

Laikipia

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER *Report*



Our Main Story

Governor's Cup Finals

The hallmark of Laikipia's Governor's Cup came on 20th May, 2023. Kenya's Second Lady, H.E. Pastor Dorcas Gachagua graced the event. Six goals from two final games, males' and females' birthed 1.45 million shillings for the two winners and the two first and second runners' ups.

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N.E Joshua Inungu, EGM

100%
WAIVER
On Penalties/Interest on
Outstanding
**LAND
RATES**

15TH MAY- 15TH JUNE 2023

HOW TO PAY



COOPERATIVE BANK
ACCOUNT NUMBER
01141366378700
NANYUKI BRANCH



or PAYBILL NUMBER **313131**
ACC. NUMBER **BLOCK/LR NUMBER**



LAIKIPIA COUNTY REVENUE BOARD

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The Hallmark of Governor's Cup



Images: Naphtalie Otieno



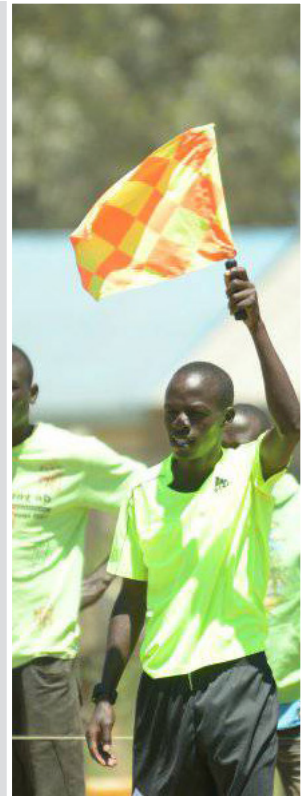
H.E. Pst. Dorcas: I have been inspired and challenged by today's magnificent display of talent in Laikipia. I believe this much talent-scouting should be replicated across all the 47 counties in Kenya.

The hallmark of Laikipia's Governor's Cup came on 20th May, 2023. Kenya's Second Lady, H.E. Pastor Dorcas Gachagua graced the event. Six goals from two final games, males' and females' birthed 1.45 million shillings for the two winners and the two first and second runners' ups.

At finals, the men's teams were Segera FC from Segera Ward and Bridge FC Commandos from Ngobit Ward - the game ended in favour of Segera FC at 3 - 1.

At Girls' finals, Falling Waters Barcelona FC locked horns with Nanyuki Starlets FC where the game ended 2-0. The host lost to the visiting daredevils from Igwamiti Ward.

Governor Joshua Irungu EGH, went home with a hoarse voice,



The Hallmark of Governor's Cup



Images: Naphtalie Otiemo



arguably from the cheering he found himself getting lost into, as both male-female games constantly subjected everyone on an emotional edgy roller-coaster.

Governor's voice and face evidenced an extremely happy Leader whose faith in Laikipia County's youth was affirmed by the amazing talents displayed at Nanyuki Green Stadium, and appreciation of all people that came to watch the game.

The winner of the game went home

with Ksh. 500, 000, for the male team while the first and second runners up pocketed Ksh. 300,000 and Ksh. 200,000 respectively. For the ladies' team, the winner bagged Ksh. 200, 000 while the first and second runners-up took away Ksh. 150,000 and Ksh. 100,000 respectively.

"I have been inspired and challenged by today's magnificent display of talent and youthfulness in your county," H.E. Pastor Dorcas told the Governor, "and I believe this much talent-scouting and happiness should be replicated across all the 47 counties in Kenya," she further observed.

"And this will continue every year Her Excellency Dorcas. We will even improve and expand the program's approach to, if possible, double the participants, for the next edition. Because sports do more than get people playing, they up-



lift our urban centres, improve our economy, save our youth from idleness and from drug and substance abuse," Governor Irungu reassured the Chief Guest.

The tournament ended on a promising note for Laikipia's future place in football. It clearly demonstrated that Governor Joshua Irungu's legacy intervention was worth it, and sets pace to an even much robust and intensive tournament that shall, in the near future, labour international world class sportsmen and sportswomen.

By Kariuki Stevejackson



HAPPINESS: It Was More Than Just Playing



Images: Naphtalie Otieno



Nanyuki Agreed, Nyahururu is better, in Football

Falling Waters
Barcelona FC from
Nyahururu Beats
Nanyuki Starlet at
Finals, at home ground,
in a thrilling match
that ended 2:0

Rivalry between Laikipia's two major towns, Nyahururu and Nanyuki never ends. Always on each other's neck. Who has the lowest cost of living matrix? Data has overtime time favoured Nyahururu.

Who has the best entertainment joints? On this front, data has time and again scorned Nyahururu, Nanyuki towering other towns in Laikipia.

Another scale had just been introduced by Laikipia County's Governor's Cup, who is the best in football? Male teams from both towns bailed from the rivalry contest - by losing early.

However, female finalists hailed from the rival towns, the host Nanyuki Starlets FC against Falling Waters Barcelona FC from Nyahururu, Igwamiti Ward.

On 20th May, 2023, dawned in black jersey, the host Nanyuki Starlets FC charged the stadium before the final game started while the green-dawn-



Images: Naphtalie Otieno

ing Falling Waters Barcelona FC, downplayed the spectators' cheer, as bluff.

By the time full time play was over, the host had been thrashed 2:0 by the visiting green soldiers, to Nanyuki town's dismay.

