking tech-

niques, ancient tales and much more intimate insight about your surroundings.

Horseback riding, camel walks and camel rides give you an even wilder connection with nature. On a camel, you journey as local peoples have done for centuries while horseback riding allows you to safely view wildlife as you blend in but also access other remote terrains not accessible by a vehicle. Avian thrill-seekers find the ultimate safari adventure in Laikipia – helicopter and bi-plane safaris. Having a bird's eye-view of the land below gives you a new perspective and appreciation of the critical habitats within the conservancy. You can also access areas that are not easily reached by foot, safari vehicle, horse or camel.

For active outdoor enthusiasts, arrangements can be made with some Laikipia conservancies like Borana and Loisaba for mountain and

quad biking excursions. An escort vehicle can be provided to closely follow you while you ride across the countryside.

Many of the Laikipia conservancies are managed by local Maasai and Samburus. We encourage guests to visit their villages (manyatta). During such cultural tours, you learn first-hand of the challenges faced by these communities in balancing the welfare of their families, preservation of their cultures and the land and wildlife life amongst which they live. Some villagers invite guests to enter individual homes to interact directly with their children, parents and elders of their respective community.

Mr Kimiri is the Director of Tourism and Film, Laikipia county



Focusing Beyond Outputs to Outcomes, Impacts

County departments are required to facilitate entrepreneurship under the county's strategy of growing the economy four-fold through increasing production and manufacturing.

Enterprise development will now form a key parameter of performance by each department as the county looks beyond outputs in its approach to development.

The strategy is to grow the county economy four-fold, from Kshs 100 to Kshs 400 billion in the medium term.

The government is 504 SMEs under the Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development programme. It has also trained 200 dedicated business development officers to handhold the business to upscale their production.

"Out of the 200 BDOs, the department has produced 32. We have also given them a lee-way to make prompt decisions on matters enterprise development without necessarily waiting for a confirmation from the supervisors," Trade, Tourism and Co-operative CECM Mr. Biwott Tirop said. The economic growth is pegged on the tripling of the area under irrigation through water for production initiative, mining and electricity and gas reticulation.

The Smart Towns Initiative is intended to achieve well-planned towns which not have conducive environment for investment.

The department of Infrastructure, Land and Urban

Development is using modern designs in roads that will enhance enterprise development. "We are not just building, we are also training contractors in training to make them understand that they have to build a business case through timely construction of quality roads," CECM Shuel Joseph said. All county road design are factoring non-motorised traffic as well. On its part, the Finance department is supporting the enterprises through preparations of budgets that sees to align with the business conditions. Through this department that land rate payers have received several waivers in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic. "We are supporting all departments through ensuring that we start by paying all the pending bills in the coming budget," Murungi Ndai, Finance CEC assured. The economic stimulus that is helping business owners to get loans at 7% interest instead of 12 falls under this department.

The department of health has its staff members engage in business development strategy. Several members from this department are among the group of 200 BDOs. "We have entrenched the issue of business development strategy to hospitals' managers and ask them to disseminate the same to other staff members," said Dr. Lenai Kamario, CEC Health. The Administration department has engaged subcounty ward administrators as BDOs because of their reach at the grassroots level. The department is providing them with all the necessary

support to create positive impact on enterprise development. "So far we have 72 BDOs from the department working to help various businesses. We also have businesses we have initiated and others we have helped grow," Ms Rose Maitai, CECM Administration said. The department has also ensured the public also embrace the new strategy of business development through various public participation forums. The aim is to lead them into accepting to be manufacturers through innovative ways.

Water as a department has ensured people have enough water points in their businesses and other public facilities to warrant a healthy people especially during this COVID-19 period.

"We have quite a number of BDOs in our department which in turn translates to more impacts in reaching more business enterprises," Outgoing Water CECM Njenga Kahiro, said.

Laikipia VTCs which fall under the Education department have been engaging in unique income generating activities for self-sustenance. The facilities are also equipping trainees with the requisite skills for starting own businesses.

Several officers from Department of Agriculture have been handholding farmers and training them on supporting growth of manufacturing industries such as EM Naturals which relies heavily on raw materials from farmers.

Laikipia to Receive "Above Normal" Rainfall Until June



Left:
Farmers planting
in Mlima Meza
area of Sipili,
Laikipia West

Laikipia is among 21 counties likely to receive rainfall higher than the long-term amounts (above normal) for March to May 2021 "Long rain" season, the Kenya Meteorological department has said.

