



Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

WEEKLY
BULLETIN

Laikipia's Relentless Chase for Clean Financial Statements

A salient feature of Governor Ndiritu Muriithi's administration is consistent release to the public of county's financial statements.

This, being a practice that is more pronounced in the private sector organisations, has put the leadership of County Government of Laikipia in a class of its own.

The governor believes that public entities have the responsibility of laying bare their financial statements to the stakeholder as part of promoting transparency and accountability.

"Our ultimate aim is to have clean books –with unqualified opinion. It's not easy but we are definitely heading there," says Paul Njenga, the chief officer Finance and Economic planning.

Apart from promoting transparency and accountability, the county government has a more plausible reason for its consistency on releasing its financial results- credit rating.

The county has been mulling borrowing from the private sector by floating an infrastructure bond to finance its development. Yes- a county government to float a bond. The county government has been burning the mid night oil working out ways of improving its score

Audited financial statements for year 2018/2019 released on Monday revealed the county's journey through the rugged terrain of fiscal balance, the relentless efforts to achieving clean, unqualified financial statements and its rewards so far.

The 2018/2019 financial statements whose release was witnessed by various stakeholders would have been the first for the county with unqualified opinion from the auditor. But according to the auditors, the county overspent on wages after the court temporarily put brakes on planned redundancies.

During the year under review the county government had projected savings from the redundancies. But the workers union obtained court orders temporarily stopping the execution of the process. The anticipated savings were not realized and the affected workers had to be paid wages not initially planned for.

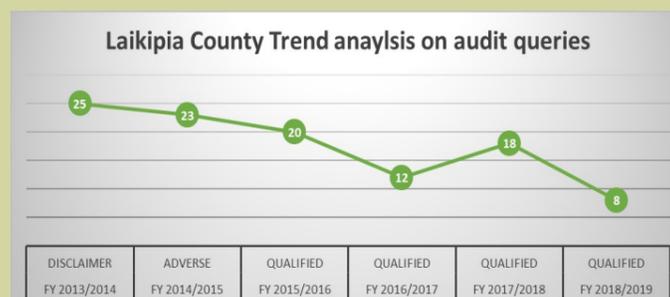
It is on this basis that the auditor qualified the financial statement, otherwise the rest of the books were clean.

Infrastructure Bond

Although not out of the woods yet, this was a remarkable feat for a public entity that started



Governor Ndiritu Muriithi presents his county's audited 2018/2019 financial statements



off with a disclaimer from the auditors several years ago. It is in financial year 2013/2014 that the auditors issued a disclaimer. This is the worst form of opinion an auditor can issue. It means that the auditor could not obtain or access sufficient audit evidence for individual or aggregate items in order to support their testing and upon which to base an opinion. In short, the available financial statement could not be relied upon to warrant an opinion.

There were a total of 25 matters forming the basis of this opinion.

In 2014/2015, the organization got an adverse opinion with matters forming the basis of opinion reducing to 11. This means that the financial misstatements, individually or in aggregate, are both material and pervasive to the financial statements.

The following year 2015/2016, the auditor gave the county a qualified opinion after matters forming the basis of auditor's opinion reduced further to

eight. The same happened in 2016/2017 when the matters under question dropped further to seven.

In 2017/2018, despite the auditors awarding a qualified opinion the matters forming the basis had slid down from seven to nine. However, the county made a significant leap in 2018/2019 as it made efforts to have clean financial statements. Only one issue stood between it and an unqualified opinion –the issue of overspending on wage bill. This was an issue that was contributed by the labour unions and the judiciary.

Unqualified, clean or unmodified opinion means that the financial statements are presumed to be free from material misstatements and are therefore give a true and fair view of the financial position of a public entity.

Despite the setback, there is a lot of efforts being made towards clean financial statements continue. Top county managers are under strict instructions to keep proper financial records. Anybody whose area turns in adverse opinion will have to separate.

In addition, the county has established a directorate of Financial Reporting, continuous staff training and enhanced own source revenue collection.

S.Korean Electronics Giant, LG, Opens Shop in Nanyuki

South Korean household consumer goods giant, LG Electronics, has opened a virtual shop in Nanyuki, affirming Laikipia's place as a choice destination for local and direct foreign investment.

Coming to the close of year 2020, LG Electronics set up a branch in Nanyuki town for people to experience the wide range of products from the multi-national company.

Nanyuki is the second e-showrooms in the country; one in Nairobi and the other one Cedar Mall opened on December 23, 2020.

The choice of Nanyuki as the location of its second e-showrooms in the country is a testimony of Laikipia's conducive environment for the growth of businesses that many investors, local and international continue taking advantage of. Governor Ndiritu Muriithi officially opened the e-shop accompanied by the LG Electronics East Africa Managing Director Mr. Sa Nyoung Kim. The location of Nanyuki town, which is celebrating its centenary birthday, as the gateway to the north and within the Central region Economic Bloc is quite strategic. The town is easily accessible to people from Nyeri, Meru, Isiolo, Marsabit and Samburu counties and even Ethiopia and Somalia.