The secret to Falling Waters Barcelona FC's stellar performance was later revealed; hardwork and discipline in training was key. Aback, the team plays at division 1, and was started in 2018.

"The team comprises of 35 players in the main team, 23 who play for the under 23, and started the under 13 towards the end of May 2023 who are now at 48," Emiman Wafula, the team's couch explains.

According to Wafula, the Gover-

nor's Cup provided a unique platform for the players to interact with other teams, horn their skills and diverse their experience.

"As a team we have been training constantly to develop our skills, and this time reward was even more motivating," said Jane Njeri. Jane is the team's captain and is popularly known as 'Neymar,' dawning Jersey number 10.

"We are thankful for the return of the Governor's Cup as it has exposed us even to potential sponsors," said the coach.

For now, Nanyuki town settles that Nyahururu town, just this time, is the best in football, but promised revenge in the next tournament of Governor's Cup.

By John Muriithi



Laikipia North Roared, Silenced West, and East



While Laikipia East and Laikipia West have well built stadiums, Laikipia North do not, pitches in the region do not particularly encourage football, or do they?

Laikipia North is known for many things, but not football. It cannot be said that North is as active like Laikipia West and Laikipia East in the game, maybe other games.

Whilst that could be true, the outcome of Laikipia County's 2023 Governor's Cup says different, the underdogs from Segera Ward, Segera FC, slapped both seemingly active regions out of slumber with a fantastic beating, 3:1.

The match was both captivating and thrilling. Bridge Commandos from Ngobit Ward threw everything they had into the pitch, making quality attempts into Segera's fort but only

managed to shake the net only once.

As the referee whistled the last 'preeeeeeeep!' the half a million cash award had been comfortably secured by the Northerners, Segera FC. Bridge Commandos settled for an overall second place with cash award of Ksh. 300,000.

Benaiah Odhiambo, Head Coach of Segera FC says the games restored hope to his team members and the larger region in conviction that talent pays.

"The Governor's cup has provided a sporting platform for many young people. For the two months, many have been kept occupied and

keeping them off alcohol and other drugs," said the coach, adding that it the money won will also empower them economically.

Kennedy Ambolem, Segera FC midfielder no. 6 could not say enough kind words about the return of the Governor's Cup, saying that it was not only for the benefits of the players, but also to the community and region's economy - especially trading centres.

"I remember when we had the Sub-county finals at Endana, traders had come from as far as Doldol, business was good and villages were very vibrant," said Mr. Ambolem.

The Club, Segera FC, currently plays at DIVISION 1 and was founded in 2014 and later registered in 2017. The team went unbeaten in all the stages, rising to the highest position in the 2023 Governor's Cup. The team's profile significantly improves, and they can only get better.

By John Muriithi



Images: Naphtalie Otieno



It Was More Than Just a Game

Trading Centres busted into life as football fans flooded the urban centres to support their home teams. Small business thrived inside and outside the pitch – for people needed snacks in whichever form, drinks in whatever type, other than alcohol and drugs. People mingled, made friends and some got lovers. Laikipians cheered, roared, and some lost their voices into the frenzy. Villages on weekends were ghosted, as mass movement to urban centres gained momentums as finals drew nearer. Parents were happy, their children had something productive to do, and earning out of it. Talents were splendidly displayed, the best team won good money, a half a million shillings.

Clearly, this tournament could not be more timelier, more relevant, than now. Laikipia is Happy.



Images: Naphtalie Otieno



Enterprise Fund Disburse Ksh. 2.2 million to Women Groups in Mukogodo West Ward

Twenty Women groups in Mukogodo West have received loans worth Ksh 2.2 million from the County Government of Laikipia under the Enterprise Fund Programme run by the Department of Trade, Tourism and Co-operatives has.

Governor Joshua Irungu EGH issued the loans during Women in Enterprise Forum at Twala Cultural Centre, Ilpolei on 12th May 2023.

Women in Enterprise Forum brought together registered groups in Mukogodo North for an interactive session to connect and share experiences. The forum also offered group members with expert insight on financial management from officers from Enterprise Fund and financial institutions such as KCB bank.

The Enterprise Fund assists micro and small enterprises to access credit for business capital and to enhance entrepreneurial skills by providing training in business development. The fund will assist the enterprises in upscaling their businesses as they recover from prolonged drought season.

The women enterprises that benefited are drawn from livestock keeping (buying and selling), poultry farming and beadwork value chains.

“This loan will boost and stimulate business activities in Muko-



Images: Kipkemei Rutto/Nahashon Maina

The forum also offered group members with expert insight on financial management from officers from Enterprise Fund and financial institutions such as KCB bank.

godo West especially those owned by women,” Governor Irungu said while issuing the cheques.

Prior to getting the loans, the women groups underwent a two-week training session for better utilization of the fund in partnership with KCB bank and Family bank.

“We want to uplift enterprises from the rural areas by providing working capital. Most of beneficiaries of this loan deals in table banking, beadwork, livestock and poultry

farming. Diversifying into alternative livelihood is key to growth and increase in income for rural households,” CEC Trade, Tourism, and Co-operatives Stephen Kisorio noted.

“We are thankful to the county government for the loan advanced to our group as it will enable us to buy goats for rearing and thereafter sell them in the market,” said Mercy Cecilian, a member Naayora Women self-help group.