These counties are in the Lake Victoria Basin, the Highlands West of the Rift Valley and the Central and South Rift Valley e.g., Siaya, Kisumu, Trans Nzoia, Baringo, Nakuru and Narok. The rain which has already started is expected to go on until June 2021. It is expected to have a huge impact on the agriculture, food security and livestock sectors. In the agricultural counties of the Lake Victoria Basin, Highlands West of the Rift Valley, the South and the Central Rift Valley, where enhanced rainfall is expected, the farming

communities are advised to take advantage of the expected rains and maximize on crop yield through appropriate farming and land-use management procedures. Farmers are advised to liaise with the Department of Agriculture for advice on the appropriate time to plant, appropriate seeds, time to plant. Laikipia county government has already embarked on disseminating the weather forecast information by Agricultural officers. Early this year, the department of agriculture launched a mobile based app to leverage on technology by offering much needed advisory to farmers in the county about smart agricultural practices that will improve their production either in crop farm-

ing or livestock keeping. Also, there is an online weather forecast platform on Laikipia Agriculture Observatory Platform (LAOP) which uses weather variables and give advisory to farmers. The platform contains weather prediction data for all the wards and villages in the county. It gives weather forecasts, Agronomic advisory and Agricultural insights. The government is therefore well prepared to assist the farmers in the county to adequately prepare and undertake various activities which are well informed by the available data. To ensure food security, farmers are advised to plant early maturing and drought resistant crops in marginal areas. The meteorological department also released advisory to various sectors such as disaster management, transport and public safety, water and energy sector, health and environment. The effort of the county government to ensure access to water is expected to be boosted as the dams constructed will be replenished with water. The government has been pursuing water for production and water harvesting will be possible during this rainy season to ensure enough water resources for livestock, crop and human population.



Weather forecast as seen at Laikipia Agricultural Observatory Platform (LAOP)

Government Recognizes, Rewards Exemplary Staff



Some of the success stories from the innovation programme through the efforts of some county workers who won spot awards

By Muriithi John

One of the many activities that the county government of Laikipia Staff look forward to is the quarterly Spot Awards. Through this exercise those who go out of their normal routine receive awards.

Usually there is a quarterly staff meeting for the workers which has been running uninterrupted despite the effects of COVID-19. Instead of physical meeting, it has been conducting the quarterly general staff meetings virtually.

On Wednesday March 8, 2021, a virtual meeting targeting all county workers took place to update the staff on the progress of various activities and improve internal communication for a shared understanding of what the organization is doing. The webinar also sought to plan on various issues and above all recognize exemplary performance in the last quarter.

The categories included teams who worked together to bring out unique results, and individuals who made personal efforts in making Laikipia County a better place.

The teams that were recognized included;

(i) The County Statistical Abstract

The County Government of Laikipia has produced three annual county statistical abstract since 2018 and is in the process of preparing the fourth one for the year 2021.

Production of a Statistical Abstract has involved collection, collation and publication of County Statistical data across all the sectors both at the National and County Government levels.

Over six Counties (Nyandarua, Nyeri, Na-

kuru, Bomet, Makueni, Meru) have consulted on preparing their statistical abstract and up to date they have not managed to produce one. The team thus was promoted to receive an award.

(ii) Operations and Maintenance team from Water and Environment

The team of five has gone beyond their Operations and Maintenance (O&M) responsibilities, and have played a crucial role in building capacity among the local community in water resources governance. They have supported the establishment of local Project Management Committees for each established borehole project and trained members on project governance as well as O&M issues.

This team has demonstrated dedication and service in their line of duty, and have been able to deliver despite tough working conditions, working with old and outdated equipment, working long hours, often late in to the night and weekends to ensure people have access to water. They have also repaired and rehabilitated all solar-equipped boreholes without any prior training.

(iii) NTRH Isolation and Quarantine Centres Staff

This team from Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital volunteered to work at the isolation to serve humanity without any extra remuneration for working at the Centre. They have worked for a whole year without any request for transfer.

The Centre has had close to four hundred admissions since its inception and the team has maintained a recovery rate of more the 99% with only one fatality and no infection of the staff members, yet it runs 24 hours a day.

Recognition of individual performers

The category involved individuals in various departments. These are Mr Alexander Kibore Chuma- Senior Public Health Assistant based in Olmoran Health Centre for transforming the facility and Ms Jennifer Resian Mayiani for exemplarly work in Ewaso dispensary since October 2019.

Mr Jackson Mugeru who works as Ward Agricultural Officer (WAO) in Mukogodo East as the only staff has among other things introduced a new crop in the area - geranium crop.

Mr Moses Elain Lokwawi has assisted and hand-held Mr. George Kamau Wahome, the proprietor of Grevillea Supply Ltd since 2019.

Ms Maureen Mungai, a business development officer under the Department of Innovation, Industrialization and Enterprise development, has been working with EM Naturals Kenya among other 47 enterprises.

