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Why Laikipia has experienced more deliveries at health facilities

PG 6



Laikipia helping farmers make informed decisions ahead of planting

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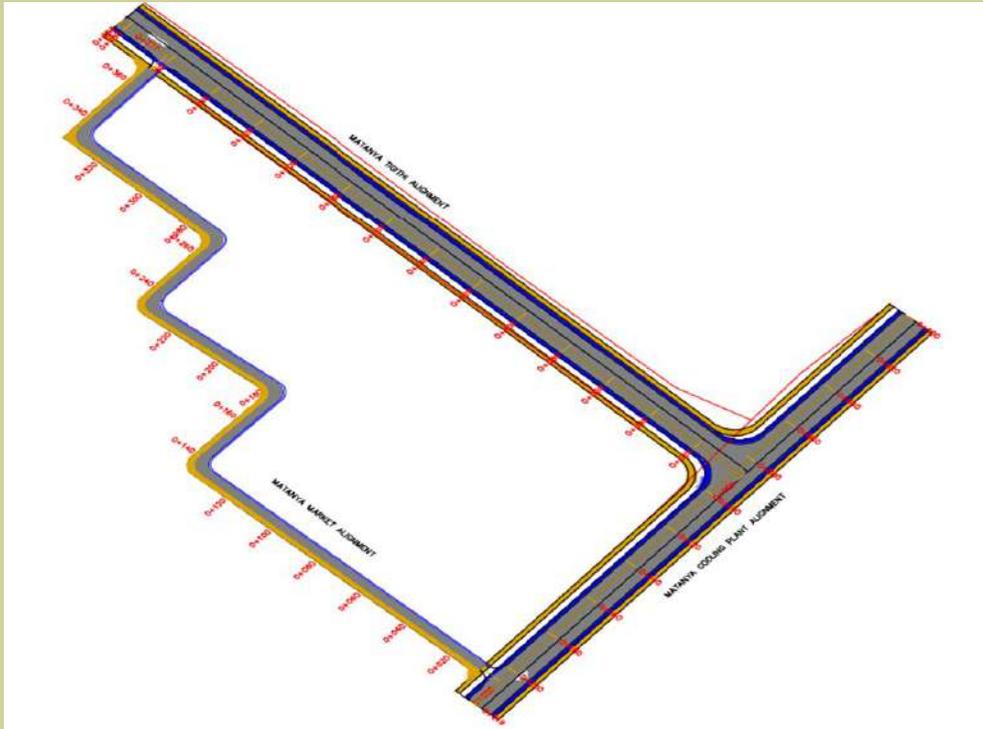
New fire station in Nanyuki nears completion

New Motorcycles to Aid in Extension Services



The nine new motorcycles for the Department of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries will help the officers in mobility as they do data collection and offer extension services to the farmers across the county.

Matanya Shopping Centre Transformation to take 6 Months



By Muriithi John

Matanya shopping centre is set to undergo a major facelift following the signing of contract by the County Government of Laikipia and Wenwee Contractors Limited to undertake construction works.

The signing took place on May 31, 2022 and is funded by the infrastructure bond that the Senate recently voted to approve after Treasury Cabinet Secretary made a request to guarantee, amounting to Ksh. 1.16 billion.

The aim of the deliberate move to transform Matanya shopping centre is to attract more investors in the area and consequently uplift

the economic status of the locals.

Wenwee Contractors Limited has six months to actualize the project and uplift the standard of Matanya from a shopping centre to a Smart Town.

Some of the expected results after six months of construction work include; 0.88 Km of Asphalt paved roads around Matanya Shopping Centre, complete with storm water drains and structures, 83 vehicle parking slots, 1.38 Km of pedestrian cabro walkways, and an ablution block.

Other than the specialized workforce needed for the technicalities of actualizing the project, all the

other workers will be sourced from within Matanya area.

All the efforts are geared towards creating a business conducive environment that will attract more investors to set up their businesses, while others will get the need to expand the already existing ones.

The town that is well-planned in collaboration with the locals through several public engagements has put everything in its right location. Therefore, it will be among the cleanest towns in Laikipia County; dust will be a thing of the past in Matanya CBD.

The well-constructed drainage system will facilitate the free flow of floods to keep the residents in a hygienic environment.

The land price is expected to shoot following the transformation. Many people will be interested in relocating to the new town, and thus raising the demand for a place to settle.

