

Solio Water Project Offers Important Lessons to Ethiopians



Heads of Ethiopian Regional Water Bureaus engage with County and National Governments officials during their benchmark visit to Solio Water Project in February 2020

Facts About Solio Water Project

- Targets 5,000 families with 20,000 people in seven villages
- Project Cost Kshs 143 million shillings
- Draws water 34 kilometres in the Aberdare
- 50 km of distribution pipeline network
- Completed a month ahead of schedule

The success of the recently completed Solio Water Project has attracted the attention beyond the country.

A delegation of Ethiopian officials, who were on a benchmarking tour of the project had valuable insights into the effort that made the project a success, having been completed a month ahead of time. The Ethiopian delegation expressed optimism that the innovative approach the County Government of Laikipia deployed to deliver the high impact project is applicable to solve the water problem in their regions.

The water officials, who comprised of heads of Regional Water Bureaus and development partners, were exposed to the role the partnership between the County Government of Laikipia and the Water Sector Trust Fund played towards the delivery of the ambitious project, the biggest flagship project undertaken by the water fund in Kenya.

More importantly, the water officials gained insight into the potential the decentralized government operations have in spearheading project implementation. They learnt of the technical role the Nanyuki Water and Sewerage Company played that went a long way in ensuring timely completion of Solio Water Project.

The team was particularly impressed with the professional input the water company gave during the project proposal, procurement, supervision and completion of the project. The success of the high impact project has earned the approval of the Water Sector Trust Fund, the biggest financier of the project.

For the Ethiopians, Solio Water Project provides a unique workable model to achieve high impact water projects in the country's dry areas such as the Afar region.

WSTF financed 70 per cent of the 143 million shilling project, with the County Government of Laikipia funding the initial 30 per cent input. The speedy 30 per cent capital commitment by the county government saw Laikipia edge out six other counties for funding.

The Water Sector Trust Fund recommended the project to the visiting delegation as a successful project. The development will benefit more than 20,000 people in the seven villages of Solio Settlement Scheme.

The water will unlock the production potential for an area where lack of the resource has rendered it agriculturally unproductive. Solio Water Project featured in the first Laikipia County Integrated Development Plan of 2013-2017 but it never materialized.

Governor Ndiritu Muriithi in his 2017 campaign pledge, promised to implement the project. This saw the project included in the current CIDP, with the delivery done less than halfway into Governor Muriithi's term.

Excitement As Laikipia Unveils Plan to Exploit Minerals



Mining PS Kirihi Kaberia and Governor Ndiritu Muriithi unveil Laikipia County Mining Report at the Laikipia Mining conference

Laikipia County could be headed for industrial manufacturing after the county government unveiled a bold strategy to exploit iron ore among 15 other minerals. The exploitation of iron, in particular, could trigger social economic transformation as the mineral is seen to be the game-changer as it feeds the country's manufacturing sector. Petroleum and Mining PS Ambassador Kirihi Kaberia termed the move by the county government as "bold". The availability of cheap iron and subsequently steel will guarantee Laikipia products such as the BJ 50 an even playing field with imported goods.

Currently, the expensive metal components have pushed the cost of Laikipia innovation productions through the roof, with the price of the end product being too high to compete against imported ones in the local market. This position jeopardizes the acceleration of this manufacturing industry into mass production.(cont'd..pg 2)

HUNDREDS OF LAIKIPIA RESIDENTS BENEFIT FROM BEYOND ZERO



Patients line up for services outside a Beyond Zero mobile clinic in Laikipia North

The First Lady's Beyond Zero health outreach attended to 14,824 patients in far-flung areas of Laikipia in 2019, underlining the campaign's health impact in hard-to-reach areas, and further cementing the partner's role towards the acceleration of Laikipia County's Universal Health Coverage strategy. The mobile health outreach provided services ranging from curative, cancer screening, family planning, and HIV testing. The early diagnosis drive saw 736 screened for cervical cancer, out of which 24 were identified and referred for further attendance.

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The one year campaign also extended to family planning, antenatal clinic, deliveries, immunization and deworming. Also, part of the more than 14000 beneficiaries of the mobile health services were 1108 women who were taken through breast examination for cancer, patients screened for hypertension, diabetes and prostate cancer.

The initiative also saw the referral by ambulance of 70 cases for various emergencies, with 101 patients with various medical conditions that require medical specialists identified and linked to care. Patients who needed surgery were linked with the free medical camp in Kimanjo Sub-County Hospital.