By Nahashon Maina



Rumuruti Saleyard: Changing Traders' Fortunes



Before



After

Rumuruti Market Day is every Thursday. The market attracts traders from Laikipia, and from all neighbor counties of Nyeri, Nakuru, Isiolo, Baringo, Nyandarua and Samburu. The market is another incredible answer to livestock trade, cohesion, integration, and security.

The County Government of Laikipia is constructing possibly one of the largest livestock markets in both Mt. Kenya and Northern Kenyan regions, in Rumuruti.

The modern sale yard, which sits on a 4.5-acre piece of land, is being done in phases. Phase one, now complete, involved the construction

of a loading ramp and four sale-yard paddocks, each designed to hold 5,000 heads of cattle and 6,500 sheep and goats.

The paddocks are subdivided into four sections; cattle awaiting sale, sold out cattle – waiting for loading, shoats awaiting sale and sold shoats. “For proper running, management, coordination and sus-

tainability of the project, we have engaged the Livestock Marketing Association (LMA) in a model known as “Co-management of the Livestock Market,” Ms. Mary Gichuru, Chief Officer of Livestock and Fisheries explains.

“As LMA we’ve ensured that all the animals are sold inside the designated paddocks, not to evade paying the agreed amount of cess. We also assist in the aggregation of livestock and sourcing of better markets for the livestock,” Joseph Nanyoi LMA chairman expounds.

The market has also been linked to the National Livestock Marketing Information System (KLMIS) for information sharing and monitoring the livestock Prices and volumes in other markets nationally. This has assisted farmers to avoid manipulation by middlemen.

Phase II will involve the construction of ablution for the customers/traders; installation of a watering system; construction of an isolation pen for the sick animals; construction of an off-loading ramp; construction of a shade and installation of weigh-bridges/weighing scales.

The government is committed to ensuring that local producers have reliable modern markets for their animals even as the County equally reap revenue from livestock sale.

By Mollin Wanjiru



Acquisition of a Terrameter Machine: To Enhance Water Resource Exploration

On May 5th, 2023, H.E. Governor Joshua Irungu, accompanied by CEC Water, Environment, and Natural Resources Ms. Leah Njeri, received the county's first terrameter machine, a cutting-edge geophysical equipment designed for groundwater exploration.

This marked a significant milestone in Laikipia, an ASAL (arid and semi-arid) county that relies on groundwater as its primary source of water. The new machine has the capacity to detect water up to a depth of 500 meters, minimizing the possibility of drilling dry wells, which is costly and inefficient.

This technology ensures highly accurate measurements, lowering the margin of error in assessing the properties of underground aquifers and formations. Not only will this save time, but it will also offer in-depth insights for comprehensive analysis for decision making.

“I am pleased to announce the successful acquisition of a state-of-the-art terrameter for our esteemed water department, to drive excellence in our water resource management by ensuring reliable and sustainable water supply for our county,” Governor Irungu said as he reaffirmed his dedication to fulfilling his pledges to provide clean and safe water.



Images: Kipkemei Rutto

Acquisition of the terrameter empowers Laikipia to identify potential groundwater sources, make informed decisions regarding water allocation, and promote water management

Speaking while acknowledging the effectiveness and practicality of the equipment, CEC Water, stated that the department is keen to leverage the capabilities of the terrameter to help tap underground water, which will subsequently address the water shortage in the county.

“The acquisition of the terrameter empowers the water department to identify potential groundwater sources, make informed decisions

regarding water allocation, and promote water management practices that will yield long-term benefits for our community,” she added.

In waiting is the delivery of a drilling rig and test pumping machine (TPU), which will form a complete drilling unit. This is set to provide sustainable exploitation of the county's water sources by minimizing inefficiencies and ensuring cost-effectiveness.

By Ann Ngunjiri



Deputy Governor Joins Conservation Efforts at Karandi

Deputy Governor

H.E Reuben Kamuri has lauded the youth for their growing interest and role in environmental conservation. Speaking during a tree planting exercise organized by an environmental youth organization, 'The Green Army', in Olng'arua Secondary School in Karandi, the Deputy Governor stated that the gesture signals hope in the collective fight against climate change.

"I am thrilled to see that the younger generation is also stepping up in the environmental conservation. The responsibility of conserving our environment is not all about age, tribe or religion, but a role that everyone should gladly embrace and take responsibility of," the Deputy Governor said.

The exercise saw over 750 tree seedlings planted by members of the youth movement that is striving to rehabilitate the environment to combat climate change, also gave an opportunity for the youngest members of the movement to plant at least 30 trees each.

"As a county government, we will play our role diligently and with so much commitment in aligning our conservation plans with H.E President William Ruto's plan of



Images: Jackline Mariga

Environment and economy are both two sides of the same coin. If we cannot sustain the Environment, we cannot sustain ourselves.

Wangari Maathai.

planting at least fifteen billion trees across the country in the next five years," he said.

The host MCA Marmanet Ward, Hon. Simon Kanyutu and other County Government of Laikipia officials accompanied Mr. Kamuri during the tree planting exercise.

The exercise brought together

students from Karandi, Thigio, Ol'Ng'arua, Gituamba and Ngarachi Secondary schools in Laikipia West who participated in the tree planting exercise. They were also engaged in a mentorship talk on issues relating to drug abuse, sexuality and general motivation.