The numerous business entities will create many job opportunities for the locals.

New Motorcycles to Facilitate Extension, Data Collection Services



Some of the newly acquired motorcycles to be used for extension and data collection services.

Below: Agriculture Chief Officer Emily Kioko handing head gear to one of the riders

By Ian Sawe.

Farmers in Laikipia County have received a major boost in technical support after nine new motorcycles were sent to facilitate in extension services and data collection across the county.

During the flagging off ceremony of the new machinery on June 18, 2022, Emily Kioko Chief Officer Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, said that from the nine some will be used for extension services and the rest for data collection.

“Five of the new machinery will be used in market data collection activities under the Kenya Climate Smart Agricultural Project, while

the other four will be used to serve in enhancing agricultural extension services in selected administrative wards through the county agricultural extension officers,” she said.

Agriculture being Laikipia Coun-

ty's iconic backbone, has created a need to propel it to a much productive activity. With joint support from the Kenya Climate Smart Agricultural Project, the county government has seen an increased value chain to the vital economic sector.

The department has 86 newly employed staff that will be facilitated in their movement to reach the farmers using the acquired machinery. Mobility is a key factor in making the agricultural extension activity a success. The new motorcycles form part of the great milestone in implementing the project.

Out of the selected 15 administrative wards, the nine motorcycles add up to a 60% success rate of the agricultural support activity.



First Lady's Hongera Mama Kit: LHS Staff Credit Decency Pack to Fast Rising Facility Deliveries

By David Serem

Skilled deliveries are a monumental aspect of the wellbeing of mothers and their infants; they guarantee a healthier start for the baby, reducing avoidable delivery-associated complications with guaranteed timely interventions where need be. This is key in reducing child birth mortalities.

It is for this reason that the government continues to invest in capacities to scale up access to skilled deliveries. This has seen the number of facilities offering maternity services rise fast in the recent past, with a notable rise of numbers of mothers opting to deliver at health facilities.

But even with the multifaceted efforts to boost communities' embrace of skilled delivery, none of the efforts has seen the level of success Hongera Mama Kit has been able to achieve. A recent spot check on facilities spread across the county reveal that scores of mothers are attracted to the decency pack offered at the facilities following delivery.

Mama Kits are designed to help expectant mothers deliver with the basic provisions of skilled birth. The kit contains mother and baby care products to give the mother a hygienic start, such



as slippers, towels, soaps, basin among others.

The First Lady's initiative is responsible for driving the large number of facility deliveries in all corners of the county, with this trend most notable in communities neighboring the LHS outlets of Ngarua, Olmorani, Muramati, Powys among others. In Olmorani, for instance, Mama Kit has attracted large number of the conservative communities to professional maternal care before, during and after delivery.

Healthcare providers running these facilities concur that these decency packs might seem small incentives, but they make a world of difference for mothers.

"The decency Mama Kit brings can

only be understood by mothers who are not guaranteed such in home deliveries. The things we sometimes take for granted mean a lot to our clients," said one of LHS nurses.

Laikipia has gone to great lengths in promoting professional maternal care, with consistency now paying off.

In Laikipia North, for instance, trainings for Traditional Birth Attendants and goat present to the same for every hospital delivery they facilitate has seen skilled hospital deliveries rise sharply, replacing the home deliveries that are unable to keep up with emerging trends.

Hospitality Industry Experiences a Network Platform in Nanyuki



By Victor Waiganjo

The Insight Hospitality Conference and Expo, a leading exhibition, sales, conferences and networking platform for the hospitality industry in Kenya, brought together hotel owners, procurement managers, head of departments and supervisors from hotels, camps, lodges and resorts within Mt Kenya region, for a two day hotel suppliers expo at the Warwick Hotel in Nanyuki on June 15 and 16, 2022.

The expo featured an impressive lineup of experts and suppliers of hotel resources from a variety of leading companies in Kenya.

Among the exhibitors present at the expo were Uni Industries East Africa Limited, a company that manufactures and supplies equipment mainly to the food

retail, wholesale, hospitality, manufacturing and retail industries, that is, supermarkets, bakeries, petrol station convenience stores, fast food outlets, restaurants, institutions and government kitchens, bottlers and brewers and catering contractors.

The major selling point for the company is its ability to provide complete systems and not just equipment supply. They design, install, commission as well as provide backup for the equipment requirements.

