



Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

WEEKLY
BULLETIN

By Muriithi John

Laikipia has unveiled the 2021/2022 budget that largely focuses on uplifting the county economy that has been heavily battered by the Covid-19 pandemic for the last 15 months.

The pandemic watered down all efforts that had been made towards the growth of the economy

These tough time have necessitated the County Government of Laikipia to purpose its 2021/2022 programmes mainly to inject liquidity across the county for citizens to have money in their pockets.

The 2021/2022 spending proposal contains deliberate focus on reviving and bringing the county economy back on its feet through a number of interventions.

First, the county government intends to maintain a sustainable health care through various interventions. It has set aside Kshs45 million to equip health facilities while Kshs84 million will go towards buying of drugs and other medical supplies.

Nanyuki and Nyahururu referral hospitals will get Kshs160.7 million and Kshs140.7 million respectively. To cater for the very poor of our society, Kshs30 million was set aside as NHIF subsidies while Kshs33 million will be used as stipend for the community health volunteers. Remuneration of medical personnel will be Kshs1.8 billion within the 2021/2022 period.

Manufacturing

Secondly, to ensure liquidity in the market, the county government has prioritized payment of pending bills as the first charge by all the departments. It has set aside Kshs700 million for this purpose.

The enterprise and cooperative development funds will get Kshs20 million while an additional Kshs30 million will be added to financial institutions to unlock Kshs3 billion as loans to the Laikipia business sector.

To spur manufacturing Ksh15 million will be set aside for developing the Rumuruti Special Economic Zone, while Kshs34 million will go towards other manufacturing support.

The youth will get Kshs 30 million through bursary, scholarships and sports. The County Government of Laikipia will support its elaborate programme to provide water for production through its entities-Nawasco and Nyahuwasco- to increase the area under irrigation from 5,000 acres in 2019 to



NHIF biometric registration at Sweetwater Dispensary. The County government will spend Kshs30million on NHIF subsidies to the extremely vulnerable households

Big Win for Laikipia Businesses

.....as Governor Ndiritu Muriithi unveils Kshs 8.1bn economic revival budget

50,000 acres.

In addition, the department of water will spend more than Ksh45 million in equipping boreholes and provision of water while Kshs166 million more will be used to expand dams and reticulation of water.

Culverts

Infrastructure, being an economic enabler and a key deliverable for the county government has been allocated Kshs1.2 billion. With Kshs 280 million going towards the leasing programme from which at 60 kilometres per ward will be graded and graveled within the financial year. Kshs933 million has been set aside for the upgrade of our town centres and markets. This is intended to spur economic activities by attracting investment in enterprises, manufacturing, service provision and tourism. Kshs 23.1 million will be used to equip the youth with the required skills and acquisition and construction of culverts for the county to address drainage issues in the county.

Further, Kshs 10million has been allocated for the titling of Likii and other settlements while Kshs 24 million will go towards the development of valuation roll.

The county revenues are majorly the equitable share at Kshs5.1 billion, own source revenue at Kshs1 billion and conditional grants at Kshs750 million. The county is well prepared to raise Kshs1.116 billion from infrastructure bond transaction bringing the total county revenue to Kshs8.1 billion.

Huge spenders are health at a total of Kshs2.1 billion, infrastructure at Kshs1.7 billion while the county assembly has been allocated Kshs536 million for the financial year.

Public administration will spend Kshs700 million, while Finance and water departments get Kshs391 million and Kshs443 million respectively.

Education, agriculture and Trade will get ksh463 million Kshs264 million and Kshs112 million respectively. The county entities share the balance.

Laikipia Praised for Successful Leasing Programme



By Nahashon Maina

Laikipia has been praised for successful implementation of the leasing programme enabled it to accelerate improvement of roads across the county.

Each of the 15 wards had an average of 40 kilometres of improved roads in the first nine months of this financial year.

Participants at the annual meeting of Leasing Association of Kenya noted that good lessons can be learnt from Laikipia on how Lessors and lessees can work with the counties on leasing of equipment to counties.

“This is an opportune moment to showcase what Laikipia has done with leased equipment and how other counties can leverage on it,” said Mr Antony Kibe, Chairman Leasing Association of Kenya.

The leasing program has enabled Laikipia to mobilize equipment for road improvement enabling residents to enjoy services while the government pays for the equipment in smaller amounts.

A total of 1,229 kilometres have been graded and gravelled in 2020/2021 financial year. This has enhanced mobility of goods and services by interconnecting of feeder roads at ward level.

In 2021/2022, the county government is targeting to improve at least 60 kilometres in each ward through five road construction brigades. This means each brigade will be responsible for roads in three wards.

Leasing has been the game changer especially in opening up of rural roads. It has also lessen the time taken to complete the work to 3-5 weeks from an average 3-4 months for contractual projects.