The health drive also came to the rescue of a mother with a retained after delivering at home. Children who were dehydrated and malnourished were referred to higher facilities for management.

Discovery of minerals puts Laikipia on path to manufacturing

(.....from pg 1)

With the entry of the mining sector, Laikipia is eyeing a period of further economic diversification as a catalyst for economic progress.

With an already established innovation base, the county's mineral sector is set to create multiple jobs as innovators feed into the entire mineral value chain, creating hundreds of direct and indirect jobs.

A strengthened manufacturing sector is central to accelerating Laikipia's Gross County Product from the current Ksh. 120 billion to 400 billion shillings in the foreseeable future.

Economy

The realization of a 400 billion shilling economy translates to a 1000 shillings average daily income for every Laikipian, facilitating the transitioning of the people into complete social-economic independence. A robust manufacturing sector will provide direct and indirect jobs to thousands of people as local and international capital find its way into the local investment scenes. The labour intensive industry will provide hundreds of skilled and unskilled jobs to the residents directly, with additional jobs on the mineral value addition chain and the service industries of transport, foods and material supplies. More jobs will be realized as the government steps in to improve transport infrastructure in the mining areas. In Kenya and other African countries, the exploitation of minerals has not made great contributions to the GDP. Laikipia County Government is at the forefront to change this state of affairs by spearheading efforts to turn mineral wealth into jobs and tangible wealth to the people.

This will be achieved by putting deliberate efforts to welcome industry partnerships that will ensure Laikipia becomes the hub of processing for the minerals it produces. By creating and retaining most of the jobs, this step will go a long way in making Laikipia avoid the economic dangers that come with exporting raw minerals, a practice that has left countries poorer even as they produce precious minerals. By partnering with industry experts on governance, the County Government hopes to bring in lessons from elsewhere to guide transparency, public participation, and environmental safeguards.

The CEREB Bloc

Public engagement will set the realistic expectations that will ensure communities understand what the industry has to offer. Government policy regulations will ensure mining operations adhere to environment protection to ensure sustainable exploitation where equitable sharing of accruing benefits is guaranteed.

Deliberate interventions by the County Government in this sector will ensure Laikipia reaps maximum benefits from its strategic position to supply finished products to the Central Region Economic Bloc. Such initiatives will also see the people benefit from heightened commercial activities as the link to the Nairobi-Nanyuki railway line and the Lapsset corridor will facilitate faster distribution of products, hence the demand. Mineral exploitation puts Laikipia at the centre of a plan by the national government to increase the mining sector's contribution to 10 per cent of the GDP by 2030 through value addition and the implementation of new policies.

KMTC Nanyuki Campus to Open Doors This Year



Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital's quest to attain training status has gone a notch higher with the commencement of construction a Kenya Medical Training College campus.

The contractor working on the project is set to commence works on the training institution's administration block and additional classrooms, having been handed over the construction site.

The institution is set to receive its first batch of Nursing and Clinical Officer students in September this year.

The development will see the hospital make a major stride towards becoming a leading training, research and referral hospital in the region. This is a major boost to the health facility's leading role in provision of medical services. Currently, the hospital is the leading provider of renal health services.

The addition of a Kenya Medical Training Campus in Nanyuki will see Laikipia play host to two campuses, with one in Nyahururu. This will give the County an edge in medical research and a better access to human resource for the betterment of health services delivery.

The initiative of delivering a Medical School to NTRH is collaboration between the National Government and the County Government of Laikipia, a clear demonstration of synergies that collaboration and joint partnerships can create.

EDUCATION KEY TO SOLVING SECURITY ISSUES IN NORTH: LEADERS

Laikipia leaders have urged their counterparts in the neighbouring counties to prioritize education so as to provide a long term solution to the perennial security problem emanating from their communities.

Laikipia North MP Sarah Lekorere and other leaders voiced their concern that the end to conflict is not within sight unless leaders spearhead efforts to eradicate illiteracy among the pastoral communities. Illiteracy is seen as the main factor fuelling inter-communal invasions as warriors unquestioningly advance backward practices to fulfill tribal expectations. Laikipia has continued to bear the brunt of invasions from armed bandits from the neighboring counties as they propagate outdated traditions that Laikipia communities long outlived. The result is continued loss of lives and disruption of social-economic activities such as trade and livestock keeping. Tension has also led to disruption of education as children stay away from schools for fear of their safety.

This wave of insecurity comes at a time that Laikipia has enjoyed relative calm since 2017 when the government quelled the ranch invasions. The prevailing peace since then has been instrumental to the accelerated social-economic development in the county.