By Jackline Mariga



NTRH Shines at Annual Mt. Kenya ASK Show



Images: David Serem

Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital emerged the best healthcare exhibitor during the recently concluded Agriculture Society of Kenya Mt. Kenya Show, once again reaffirming its position as a leading healthcare provider in the region.

The four-day exhibition fair saw NTRH emerge with a streak of wins after a splendid showcase- scoring firsts in three fronts as the best healthcare provider and etching its name as the leading regional healthcare provider.

Under a customized show theme, “Promoting ‘one health’ for sustain-

able economic growth”, the hospital beat other public and private facilities, scooping three trophies, in a remarkable improvement from a previous win of only one.

These are; Best County and County Department, the stand the best interprets the current show theme - government stand, and the best display in services in the health sector and pharmaceutical.

Through the theme, NTRH demonstrated the intertwine between human, animal and plant health, and the need for shared efforts towards the attainment of the same for sustainable economic growth.

The awarding ceremony was presided over by the H.E Governor Joshua Irungu EGH flanked by leaders from the County Executive, the Assembly led by Speaker Hon. Lantano Nabaala and the National Government officials.

During the exhibition, attendees had a chance to interact with staff from different departments who took them through the daily processes that are often out of the limelight.

Students too had a chance to have a peek at what a career in medicine had in store for them through interactions with the different medics’ desks.

By David Serem



Images: David Serem



Emergency Care: NTRH, Bristol Partnership Improves Emergency Care Quality



Images: David Serem

Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital has posted notable improvements in emergency patient care resulting from a partnership with the Bristol Royal Infirmary of the UK.

This puts NTRH ahead of their peers, considering that emergency medicine is fairly a young branch of medicine in Kenya.

“We have made tremendous improvements in patient management coordinations for resuscitations, mass casualty attendance, with frequent debriefs to assess performance for future improvements,” says Janet Nyawira, Lead Nurse Emergency Department.

Ms. Nyawira says broader coverage to include staff trainings on trauma management, basic life support from some of the best emergency care specialists has delivered remarkable improvements. This, she

The partnership has been successful in improving staff-next of kin relations. Relatives are now allowed to accompany patients during the care journey.

adds, has led to more lives being saved.

These trainings extend beyond the patient care to include improvements in customer relations. Here, the partnership has been successful in improving staff-next of kin relations, where contrary to the past, relatives are now allowed to accompany patients during the care journey.

Dr. Dancun Njau, the Continuous Medical Education Coordinator at NTRH says the collaboration has borne fruits. He says the partnership has birthed innovative approaches to quality care.

“It means a whole lot of differ-

ence for medical teaching,” he said “By using models, we present students with countless trials thus perfecting practice when it comes to dealing with the actual patient.”

Through training exchange programs, NTRH is now implementing some of the emergency best practices, including the construction of a new block that will house the emergency triage to ease the sorting of patients for appropriate and time saving actions.

The ongoing training of trainers is meant to extend skilled emergency care to other health facilities in the county. Currently, the partnership has cast sights on broader collaborations to include trainings on critical care provision.

By David Serem



Happy Mothers' Day: Governor Irungu in His True Element, "a Father to All of Us"



Images: Kipkemei Rutto

Being President (leader) does not change who you are, it reveals who you are; kind, sympathetic, and a servant."

On this year's 2023 Mothers' Day, two families, one from Endana and the other from Depatas in Segera ward had a-not-so-obvious visitor on their doorsteps, Governor Joshua Irungu, EGH.

Aback, May 2, 2023, Governor Joshua Irungu had played host to Kenya's First Lady HE. Rachel Ruto. Mama Rachel was on a visiting tour where she opened Segera Mission Hospital. On that day, two babies were born in that hospital.

Mama Aisha from Depatas in Segera ward delivered on that day. So happy, she named her little girl Rachel Dirra, in honour of the visiting Kenya's First Lady, Mama Rachel Ruto.

Mama Jane Kool, same day, too,

was also blessed with a bouncing baby boy. Excited by the incredible coincidence, she named the boy after Governor Joshua Irungu, to honour a man she reveres as her Governor.

First forward, having kept those memories close to his heart, Governor Joshua Irungu, on Mothers' Day, 14th of May, he visited those two families in Segera ward.

"The role of a mother is not replaceable, it is divine and magical. We're all products of a mother's responsibility," The Governor encouraged the families as he gifted them food stuffs and baby items.

By the time the County head was leaving, the two families could not say enough kind words to him, in awe that in such a difficult eco-

nomie times, the County's senior most leader honoured their homes loaded with gifts. To them, it was "profound"

"Being President does not change who you are, it reveals who you are." These were once kind words by Mitchel Obama to his husband, the 44th President of USA, Barack Obama.

These words are true, more relevant even closer here in Laikipia that "being Governor does not change who you are, it reveals who you are, kind, sympathetic, and a servant."

Governor was in company of CO Sport, Youth and Social Services, Jecinta Koree, and other county officials.

By Kariuki Stevejackson



Laikipia County Launches the Championing of Evidence -Based Advocacy Project



Images: Kipkemei Rutto

The efforts will help in devoting attention to social protection initiatives for victims of GBV, senior citizens and empowering youth and women through the sustained development of their social enterprises

The County Government of Laikipia, under the auspices of the first lady, Her Excellency Grace Wakahora, has officially inaugurated the Championing Evidence-Based Advocacy (CEBA) Project. The project is supported by the Kenya Pediatric Research Consortium, KEPRECON.