"Nanyuki is a gateway to the much larger economy extending beyond Laikipia County. We are happy for the new investors choosing Nanyuki as their destination for investment knowing that the market is already available," said Governor Muriithi said.

The e-showroom enables browsing, touching, experiencing LG's catalogue. It also enables customers to order a product of their choice. Delivering of ordered products is done within



Governor Ndiritu Muriithi, LG's Mr Sa Nyoung Kim and Trade CECM Bivott Tirop at the LG showroom

36 hours and in the exact shape and quality as the customer's preference.

"The LG's e-Showroom demonstrates LG's future model of our brand shops in the limited spaces. It is the ultimate convenience to our consumers as we are committed to ensuring that they get nothing but the best from LG by enhancing their shopping experience," said Mr. Kim.

Some of the product line up include the OLED TVs, InstaView Door-in-Door refrigerators, LG TWINWash washing machines, DUALCOOL Air Conditioners among other

home appliances.

The company has created more job opportunities for the locals and thus improving their economic standards.

The revival of the Nairobi-Nanyuki railway has also enhanced Nanyuki's business environment and created a market for investors to take advantage of.

The train has streamlined the transportation of cargo and especially petroleum products to Nanyuki for usage in the area and for surrounding counties to access easily from Nanyuki depots.



Cutting the tape for the LG's second e-showroom at Cedar Mall, Nanyuki. Governor Ndiritu Muriithi, Mr Kim and Nayuki ward MCA Ms Veronica Ikunyua

Marmanet Residents Enjoy Early Benefits of Roads Under Improvement



By Isaac Burton Kiriungi,
Marmanet ward

A total of 7.7 Km of roads have been graded in Marmanet ward in the six month of this financial year.

This has greatly improved the living standards of the area residents from the bodaboda operators who are now experiencing booming business.

Mr. Francis Mwangi said that with the opening up of the roads has seen them even reduce the prices from 100 to 50 in some areas because of the new road network which has increased the number of passengers who are now seeking their services.

“We would like to urge the government to continue with that development momentum because this is what we ask for from our leaders and not rhetoric during burials,” he said.

Ms Irene Wangari who commutes daily to work and has to use a bodaboda says it’s unbelievable that construction of a road can result in change in cost that she incurs to commute to work.



Muguongo Rd - Before and After Grading

“The roads are for everyone even those who don’t own a bicycle,” she added. The specific rehabilitated roads are:

- Ngombe Moja – AP Post (Ndagara) Road – 4 Km

- Mugongo - IDP Road – 1.9 Km
- Muguongo – Rumuruti Border Road – 1.8 Km – Road Opening



IDP Road - before and after grading

The opening up of Muguongo-Board Road



Laikipia University to Establish Constituent College In Nanyuki Town

Nanyuki town could soon host an institution of higher learning.

On December 21, 2020, Governor Ndiritu Muriithi hosted a delegation from Laikipia University headed by the vice-chancellor Prof. Kibet Rotich before visiting two possible sites for setting the proposed Nanyuki University College.

The sites visited are Inooro Girls Secondary School and grounds that hosted the former procurement offices of Catholic Diocese of Marsabit.

The university will choose which of the two facilities is suitable to start the proposed college.

The County Education Strategic Plan (CESP) has identified sectors that can enable Laikipia compete with well other economies by improving and adapting production in manufacturing and mining.

The county government wants to take advantage of this college to support its broader initiative of manufacturing by have highly skilled professionals in the sector.

“We are interested in educating people who will help in production through manufacturing and be able to exploit our mineral resources in Laikipia,” Governor Muriithi said.

The governor emphasized the need to increase the capacity of the institution in order to achieve the global standards of 30% population having gone through tertiary education.

“Developed countries around the world are having at least 25 percent of their population having attained tertiary education. Here in Laikipia, only 11% have attained such level of education,” he added.

The governor said that the college will help to improve this education goal and help improve the economy.

Laikipia University has identified Nanyuki town as the most suitable place to establish the college to



take advantage of its growth and cosmopolitan nature of the town.

“This is the first step we are taking and we are keen to ensure that people in Nanyuki benefit from this venture,” VC Rotich emphasized.

He affirmed that the institution has made great progress in ensuring the college is operational within the shortest time possible. The VC noted that collaboration with the county government is the best way to approach the process.

The college, Prof Rotich said, will start with three programs that they will agreed upon with the county government.

“These courses will inform the operation of the college and give it its own identity,” VC adds.

Establishment of the institution will help in improving the literacy level in the county

and provide the workforce which is well trained in emerging issues in the county such as mining.

This is a process that began two years ago with aim of ensuring that there is a university in Nanyuki town.

The process of operationalizing the college will start next year and the county hopes to take advantage of the vibrant agri-business sub-sector around Nanyuki.

Chief Officer Education, Youth and Social Services James Mwangi said that the college will help in improving tertiary education level as residents of Nanyuki will not travel far in search for academic development.

He noted that it also presents a big opportunity for the growth of Nanyuki town and create employment for many residents to cater for the students.