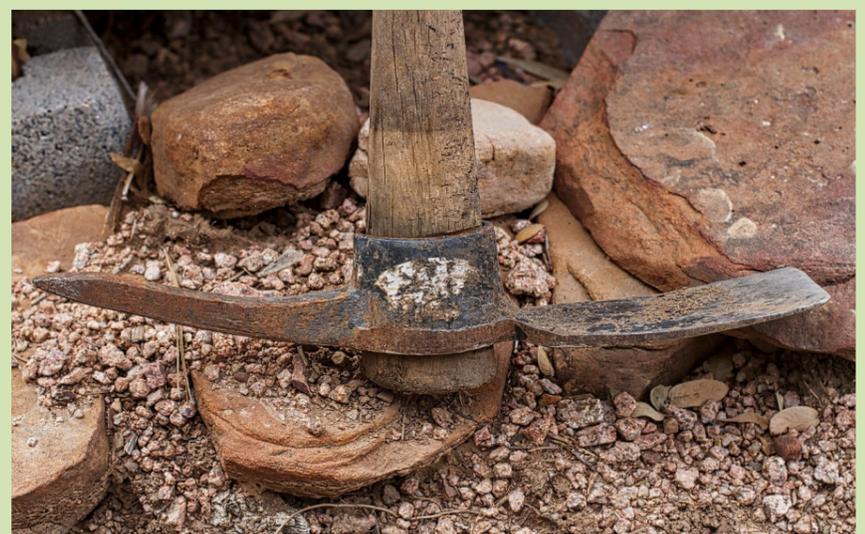
HOW LAIKIPIANS CAN BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN MINING INDUSTRY

With the discovery of minerals in Laikipia, residents have a chance to enter into the business of mining on a small scale. Artisanal mining, the legal entry level for people going into the industry, offers a good start for residents as the requirements for licensing for this level of mining are within reach. The Mining Act 2016 recognizes and provides regulations around this form of mining. This level of mining grants residents entry into small-scale commercial mining activities that can produce minerals in a responsible way.

The scale and technical sophistication for this kind of mining are viable for most of the residents. This mineral sector is a significant source of employment for rural populations, and is a catalyst for rural development.

For Laikipia, opportunities abound in small-scale mining, extraction and smelting of iron. This would be an improvement on centuries-old traditional iron smelting skills used by community blacksmiths to make weapons and ornaments.

With necessary legal, technical and financial support, this form of mining will provide a viable source of livelihood to local populations. Technical support by government will improve productivity and safeguard the environment, with enforcing regulations to protect water resources, reduce deforestation,



and address safe working conditions and access to health care.

Through savings, organized artisanal miners can pool resources to venture into full-scale commercial mining to increase their income.

A 2015 study found out that 800, 000 Kenyans are dependent on artisanal mining, directly employing 90,000 people. Of these, 40,000 work in quarries, 30,000 in sand business while the rest work in artisanal mines producing other materials.

The industry contributes about 0.8 per cent to the GDP.

LAIKIPIA LEADERSHIP BOOSTS INVESTOR CONFIDENCE



Governor Ndiritu Muriithi addresses the County Assembly of Laikipia after during the opening after recess

Laikipia County leadership has for the past few years enjoyed a cordial working relationship, a development that has seen more investment activities, thanks to an improved business environment. The boost in investor confidence has seen more businesses coming up in urban centres across the County.

The stable leadership regime has been pivotal in creating a conducive environment for businesses to thrive.

Thanks to a continually improving working relationship between the Executive, the Assembly and the national

government, investors are warming up to an accommodating environment rarely seen elsewhere.

During the recent mining conference, investors and other leaders lauded Laikipia leadership for granting business a stable environment that has ensured security of investments.

The improved working relationship has seen faster projects implementation to the advantage of citizens.

The resultant rise in commerce has translated into more jobs for the residents, which results on improved cash flow that boosts general economic wellbeing.

Laikipia TBAs Get A Goat for Every Skilled Delivery

Every challenge presents an opportunity for an innovative solution. And that is just what the Department of Health did.

Faced with the need to deliver maternal health to conservative communities in Laikipia North, the government had to come up with a solution that would link traditional practices with modernity to scale up safe deliveries for mothers to promote mother and child health. And the County Government's goat for every skilled delivery came about. The incentive sees awarding of one goat for every mother who delivers at a health facility. The gift also extends to the other women and midwives who take a woman to deliver at a health facility.