This project endeavours to establish a sustainable advocacy movement, primarily focused on the improvement of reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAH+N), as well as Primary Health Care PHC concerns, and to command the attention of both the national and county governments.

This approach also aims to cultivate health-seeking behaviours, particularly in maternal and child health services, utilising targeted social be-

haviour change strategies. Additionally, it seeks to fortify the healthcare system and foster environments that deliver high-quality and equitable health services sustainably.

During the meeting, attended by Governor Joshua Irungu, EGH, Deputy Governor H.E Reuben Kamuri, Chief Executive Director of KEPRECON, Prof. Fred Were, and Laikipia County CECMs, the First Lady emphasized the significance of championing the CEBA initiative.

“By equipping health workers in Laikipia with advocacy training, we enable them to analyze policy issues, identify gaps, and advocate for the implementation of policies that promote community well-being and equality,” the County First Lady said.

Among the interventions that Office

of the First Lady intends to undertake in support of the program include: strengthening support for health facility deliveries, child wellness, and menstrual health among girls in marginalized communities; reestablishing youth-friendly centres; and advocating for the establishment of Kangaroo Mother Care in maternity wings, effectively reducing the loss of children’s lives during delivery.

The efforts will also help in devoting attention to social protection initiatives for victims of gender-based violence, senior citizens, and both boys and girls; empowering youth and women through the sustained development of their social enterprises; and advocating for environmental conservation, climate change control, and sustainable practices.

By June Yator



Upscaling Community Participation in Climate Risk Assessment



Images: Ann Ngunjiri

The participatory climate risk assessment process is structured to equip communities with tools, knowledge, and support they need to adapt, withstand, and recover from climate - related crisis

As part of its efforts to unleash the power of community engagement on matters climate change, the County Government of Laikipia, has rolled out the Participatory Climate Risk Assessment, PCRA.

The exercise is an undertaking under the Financing Locally-Led Climate Action Program, FLLoCA. The program aims at upscaling community participation in driving climate change action, adaptation and resilience at the ward level.

The PCRA exercise commenced on May 16th, 2023, across all 15 wards in the county. This exercise engaged ward climate change planning committees, who worked closely with the cross-sectoral technical team to identify climate-related risks, haz-

ards and vulnerabilities specific to each ward.

“Communities are uniquely positioned to identify and address their own challenges,” says Mr. John Letai, County Director of Climate change. “The participatory climate risk assessment process is structured to equip communities with tools, knowledge, and support they need to adapt, withstand, and recover from climate-related crisis,” he added.

It was through the participatory exercise that voices were amplified, with community members owning up to their role in exacerbating the effects of climate change. Jinnarries Gachoya, an elderly resident of Ngobit ward, described how climate has changed over time. “When

I was young, the concept of climate change was not as widely recognized or understood as it is today. Our forests were rich in resources, and seasons were more predictable, guaranteeing our food security,” he noted.

Humans and animals are competing for limited resources such as water, food, and pasture, resulting in human-human and human-wildlife conflicts. In the face of these climatic effects, the FLLoCA program is coming just in time to revive communities’ optimism and support them in coping with and adapting to climate change.

“We owe it to the future generations to leave behind a healthier and more resilient environment, just as our forefathers did. I am hopeful that collective efforts, as strongly advocated by the FLLoCA program, will help us make a difference,” said Kahara Kamau, a youth from Githiga

By Ann Ngunjiri



2023 Menstrual Health Summit: Breaking Barriers and Empowering Women

This year’s Menstrual Health Summit was held at the Governor’s Compound in Nanyuki. The summit brought together key players and industry experts across the globe to lead the charge for menstrual health for women and girls across the country. The event was held ahead of the World Menstrual Day observed on the 28th May, every year.

The County First Lady, H.E Grace Wakahora, who was the chief guest at the Summit stressed on the importance of breaking the stigma surrounding menstruation.

“Menstrual health is not just about periods; it’s about ensuring access to hygienic products, proper education, and supportive environments women and girls. No one should face discrimination, shame, or limited opportunities due to their menstrual cycle,” Mama Grace emphasised.

In liaison with the Laikipia County Development Authority, the First Lady announced plans to launch an adolescent campaign which will focus on among other issues, menstrual hygiene.

The project will provide girls with quality and hygienic sanitary products as well as educate both boys and girls on matters reproductive health, sexuality, gender, drug and substance abuse.



Grace Wanene, Director of Drawing Dreams Initiative emphasised on the need to involve men in the menstrual conversation noting that there is a huge gap in the education and awareness creation among boys and men.

“Period poverty has exposed teenage girls particularly from impoverished communities to early marriages, teen pregnancies, gender violence and HIV, among other problems, hence the need to create awareness to all,” Ms. Wanene said.

Award-winning Kenyan female rapper Femi One, through her founda-

tion One For One, attended the inaugural Menstrual Equity Summit and urged for collective action against menstrual poverty.

“Together, we can break the stigma surrounding menstruation and create an environment where every girl and woman can thrive without being limited by their periods,” said Femi One.

The Summit was followed by a menstrual awareness cyclist event to Naibor where various residents benefited from a medical camp organised by the county health department.