For those in the baking line, Uni Industries can upscale a little bread shop in your garage to a supermarket bakery and to a complete bakery plant ranging from 5,000 to 100,000 loaves per day.

In the Kitchen line, they offer both Kenyan fabricated and imported

kitchen equipment. These include setups such as fish and chips outlets, coffee shops, juice parlours, restaurant kitchens, hotel and college kitchens. They also provide laundry equipment albeit for commercial purposes, from small laundrettes to hotel and institutional set ups. For all their supplies, the company offers backup spares.

Horeca Hospitality and Silent Night Bedding were also among the more than 10 groups showcasing their supplies. Horeca Hospitality supplies toiletries and amenities for various purposes and to diverse institutions with their counterparts, Silent Night Bedding, providing the most comfortable beds and mattresses at a cost effective price.

The expo provided the attendants with an opportunity to connect with professionals and industry peers and individuals with tools necessary to drive their businesses forward in the hospitality industry, with the suppliers giving valuable guidance drawing from their expertise and viewpoints.

The hospitality sector has grown leaps and bounds to cement itself as the mainstay of the economy of Laikipia County as attested by this great event that brought together the major players in the industry.

Aiding Laikipia Farmers Make Informed Planting Decisions



By Mollin Wanjiru

Climate change has a devastating impact on livelihoods mainly, affecting food security which is a major concern for Laikipia County and other stakeholders.

Agriculture being a devolved function of the county governments, Laikipia County Department of Agriculture plays a role of ensuring that farmers are able to practice Climate Smart Agriculture techniques to realize food security and increase income for the low income farmers.

Laikipia is conducting a participatory scenario planning workshop with an aim of designing, disseminating and delivering of user-friendly climate information ser-

vices for different actors in Agriculture and other sectors. This is being done in partnership with other parties like ASDSP, NDMA, SNV (listen) Hand in Hand and the Kenya Meteorological Department.

The participatory scenario planning workshop will inform the County Steering Group (CSG) and all the collaborating agencies in coming up with mitigation measures to help in dealing with the adverse effects caused by climate change. In the last seasons where the Laikipia County experienced below minimum rains, the Department distributed relief maize seeds and supplementary animal feeds-hay, pellets and aca-

ricides to farmers in the county as an emergency response against drought.

The team led by Mr. Edward Njuguna- ASDSP Value chain officer, has developed weather advisories citing the effects, impacts, opportunities and actions to be taken as we expect normal and below normal rainfall scenarios in the county.

The ward Agricultural Officers will disseminate the information to the farmers for the June-July-August rain season. This will help the farmers make better decisions guided by the weather projections.

The team will provide weather advisories based on the weather scenarios at the Sub-County level by highlighting the impacts, hazards, mitigation measures and the actions to be taken by the various partners and sectors.

The workshop has brought together officers from the department drawn from various sectors and sub-counties and other officers from the National Government Ministry of Education, Interior security and Co-ordination and Ministry of Health.

First Fire Station in Laikipia Nears Completion



Laikipia's Fire Station in Nanyuki. It is in its last phase of completion on the construction works

Nanyuki residents and those from the neighborhood are set to benefit from quick response in cases of fire or other emergencies. This is after a fire station is being set up in Nanyuki to accommodate a fire truck.

The reason for the location of the station in Nanyuki is because of the proximity to the highway, water pipeline and security. The location will allow the truck to move with speed without much disruption while responding to an emergency.

There is a provision for a fire hydrant, and room for expansion to accommodate future addition of

more fire trucks.

The fire fighters will have a recreation room that accommodates them as they keep their standby position, awaiting to save lives and property for Laikipia people and those from the surrounding regions. Five staff members will be on standby, working in two 12-hour shifts.

The station is in its final stages to be completed in the coming days. Currently, a recruitment exercise is underway for 14 more people to build the fire department's capacity.

Also to be found in the station include;

⇒ A control room (To receive

alerts on any fires, and there are plans to secure a hotline as well),

⇒ Office

⇒ Storage room

⇒ Power house

⇒ Kitchen,

⇒ 3 bathrooms, 2 toilets

⇒ A recreation room for fire-fighters as they wait for an emergency,

⇒ Fire extinguishers (to be installed),

⇒ Hose reel and a fire bell in place to alert firefighters once a distress call is received

Fire fighting is a calling. As others flee from it, firefighters go to-

Oljabet: From Shopping Centre to Modern Town