“The core business of counties should be

achieving the number of kilometres we see in Laikipia and aligning equipment usage to deliver beyond expectations by embracing leasing initiative,” NCBA Leasing LLP General Manager, Robert Marete said.

He added that Laikipia has already done the ground work on implementation of leasing program for county governments and should be emulated by others.

Mr Marete said that it would be easier now to convince the lenders to finance such initiatives as Laikipia has proven that counties are not as risky as previously perceived.

“Laikipia has provided a key study that will go down in history as during the first days of engaging with them was hard to visualize how

leasing was going to work in counties, they have proven to have able team to successfully implement it,” Marete said.

He noted it is a good initiative for counties as they don’t have to reinvent the wheel, they should look at what has been done in Laikipia , see what is working, learn and copy it.

“Leasing has enabled Laikipia to unlock its capacity to perform during the time of less cash flow from the National Treasury” Governor Muriithi told the meeting in a short address.

The work done in the county has transformed and improved the performance of the businesses as there is easy movement of produce from the farms to market.



Increased Health Coverage for Reduced Disease Burden

By Muriithi John

The government rolled out massive NHIF biometric registration targeting with the exercise taking place in more than 50 stations spread across the county.

Governor Ndiritu Muriithi and Deputy Governor John Mwaniki lead the exercise as they appealed to the county residents to enroll in NHIF to ease the burden of medical treatment.

The two led an exercise to encourage households to enroll in NHIF in 2018 making Laikipia to have one of the largest concentration of households with a medical insurance cover.

The 10-day activity began on June 21 and will end on July 1 covering over 50 stations across the county.

NHIF is a statutory health insurance and also the cheapest in the country. The cost of having for every household is equal to the price of an egg per day, which is affordable to many lower income households.

As more people enroll to the insurance, so will the financial burden on households. Also, the number of health fundraising will gradually go down.

For example, dialysis is one of the many treatments that NHIF covers and one of the most expensive in healthcare. Many people visit Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital for dialysis one has to pay Ksh. 19,000 every week unless one has NHIF cover which caters for the entire cost.

Citizen engagement with county officials also provided the residents with an opportunity to learn about business plan of their respective health facility towards becoming self-sustaining financially.

The forums also gave those who have not enrolled on NHIF a chance to be registered for the medical cover.

As many people enroll with NHIF, the county will have more people insured in health. A healthy people make a productive population.

Laikipia has the highest life expectancy and NHIF has played a critical role in ensuring maintenance of the same. Laikipia also has one of the best Universal Health Coverage models that has seen many organisations coming for benchmarking exercise and ultimately adopting it, including the national government.

Preventive and promotive healthcare works better than curative. The use of the Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) and Community Health Assistants (CHAs) has facilitated in reaching out to the people in their homesteads. There are more than 1,000 CHVs and every CHV covers around 100 families.



Citizen Engagement and NHIF Biometric Registration



Nturukuma citizen engagement



Kalalu Umande ward



Citizen engagement at Arjijo



Citizen engagement at Il-polei dispensary



NHIF biometric citizen engagement at JuaKali



NHIF Biometric registration at Doldol Level IV hospital



Biometric registration at Mia Moja chief's camp



Citizen engagement and NHIF biometric registration at Mugumo Dispensary in Umande

Tigithi-Umoja Dairy Cooperative Operational After Four years of Delay



By Nahashon Maina

In efforts to increase dairy cattle productivity in Laikipia, the county government has taken Tigithi Umoja dairy cooperative members in Matanya through a capacity building programme.

This is set to assist the cooperative start operationalization of their milk cooler installed at their facility in 2017. The cooler has a capacity of 5000 litres and lack of enough milk supplied to the cooperative has deemed the operation. It requires minimum of 2000 litres per day in order to meet the target by the end of the second day.

The department of agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries has been mobilizing members of the cooperative in capacity building touching on better finance management, recording keeping and livestock production on artificial insemination and animal feeds. They were taught on clean milk production and waste management.

They have been encouraged to find innovative ways to bring more dairy farmers on board to supply the deficit in the amount of milk they collect.

Before the intervention, the almost 50% of dairy cattle reared by farmers supplying milk to the cooperative produced 3 litres per cow. The grazing system was free range with group members earning Ksh 42,700 per year.

The department has been keen in ensuring that they extend capability of members in formulating a workable business plan that they will implement to make the cooperative profitable. Better use of the cooler will help in improving milk production and ensure flexibility in milk collection resulting in increase in volume of milk collected by the coopera-

tive. The strategy also involved introducing pure breeds and starting of feed conservation (silage making) and homemade ration (dairy meal).

The initial hindrances that existed has been addressed by the county government such as connecting the cooperative facility with power. There was instances of dispute between the members therefore lacking cohesion to work together.