By Janet Wangeci



Images: Pauline Mwiyeria/ Kipkemei Rutto



Nanyuki Residents Benefiting From Free Computer Training

Residents of Nanyuki and the environs are benefiting from a free computer training program courtesy of Laikipia County Government.

The training that began in February, early this year, is enabling Nanyuki residents to learn and enhance their computer skills and is being offered at the Nanyuki Social Hall.

The training was started with the aim of imparting the community with computer knowledge and digital skills that are relevant in day to day life as well as reduce crime in the area by positively engaging the youth.

Timothy Kuria, one of the government trainers says the opportunity has attracted people from all walks of life.

“So far, more than 40 people have benefitted from the training majority of whom are the youth,” Kuria explains.

“This program has provided an opportunity for those who do not have resources to pay for computer classes to gain the necessary knowledge in the field as well as the employed to sharpen their skills,” he adds.

Among the courses being provided are basic computer packages which upon completion certificates are issued from Nanyuki Vocational C. The courses are set to be expanded in due time. Training takes place in daily sessions every week day from 8 am to 4 pm.



So far, more than 40 people have benefitted from the training majority of whom are the youth

Alice Njeri, one of the training beneficiaries, says the skills will be beneficial to her future academic career pursuits.

“As a form four leaver, I am confident that the training will be beneficial to me. The skills that I am gaining here will not only help me upon joining college later this year but also in life when I join the workplace,” Ms Njeri said.

The program has also attracted a

number of deaf-mute students in the neighborhood who are able to learn how to surf the internet and video call their friends and family.

“The training complements one in Rumuruti and is set to be expanded to Nyahururu and Ol Jabet by the end of the year,” said Sammy Linus Maina, director ICT and E-Government, as he challenged more people to take advantage of the free training.

By Irene Warukira



Mukogodo Forest Gets Improved Management Plan: PFMP - 2023-2027



Image: John Muriithi

On 23rd May 2023, Mukogodo Forest received a reviewed forest management plan dubbed: Mukogodo Forest Participatory Forest Management Plan (PFMP).

The event was marked by the signing of the Forest Management Agreement (FMA) between Kenya Forest Service and ILMAMUSI Mukogodo Community Forest Association governing Mukogodo forest. The forest covers 30,189 hectares of land.

The chief guest, Laikipia North MP. Hon. Sarah Korere commended the role the communities have been playing to ensure the sustainability of the forest, citing that the signing of the FMA will complement their efforts.

“For a long time, the efforts of the community have gone unappreciated but you have been doing a marvellous job. The signing of the

agreement today will only strengthen what you have been doing,” the MP commented.

The County Government of Laikipia has played a pivotal role in revising the Mukogodo PFMP. These efforts were spearheaded by Directorate of Environment, Wildlife Conservation and Climate Change Unit.

“This is a forest that I have seen being well conserved through traditional knowledge. And as county, we intend to add more impetus to these efforts,” encouraged David King’ori, Director of Environment and Wildlife Conservation.

“In line with the President’s Initiative to plant 15 billion trees by the year 2032, the County Government of Laikipia plans to plant 1.2 million trees annually and this forest will be a key beneficiary. Already we have planted 714,000 trees this year,” King’ori elaborated the efforts.

ILMAMUSI:

Represents four community groups surrounding and conserving the forest: Il Ngwesi, Makurian, Kuri-kuri and Lekurruki. Event was held at Lokusero Secondary School:

Speaking during the PFMP Plan Launch, KFS Head of Legal Services Esther Kiege appreciated Laikipia’s conservation efforts and also challenged residents to join campaign of planting 30 trees each annually, towards the national target of 30 percent forest cover.

The signed plan will provide a roadmap for enterprises like beekeeping, ecotourism, herbal medicine development and research, and education geared towards the enhanced livelihood of the community adjacent to the forest. Implementation of the plan will include, among other activities, the planting of trees in the forest.



By John Muriithi

Mass Vaccination Of Livestock In Sosian Ward



Approximately 6000 sheep and goats and 400 heads of cattle were vaccinated against sheep and goats pox and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) respectively on 5th May 2023 during the Vaccination Demonstration in three different sites.

This was after two weeks sensitization forums on vaccines handling by the County Veterinary officers in partnership with a team from the Kenya Veterinary Vaccines Production institute (KEVAVAPI) in all the 15 wards.

The main aim of the sensitization forums was for information sharing on effective use and handling of vaccines in disease control as well as enhancing public awareness of the importance of livestock vaccination.

“The department is intensifying

To prevent and control animal diseases and pests, safeguard human health, improve animal welfare, increase livestock productivity and ensure safe and high quality livestock and their products



Images: Mollin Wanjiru

efforts in disease surveillance and control in the whole county. Our main mandate is to prevent and control animal diseases and pests, safeguard human health, improve animal welfare, increase livestock productivity and ensure safe and high quality livestock and their products to improve food security and to facilitate domestic and international trade said Dr. Ncebere Jackson who represented the CECM Agriculture, livestock and Fisheries Mr. Dennis Kasoo.

Residents in Laikipia North majorly depend on livestock farming as the sole source of income and food but livestock diseases have been a major hindrance in livestock trade and production. Outbreaks of diseases have led to significant losses in ani-

mal production.

The vaccination team included veterinary doctors from the county and other animal health officers who worked tirelessly to administer the vaccines effectively and ensure that the program became a success.