Mr John Ndesi also a business development officer under the Department of Enterprise development has been working with Mwireri Engineering Works and 34 other enterprises across the County.

Ms Virginia Wahome who is the Director Amaya Triangle Initiative has led to peace keeping in the four counties and has facilitated to fundraise and successfully got a grant of Ksh 600m from EU.

Mr John Muriithi and Mr Nahashon Maina are responsible for the production of *Laikipia Weekly Bulletin*. The two go out of their way to walk to different offices engaging officers collecting information and use their personal airtime to call various sources without complaining.

Why We Must Plan the Finite Land Resource



Land and Infrastructure Chief Officer, Eng. Dorcas Korir makes a presentation at the second multiagency meeting on pertinent land issues in Laikipia county



By Dr. Jennifer Kinoti

Land is a finite resource with many competing uses which in many cases result into use conflicts.

This therefore calls for the need for this resource to be properly managed in order to reap maximum benefits from it.

Proper planning of this resource will address various land uses, socio-economic and environmental issues aimed at achieving a balanced and sustainable spatial development and optimal land uses across the county.

Consequently, a spatial county plan also referred to as a **GIS-based** plan, is a plan that gives a spatial structure clearly showing how the county space will be utilized to ensure optimal and sustainable land use for a period of 10 years.

This will facilitate the achievement of the principles of land policy of efficiency, equity and sustainable development.

In other words, the plan shows the systematic distribution and organization of people and their activities in space while taking into account the needs of these people and nature for the purposes of minimizing negative impacts on ecologically valuable areas and at the same time promoting sustainable development.

All in all, a spatial plan provides comprehensive strategies and policy guidelines that will deal with issues of rural and urban development. The plan aims at achieving an organized, integrated, sustainable and balanced development across the county.

Further, the plan is also intended to inform sus-

tainable land and natural resources utilization ability and productivity within the county.

The county spatial plan which is scheduled to be completed by September, 2021, will serve the purpose of enabling the county government to strengthen the co-ordination of sectoral projects/ programmes and to mitigate duplication of efforts and waste of scarce resources and thus ensuring equity in resources allocation in across the entire county.

The main objectives of the county spatial plan include: -

- Creates a planning context that enhances economic efficiency and strengthens the county competitiveness
- Promotes balanced development for integration and cohesion
- Optimize land utilization and natural resources for sustainable development
- Creates livable and functional human settlements in both rural and urban areas
- Secure natural environment for high quality of life
- Establish an integrated transport network and infrastructure system
- Promotes effective public participation.

The outputs / outcomes of the plan will include but not limited to: -

- An overall spatial framework for the county that will guide sustainable development and provides sustainable land use.
- A comprehensive spatial framework with a spatial vision that will guide spatial development and growth of the county for a period of 10 years.
- A framework for efficient, productive and sustainable use of land as advocated for in both the constitution and nation land policy.
- Strategies and policies to facilitate sustainable ex-

ploitation of the county potentials and reduce inequality.

- A platform for prioritizing of programmes/ projects with their implementation mechanisms
- A broad framework for organizing, distributing people and their activities across the county in order to achieve both the national and county development objectives
- A blueprint that will guide development since it gives a detailed depiction of county territorial space, highlighting county strengths and deficiencies and how to overcome them.

Achieved milestones so far

- Nomination of the county spatial plan technical committee with representatives from all the 8 county departments
- Consolidation of departmental data and integrating it into the county GIS database
- Acquisition of the land registry index maps (RIMs) now geo-referenced and being digitized
- Geo-referenced existing urban development plan and their parts development plans
- Trained 150 county staff on mobile data collection to help in filling the data gaps
- Trained 50 interns to help in digitizing the RIMs
- Conducted public engagements at ward level to enable communities participate in county spatial plan visioning, objectives setting and situational analysis of the county
- Carrying out spatial data analysis that will result into various county depictions on the ground in terms of physical characteristics, population dynamics, climate outlook, road connectivity, economic activities and environmental integrity.

Next Steps

- Carrying out scenario building for various economic potentials depicting various potentials in the county
- Zoning of the county into different economic zones
- Formulating different plan proposals
- Formulating various Capital Investment Plans (CIPs) for various economic strategies
- Formulating implementation procedures for different CIPs
- This CSP process achievements could not have been realized without the support of our key partners like *FAO, NLC and the Survey of Kenya*. We do also want to appreciate and acknowledge the political goodwill and support from the County Executive as well as the County Assembly of Laikipia and we do look forward to these synergies as we bring this process to a closure.

Dr Kinoti is coordinating the county spatial planning process