The cooperative members also benefited from peer learning from two leading cooperatives in the county which have utilized their coolers well. They visited Solio Dairy Cooperative and Shalos Dairy Cooperative in Nyahururu. It gave a good learning experience to the members as they benefited from input from how the two cooperative have been operating.

“The tours was intended to show them that

they need to have some individual input for the success of their cooperative,” ASDSP Policy and capacity Development officer Patrick Muriithi said.

He added that there was need to educate the members that they don't need to rely solely on the government to implement everything affecting their cooperative. They need to go out of their way to have mean that benefit them and the suppliers.

The impact has seen the cooperative engaging in hay production with the input of 800 bales per year to every farmer. The yield has improved from 7litres per cow to 12 litres per cow. Milk volume increased from 2135litres to 7625litres per cow in one year with income from milk improved from Ksh 42,700 to Ksh 266,875 per cow.They have also started biogas production and utilization.



Chumvi Days for Girls' Business Keeps Girls in School



Chumvi Days for Girls Self Help Group women sewing washable sanitary pads, washable baby diapers, uniform, masks and other related items

By Muriithi John

There is nothing as traumatizing for a girl child as quitting school because of menstrual hygiene.

It is for this reason that a group of people from the northern part of Laikipia stepped out to mitigate the number of school dropouts for reasons related to monthly periods.

The organization, Chumvi Days for Girls, specializes in making and selling washable sanitary towels which help school-going girls from regular problems in maintaining their health.

The sanitary pads from the enterprise are washable, more economical, more comfortable to use and can be reused for up to five years. A person who buys such a commodity may go without buying another one the next five years.

Chumvi Days for Girls is not limited to the pads, but also makes washable baby diapers, uniforms, masks and other related items and has been in operation since 2014.

Each of the sixteen-member enterprise has a specific role. Each of the fifteen women sews different components, while the only man, Leston Kimiri, is the enterprise leader. He is also the Il Ngwesi Conservancy Community Projects Coordinator.

They package their products in up to five categories depending on the customer preferences. The packages cost between Ksh. 300 to Ksh. 1,000.

The group has a capacity to produce 200 of the high-end products daily.

Raw materials for making various products come from the local dealers, while others come from the Chumvi Days for Girls Resource Center and Rivatex.

The enterprise is driving the 'sex for pads' notion to extinction as there are no dependency on

heinous men who may use young girls for sex in exchange of the pads.

"Every time we sell our products, we teach the users how to take care of them. We also teach young girls how to maintain hygiene and ways of detecting and prediction their due date," said Kimiri.

He added that the group is also engaging men to teach ladies' hygiene and not to leave the topic to only the women.

The once a self-help group now operates under Days for Girls International. It is situated next to Chumvi Dispensary and Chumvi primary school in Mukogodo East Ward, Laikipia North Sub County.

The group operates under the Il Ngwesi Conservancy. So far, the group has reached over 10,000 girls and women in an effort to promote sustainable menstrual health among women and girls in Kenya.

Chumvi Days for Girls Self Help Group's market is not only from the locals but have extended to all neighbouring counties and sometimes internationally.

The County Government of Laikipia supports such innovative ideas through the Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development. It has exposed the group to trade fair exhibitions and marketing.



Distribution of washable sanitary pads from Days for Girls at Ngarendare Schools. The pads were donated by Borana Conservancy

Visiting Meru Hospital Officials Impressed by NTRH Service Delivery



By David Serem

Meru Level Five Hospital officials have reported great lessons to be implemented back home following their benchmark visit to NTRH on Thursday.

Led by their Hospital Administrator Martin Wambua., the officials termed NTRH's approach at solving problems as simple innovations with great outcomes.

"We are greatly impressed with the standard operating procedures at the billing points, NHIF desk and the labs. The patient filing systems here is something we are very eager to implement once we get back home," said Mr. Wambua.

At the NHIF offices, the visitors sought to understand the approach that ensures the big number of clients using the insurance are served to their satisfaction.

NTRH accountants explained to the visiting team the positive outcomes realized with the close collaborations with the NHIF main office. Such engagements as making sure clients being referred to the insurer's office have official reference notes from the hospital makes a great deal of difference. It enables the office to handles genuine cases and not self referrals that are time wasting at times.

Through keen daily monitoring through ward rounds, NTRH has made tremendous gains saving the admitted patients on insurance the huge financial setbacks associated with the missing of the 48-hour window for notification to the NHIF. The visitors commended this approach, saying it is going the extra mile at customer service to save the patient the agony of footing medical bills from their pockets.

On patient filing system, the officials noted the

efficiency of the daily efforts made to ensure the patients' files served with all the documents from the various service points to maintain a reliable client medical and billing history.

The officials also made stops at the lab, praising the neat test results documentation storage that makes it easy for storage and tracing, making patient reference from any department a seamless process.