KEVAVAPI team was led by Dr. Evans Kitui Juma and Jeneffer Njoroge. In her speech Ms. Jeneffer Njoroge appreciated the support from the Chief officer Mary Gichuru and the department.

This intervention is a major step in fulfilling the Governor’s manifesto on establishing Livestock disease prevention and Control programs for the Livestock farmers in the County.

By Mollin Wanjiru



Prayer Day: The Grace of Thanksgiving in Enjoying Your Work



“There is always a more qualified professional than you out there, and some are jobless, but you have a job. Whilst it is true you are qualified, and we all are, it is not because we are better than the jobless. It is just by grace of God that we have what we have today, and therefore, we must always learn to be more grateful, and complain less.”

These were strong words from Pastor Paul Mwaniki of GCCI Zion City Nanyuki, the presiding vicar during Laikipia County’s first official staff prayer meeting in six years that were held on 5th May 2023, at Governor’s compound, Nanyuki.

Pastor Mwaniki drew his teachings from several Bible verses including Genesis 1:1 and 28, then proceeded to read Genesis 2:15. From these scriptures, he coined his preaching theme; The Grace of Thanksgiving

in Enjoying Your Work.

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work and take care of it,” Mwaniki read from Genesis 2:15, “and therefore I urge all of us to always know that work is not a curse but a blessing,” the vicar implored.

“Irresponsibility at work place is the greatest sin you can do against God, because you violate His first assignment to mankind, work,” Mwaniki charged to the keen-listening Laikipia County staff.

Staff were also implored to enjoy what they do, other than just working hard.

“Whatever job you have today may not be what you want, but it is what you need. That is what is paying your bills today. Do it with a grateful and happy spirit so that God, with time,

“You are position bearers, at this time you are in that position, however big or small, do your best. Leave it better than you found it.”

He gifts you what you want. Because thanksgiving is demonstrated, not just said,” Mwaniki taught.

Leaders, all who were present, led by Governor Joshua Irungu EGH, Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri, Speaker of County Assembly Lantano Nabaala, and County Secretary Koinange Wahome, were reminded about servant stewardship.

All, from the most senior to the junior officers, Pastor Mwaniki reminded the service that; “you are position bearers, at this time you are in that position, however big or small, do your best. Leave it better than you found it.”

The vicar ended his sermon at 9AM, having thoroughly challenged the clearly face-radiating service, to at all times, give **THANKS TO GOD, FOR THEIR WORK.**

By Kariuki Stevejackson



Roads

Ensuring people get to work, market and schools



Mboni Road - Thingithu



Malalo - Maili Sita Road



Chania - Mama Kinya Rd - Umande



The so far done roads by Department of Roads and Infrastructure in the below wards

Mukogodo West	Mukogodo East
Koija Road - Grading	Gitumbi Granton - Grading
Ewaso Ndunyu Road - Grading	Lotasha to Rotasha centre- Grading
Leshashi Road - Grading	Gitumbi Chumvi Road - Grading
Ngoroon Road - Grading	Lotasha to Jikaze Pry School - Grading
Lolaurak Road - Grading	Lotasha - Rotasha Secondary School - Grading
Koija Starbed Road - Grading	
Starbed Road - Grading	

Compiled By June Yator & Everlyne Rukwaro



Vision Afric and Laikipia County: Partnership to Complement CGL's Development Agenda



Images: Kipkemei Rutto

On May 11, 2023, the County Government of Laikipia hosted a team from Vision Afric Development led by their President Dr Sebastian C. Kopulande and Vice-President Dr Winfred Gitonga at the County Offices in Nanyuki in a bid to bridge the existing resource gap in the county.

The meeting expounded on the areas of collaboration to facilitate the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the county government and Vision-Afric Development.

Laikipia County seeks to partner with Vision Afric as a development partner to help the government implement its development agenda as envisioned in Laikipia County's CIDP.

The organisation works in partnership with governments, national and regional organizations, civil society groups and the private sector to promote African unity, sustainable development and inclusive growth in Africa.

This partnership will help in facilitating the County Government of Laikipia to participate in the forthcoming Africa-Russia Summit from 26th to 29th, July 2023.

Possible Areas of Partnership as Highlighted Were:

One: Health and wellness targeting preventative and curative interventions: This entails procuring state-of-the-art machines for early diagnosis of illnesses. The county government has also set aside 200-acre piece of land to build a non-communicable disease centre. The centre will ease the cost of treatment for patients living with diseases like cancer in Laikipia.

Two: Access to clean and safe water for domestic and agricultural use: The county government plans to distribute 50,000 water tanks to various groups in Laikipia, build dams and water pans and introduce drip irrigation to minimise reliance on rain-fed agriculture.

Three: Education and Youth Empowerment: Lowering school drop-out rates, introducing sponsorship and scholarship programmes, talent and skill development, job creation and providing start-up capital for the youth venturing into entrepreneurship and innovation.

And four: Food Security: Introducing drought-resilient crops, planting tree crops like avocado, coffee and macadamia, value addition and agro-processing, dairy, beef and pig farming, improving quality and cost of animal feeds.

By Pauline Mwiyeria



How Embracing Fruit Farming Can Transform Life

Samuel Mugo, the proprietor Wambugu Apple Garden, is a renowned fruit farmer in Ngobit Ward having practiced fruit farming from 2018 and now has his life transformed.

The farmer ventured into the business after he noticed a gap in that field where the demand was high and production low.