Solio Community Water Project Achieves 1,500 Metered Targeted Connections



A kitchen garden in Solio. Such undertakings were impossible the Government provided piped water to the scheme residents

Solio community water project has reached a critical milestone with more than 1,500 households connected to safe and clean water. Another 275 households have applied and are waiting for connection. In addition all schools, both primary and secondary, health centres, administration offices and Solio Dairy Cooperative Society all have a metered connections. To fully serve the community, the project has developed a further 39 kilome-

tres of pipeline network from internally generated funds through user fees to be able to cover all villages and households that require water. To realise the immense potential of our community, the county government is partnering with partners like Groots Kenya, SNV Netherlands and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to make available drip irrigation kits to enable the households set up kitchen gardens which will further increase productivity of land besides encouraging wise use of water as a

resource. All the water connections have been mapped and can be accessed through www.nawascogis.co.ke/SOLIO We thank the Solio Community Water Association, NAWASCO and all other partners and stakeholder who have made this possible. For Solio community, the future is indeed bright.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF LAIKIPIA

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WAIVER WAIVER WAIVER

**WAIVER OF INTEREST AND PENALTIES ON
OUTSTANDING LAND RATES**

With the Approval of H.E the Governor and the County Assembly of Laikipia, the County Revenue Board hereby **NOTIFY** all Laikipia County Land Rate Payers that 100% **WAIVER** of accrued interest and penalties on all outstanding rates has been **WAIVED** effective 7th December, 2020 to 7th February, 2021.

This is in recognition of the challenges occasioned by the Covid 19 pandemic, the demands of the Christmas season as well as January requirements.

The Expectation is that the rate payers clears the principal rates in full within the period specified.

All the defaulters kindly note that after the Waiver period, the Government shall;

1. Compel tenants of rate defaulters to pay rent directly to the Revenue Board until the rates and interests due are fully recovered without reference to the land lords.
2. Withhold any development plans approvals until any/all outstanding rates are paid
3. Repossess the land and the development.
4. Deny or decline renewal of any license/permits sought by tenants within a premises whose owner has defaulted on the land rates.

Payments can be done through:

Mobile money by dialing *861#
OR
Mpesa Pay Bill Number 313131 and Invoice number as the account number
OR
Bank deposit
Cooperative Bank, Nanyuki Branch
Acc.Number **001141366378700**

For any inquiries, kindly contact The CEO, Laikipia County Revenue Board on **0757701850** or email lcrb@laikipia.go.ke



Drip irrigation technology that Solio homesteads are using to establish kitchen gardens

Government Distributes ECDE Books Ahead of Reopening



Laikipia ECDE ward coordinators and ECDE teachers have successfully completed distribution of ECDE books to all 432 centres. The exercise is part of getting ready for the reopening of the schools on January 4.



Handing Over of Shalom Canaan Secondary School, Ngobit Ward



Laikipia Holds End of the Year Prayers and Consultations

The County Government of Laikipia on December 21 held an interdenominational thanksgiving marking the end of 2020.

The religious leaders prayed for the prosperity and blessing of Laikipia and the country at large while emphasizing the need for unity among Kenyans during the festive season.

Every religious leader who spoke retaliated the importance of prayers noting that 'a house that prays together, stays together'. This was the first of such importance event to happen in the county and it will be entrenched as a tradition to be followed years to come.

The event gave executive, legislature, the clergy and other opinion leaders an opportunity to reflect on the ending year which was full of uncertainties with challenging moments due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the same event, the clergy had a chance to interrogate the performance of Governor Ndiritu Muriithi's government during the whole year.

The consultation touched on government expenditure, universal health care, infrastructure development, innovation programme and environment management.

Each department took the clergy through their respective areas in a brief presentations on what they have been



able to achieve year 2020. The clergy were allowed to raise queries on the performance of Governor Muriithi and ask for intervention on several issues affecting Laikipians.

The religious leaders applauded the good work done by the county government by being transparent on its engagement on matter of financial expenditure since the county has been a role model to other counties on how to manage resources. Laikipia county become the first county to release its audited financial statement 2018/19 this week to the public.

The public will be able to interrogate the county government on how the utilized the money allocated to various depart-

ments. This set another milestone that Governor Muriithi has achieved since his government came into the office.

As the clergy prayed for a blessed festive season, the agreed to continue praying for better future of Laikipia county.

The Governor and the clergy agreed to kick start a process of training religious leaders on business development. This will equip them with necessary skills to become agents of development in the county.

The training is expected to take place early next year in 2021.

Elders Pay Courtesy Call on Governor Ndiritu Muriithi



Elders from Kiama Kia Ma paid a courtesy call on Governor Ndiritu Muriithi. The Governor urged the members to be ambassador of Laikipia made products and Buy Laikipia, Build Laikipia brand

Laikipia Team Wins Kiambu Cycling Challenge



Laikipia team was in Kiambu County for the Kibuku cycling challenge



Team Laikipia, represented by Grace Kabiru and Peter Maina won the cycling event. Position 1 under 21 boys and Girls.