Thanks to the initiative, the safety of the mother and child is now better than ever as skilled deliveries in health facilities find acceptance in the communities.

The strategy is expected to drastically lower birth related complications in mothers and infants as it will also promote prenatal clinics attendance. Cases of expectant mothers developing complications during and after delivery are rife in Laikipia North as most mothers prefer delivering at home with little or no medical assistance

The approach to improve maternal health is part of multifaceted initiatives that form the unique Laikipia Universal Health Coverage strategy which seeks to bring health services closer. This program will boost initiatives already in place to promote maternal health such as the removal of user fees for maternity care, training of community health workers, training traditional birth attendants and provision of hygienic birth kits.

The strategy will serve to drastically lower child mortality rate, where Laikipia records the second lowest rates in Kenya for children under the age of five.



Deputy Governor John Mwaniki and First Lady Maria Mbeneka present a goat for skilled delivery in Laikipia North

LAIKIPIA TO SHOWCASE ITS UHC MODEL

Laikipia will showcase its unique Universal HealthCare model at a conference that will be held on March 26th -27th 2020 in Nanyuki. The event, the first of its kind in the region, will explore financial protection where participants will deliberate on steps taken to ensure health conditions do not put people at financial risks. Access to affordable health services for all will also feature the discussions. Deliberations will also cover health quality improvement in perspective of investments towards the achievement of the same.

Government Moves to Seal Skills Gap in Mining

When oil was discovered in Turkana, residents were upbeat about new job opportunities for them. But the complexity of the job demanded skills beyond the basics, a reality that put the residents' expectations in jeopardy.

Equally, the discovery of minerals in Laikipia opens up exciting investment frontiers and job prospects for residents and the country at large. But mining being a new sector in the county, it means there exists insufficient skilled and semi-skilled labour from within to set the industry in motion. This state of affairs means that mining companies will have to outsource skilled labour, hurting local job seekers in the process.

To plug this gap, Laikipia County Government has sponsored over 80 students for training at Kenya Industrial Training Institute in Nakuru. The training will equip the students with hands-on and business skills to venture into manufacturing at small to medium-scale levels.

The move is informed by the need to invest in technical skills to equip the youth with the skills needed to turn the gaps in the mineral value addition chain into business ventures.

This will ensure local youths maximize on the benefits from exploitation of minerals, in particular iron.



To scale this initiative to the next level, the County Government is spearheading efforts to strengthen all the Vocational Training Centres to introduce courses that will equip students with skills in mining and mineral processing. This will enable them secure jobs in mining companies and engage in self employment.

By sealing the skills gap, the government is putting in checks that will go a long way in ensuring Laikipia benefits from its mineral wealth from extraction to selling of manufactured products.

This is informed by global experiences where mineral wealth ends up having insignificant economic contribution as raw mineral exportation takes jobs away.

This scenario thus puts Laikipia at odds with the agenda of local job creation and retention. It is reason Laikipia County Government, keen to see the exploitation of the natural resource build the local economy, is determined to seal the skills gaps.

Investors Cash in on Emerging Laikipia's Smart Towns

AUGUST 2018



FEBRUARY 2020



The wind of transformation sweeping across urban centres in Laikipia County has caught the attention of investors. New investments in building and general trade are rapidly coming up

For anyone who may have been away for two years, chances are high that they get treated to a surprise by the new look as most towns undergo a complete infrastructural makeover.

Motorists visiting Nanyuki, for instance, will be awed by the new street tarmacs complete with properly marked parking bays that are fast restoring the town's lost glory. The re-organized Nanyuki and Nyahururu towns are just part of the numerous urban regeneration projects that are earning Laikipia a spot as a preferred investment destination. The rising property value and heightened real estate activity is evidence of the commercial drive the towns upgrade is generating. The more outstanding projects, however, are the Wiyumiririe and Rumuruti town whose streets and bus termini are being paved with cobble-stone, a technique that will ensure the streets remain intact for at least 200 years.

The story is the same for towns such as Naibor, Sipili and Kinamba where the towns are getting a new lease of life as the streets and markets get tarmacked for the first time.

The urban regeneration project is set to raise commercial activity as the towns get increasingly interconnected by the growing network of tarmac roads done over the recent past.

Laikipia traders and farmers are looking at a future of revamped trade in towns within its borders. Improved inter-county connection such as the Karandi-Marigat road will link food producers to better markets in Baringo and beyond.



County Government of
Laikipia

GO DOWN ROAD
NYAHURURU SMART TOWN