From a humble and a slow beginning, Samuel currently has filled his four-acre piece of land with different fruits -apples occupying the biggest part of this acreage. Other fruits on the land include dragon fruits, peaches, oranges, pomegranate and mangoes.

“Fruit farming is what I solely depend on to feed my family. I have 100 apple trees and get 30,000 from each tree per year which with no doubt is good money. Fruit farming requires low input while it gives a high output,” said Mr. Mugo.

“Fruit farming is the easiest form of farming compared to other crops because you just have to plant the trees once, nurture them until they start yielding fruits, and you are sure they will serve you for seasons to come,” he added.

Organic farming, according to the farmer, is vital in eliminating chemicals in the fruits and allows them to have the right vitamins for consumption and hence should be emu-



Images:Kipkemei Rutto

Organic farming, according is vital in eliminating chemicals in fruits and allows them to have the right vitamins for consumption

lated by other farmers.

“I would encourage people who want to start fruit farming or are already doing it to embrace organic farming because these fruits are consumed to prevent diseases brought by chemicals. If we use the chemicals on the medicine (fruits) we won’t be doing any justice to our consumers,” reiterated Mr. Mugo.

At the onset of the long rains, March

this years, Governor Joshua Irungu EGH, led the department of Agriculture in distributing high value fruit trees in an initiative to diversify farming in the County.

The County Government of Laikipia is promoting production of fruits by supporting farmers through provision of fruit trees and offering extension services to help achieve this.

By Everlyne Rukwaro



Destination Laikipia: Richie Spice Stunned by Laikipia's Premier Tourism Destinations



"I am glad to visit Laikipia. The county is beautiful and the tour has been insightful. I appreciate what you have here, we are one people and the county is so rich in tourism, I'll always look forward to visit Laikipia, Kenya, Africa."

the county leader expressed his gratitude to the artist for taking the time to appreciate the county's stunning landscapes. He also highlighted Laikipia's status as a sanctuary for various unique animal species, including the renowned Big Five.

"I appreciate you the reggae king, and it is a tremendous honor to have you here in Laikipia. The places you have visited represent just a glimpse of the incredible tourism attractions this county offers," Governor Irungu implored Richie.

Welcoming the Jamaican legend, CEC Trade, Tourism, Enterprise Development, and Co-operatives Stephen Kisorio emphasized the unifying power of music.

"We have a cosmopolitan town where you will find people who associate with reggae music and this visit offers our people an opportunity to enjoy your performance," the CEC said appreciatively.

In a captivating evening event, Richie Spice mesmerized the crowd with his first-ever performance in Nanyuki town.

By Nahashon Maina

Laikipia County has been drawing tourists from around the globe, and the recent visit of renowned reggae icon Richie Spice serves as further evidence.

On May 25th, 2023, Richie Spice had the chance to immerse himself in Laikipia's flourishing tourism sector during his visit to Nanyuki. Impressed by what he experienced, he expressed his intention to promote Laikipia as a must-visit destination for fellow Jamaicans traveling to Kenya.

"I am glad to visit Laikipia. The county is beautiful and the tour has been insightful," Richie Spice observed. "I appreciate what you have here, we are one people and the county is rich in tourism. I will always look forward to visiting Africa."

As part of his itinerary, the renowned artist visited prominent tourist destinations in the region, including the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy and Ol Pejeta Conservancy.

During a courtesy call to Governor Joshua Irungu EGH at his office in Nanyuki,



IMAGES: Nahashon Maina/Kipkemei Rutto



Laikipia County and Ontulili Association Partners to Implement Development Projects

Laikipia County is set to benefit from a new partnership between the Ontulili Association and the county government through a memorandum of understanding signed by H.E Governor Joshua Irungu EGH and the head of the association at Nanyuki Golf Club earlier this month.

The agreement signified a commitment to working towards the shared vision of holistic development and sustainability of Laikipia County.

Some of the areas of collaboration highlighted in the agreement include contributing to development projects in critical sectors such as roads, water, health, security, and agriculture. The association proposed piloting these initiatives in three specific wards: Umande, Nanyuki, and Segera.

The two parties agreed to collaborate on the implementation of the

County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) and establish a partnership aimed at enhancing the overall development of the region.

Ontulili Association, a community based organisation committed to the progress of Laikipia County, has brought on board IPL Business organisations that work with Chinese investors to promote socio-economic development across various countries in Africa. Through an inception meeting held at the event, IPL Ltd presented their service portfolio and expressed their interest to partner with the County in various sectors such as industrial parks, trade, agro processing and beef export in Laikipia.

The organization plans to build a national pavilion in Kenya; a physical and virtual platform for sharing information, resources, and results. Its core mandate is to promote products and services from the respec-

tive countries within The People’s Republic of China.

The facility will allow Kenyan exports to move to China without the restrictions and red tape that currently undermines farmers and producers in the country. With a ready market, Laikipia will also see new primary industries crop up. For example, exporting 500 tonnes of frozen beef to China will open a new stable market for pastoralists, ranchers, and many farmers from Laikipia.

The potential partnership between Laikipia County and Chinese investors holds immense promise for the region’s economy. It opens doors for Laikipia’s agricultural sector, specifically the beef industry, to expand its reach into international markets, thus generating increased revenue and employment opportunities for the local population.

By Pauline Mwiyeria



Images: Pauline Mwiyeria





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