The team also familiarized themselves with NTRH's centralized IT system Fansoft, which enables the convergence of all the client's data from registration, consultation, billing, lab tests, prescriptions and discharge. This system allows access of patients' trail through all the service points at the tap of a finger, enabling quick resolution of issues when evidence of patient trail is needed.

The Meru Hospital team also toured the Amenity Clinic and the expansive new mother and child hospital that is set to house self-sufficient referral for all the medical needs for the target clients. The officials were impressed with the new colour scheme of the new complex, terming it as a departure from the past use of universal blue that is becoming bland with patients. They described the progress as visionary. On the big number of NHIF clients choosing NTRH as their facility of choice, the officials agreed that it is unlike anything they have seen in their locality, where insured people choose private hospitals for their medical needs.



Government, Absa Train Laikipia Women on Enterprise Development



The County Government of Laikipia and Absa Bank are training women in enterprise development. Empowering women produces an empowered community as close to half of the Kenyan population are women. The targeted are those in need of starting new businesses, those already in established businesses and women group businesses.

The aim is to take them through business training to ensure they have access to credit and improve their existing businesses. Laikipia Enterprise Development and Innovation Programme, the Enterprise Fund and the Economic Stimulus Fund is keen on supporting businesses in Laikipia. As businesses thrive in the county, so will the economic and living standards of the people.

The government has dedicated at least 200 county staff members to hand-hold innovators and entrepreneurs to ensure they become competent in the business market.

Let's Issue Infrastructure Bond Now, to Reap Benefits Early



The County Government of Laikipia is in the process of issuing a Kshs1.1 billion infrastructure bond to finance key transformational projects across the county. Among the projects is water-for-production, smart towns, among others. The government has been engaging citizens to make them understand the importance of these projects. CECM Finance **Murungi Ndai** and Senior Economic Advisor **Githuku Mwangi** answer some of the questions from members of the public.

Why issue a bond?

When we invest now, we realize the benefits (business growth, jobs and revenue) early rather than wait for many years to do projects bit by bit. It is the same kind of decision that a person makes to go borrow to buy a plot and build a house now and use the amount they would have paid rent to pay the loan.

This person then enjoys the benefits of owning the home now than later. More than 90% of roads built by the National Government are funded by debt. In Laikipia, a good number of roads in Nanyuki, Nyahururu, Rumuruti towns done by the County Government have been funded by loans taken by National Government. It is therefore dishonest when some people from the areas that have benefited from debt-funded development to incite citizens to oppose this bond so that other parts of Laikipia are not developed.

What are the benefits (economic impact) of the bond to the citizens and businesses?

Improved livelihoods through the establishment of new businesses, job creation and

growth of county revenues. We expect the bond investments will lead to the construction of new commercial and residential buildings and re-development of low density buildings, which will create more space for entrepreneurs. We expect over 31000 new businesses to be set up, employing over 74,000 people in 7 years. Further, we project that this investment of Ksh 1.2 bn will contribute Ksh 25 billion to the county economic output, also known as the Gross County Product (GCP)

How have the projects been selected?

Priority is for smart towns and water for production projects due to their ability to increase the level of economic activities to generate jobs, raise household income and county revenue. Further, the projects have been distributed across the wards that have not benefited from major infrastructure projects funded by other sources of county funds.

Will the government increase taxes to pay for the bond?

No, there won't be an increase in taxes. On the contrary, we expect to tap into more businesses that will be established to pay rates.

Who can invest in the bond?

All citizens have an Opportunity to invest in the bond by opening a central depository system(CDS) account at a commercial bank or directly at any Central Bank of Kenya branch. Those who have CDS accounts do not need to open new ones.

Why is my ward (Rumuruti, Marmanet) excluded?

The bond is supplementing other funding sources such as the equitable share and conditional grants and can't fund all projects. Similar projects are being undertaken in these two wards. Oljabet smart town in Marmanet is being funded by Kenya Devolution Support Program, while Rumuruti smart town is being funded by Kenya Urban Support Program. These two programs are funded by World Bank loans to National Government.

How will women groups be accommodated by the infrastructure bond?

Women too can invest in the bond singly or jointly and bid for the contracts once tenders are issued. In addition, they can approach the various County Funds such as Enterprise Fund, Economic Stimulus Fund, Cooperative Revolving Fund for financial and advisory support to grow or set up businesses to take advantage of these or groups that can invest in the bond. Likewise, the ample businesses opportunities catalyzed by these investments.

Why are you issuing an infrastructure bond going into a campaign year/elections?

The infrastructure needs are many and remain. We understand that there maybe some anxiety, but remember that Government is perpetual. As such, we must continue with the programme of work because elections are part of our democratic cycle. We cannot hold back on development investments due to elections because this continues to reinforce the sad reality where our economy depresses every time we get into an electoral cycle.