



Laikipia

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**WEEKLY
BULLETIN**

Mwisho wa Reli Myth Shattered as Railway Map Found

By David Serem

The myth surrounding the fabled loss of a map that cut short the progression of the railway line beyond Nanyuki town has been shattered!

Lands officials in Nanyuki have finally found the map! And true to the widely told tale, the newly-found map aptly captures the original intention of taking the railway line towards northern Kenya from the Nanyuki terminal.

The tale of the lost railway route map has always defined Nanyuki town as an entertainment hotspot nationally and internationally almost to the class of Las Vegas.

It tells of how engineers constructing the 250-kilometre Nairobi-Nanyuki railway got trapped and carried away by merry and fun that characterizes the town and in the process lost the map.

With nothing to show them the route the railway

line was to take, further construction of this critical infrastructure hit a dead. This earned Nanyuki the nickname *Mwisho wa Reli* (end of the railway).

On Wednesday, July 15, 2020, the Laikipia National Land Coordinator Mr Josphat Waswa produced the newly found map at a multi-agency consultative forum that is seeking to streamline land and natural resources issues in Laikipia county.

Multi-agency forum

Among those at the forum was the Governor H.E. Ndiritu Muriithi, County commissioner Daniel Nyameti, County Assembly Speaker Patrick Waigwa,

MCAs, among other representatives from Nema, Water Resources Authority, urban planning.

Mr Waswa said the map dated 1968 shows the line beyond its current terminal cutting through Nanyuki town, crossing the Lunatic lane just opposite the police station, Likii River and onwards to Meru.

The participants discussed at length various issues touching on the history of physical planning, the extent of violations on original plans, and the social economic and environmental impact of the encroachments in Laikipia and beyond.

The meeting also sought to understand the legal aspects that guide land use as well as classification.

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NLC county coordinator Josphat Waswa showing the map with the route for the railway line beyond Nanyuki

New Dawn As Government Endorses Laikipia's BJ50



Friday, July 17, 2020 marked an important milestone in the development of Laikipia-Made car BJ50 after Trade and Industrialization Cabinet secretary Betty Maina visited its new factory in Nyahururu.

The CS toured the Sagak Tech Automakers factory and was clearly amazed by the efforts that county was making towards industrialization and pledged that the national government will support it.

"Sagak you are doing a good job and we really want to more of these vehicles come out...people may say it's not smooth and does not look good...it may not look nice the first time. Remember the original Mahindras that came from India they just looked worse than this...the panel were not smooth but with innovation they have become smooth and people continued using it and recently they have grown to set an assembly line here in the country," the CS noted.

"It's good they are assembling the car and creating jobs in Kenya, but it should be more exciting to assemble more of BJ50s and give it the world as the Kenya's innovation. We want to walk with you until we can realize that and unveil it and see a retinue of cars that have been made here,"

She said efforts by the county government of Laikipia in handholding local innovators and SMEs

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Long 'Lost' Railway Route Map Finally Found in Nanyuki

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The forum is seeking sustainable solutions regarding land questions in the county. In particular, the thorny issues of irregular land titling, abuse of allotment letters and the reclaiming of public land, wetlands, water sources and riparian from private ownership were addressed.

The team is seeking a coordinated approach to solving issues of encroachment, land grabbing and violations of land plans through a streamlined framework that ensures adherence to the laid down regulations.

Mr Waswa also displayed another 1991 map that is purported to have replaced the original map of 1968. This 1991 map did not have the development of the railway line beyond its Nanyuki terminal.

Fortunately, the map does not have a disclaimer on its Legend to the effect that it supersedes the original map of 1968.

"The 1991 Map is null and void because it does not supersede the one of 1968," declared Mr Waswa. This does not bode well for developments that were based on the false 1991 map.

A group of encroachers have already gone to court to prevent the Kenya Railways from recovering its grabbed land around Nanyuki.

Revelations

Revelations about the map have coincided with Nanyuki centenary celebrations as well as the revival of the Nairobi-Nanyuki railway. The broader vision of the project is to connect the capital city with the Lapsset corridor at the designated Resort City of Isiolo and to the huge economies of South Sudan and Ethiopia.

The Kenya Railways has a big warehouse in Meru town.

It has emerged that the original Nanyuki map was altered and existing regulations grossly abused to pave way for series of irregularities.

The original map also features a 90-metre wide road reserve for a dual carriageway, the main transport corridor linking the City to the Lapsset Corridor in the north.

Alterations in subsequent maps have greatly



The railway line route map extending past its current Nanyuki terminal

interfered with the original town plans and paved way to unregulated town development and encroachment on public land and infrastructure spaces.

The town is expanding rapidly while developments are violating the law, as evidenced by more high-rise residential flats coming up in areas designated for single dwellings.

The spotlight is now on corrupt government officers who perpetrated these illegalities. The revelation also points out the disconnect between various government agencies that should have acted to prevent these crimes.

Crack the whip

With the discovery of the original railway map the onus is now on the government, specifically Governor Ndiritu Muriithi and County Commissioner Daniel Nyameti, to crack the whip on the culprit officers.

A week ago the county government sacked a member of the Rumuruti Municipality Board over issues surrounding her integrity when she once served in the county planning office.

"We must use the law even as we modernize..... as this is (lawlessness) is proving to be unsustainable

for posterity," Governor Muriithi said.

He said the government has a role in creating lasting solutions to forestall resource conflicts, for example, which are direct result of destruction of water towers.

"This lawlessness will affect our society deep into the future. We have to create a sustainable society by following the rule of law," the Governor added.

Regulatory agencies

What is required is for all government agencies to work in concert to address future land-related problems.

"The County Assembly will employ boldness to right the wrongs committed on land use to meet sustainable development," Speaker Waigwa said.

The encroachments on public property and the violations of regulations on land use in Nanyuki is not an isolated case. For instance, the continued destruction of water catchment areas in Aberdares and Marmanet Forests in Laikipia West is interfering with replenishing of subsurface water, as demonstrated by the fast receding borehole yields in lower areas such Lonyiek.

The resultant effect of water scarcity to areas dependent of the Ngare Narok River thousands of kilometers downstream is people moving upstream, sparking some of the worst conflicts in Laikipia county.

Government to support production and marketing of Laikipia car

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to grow should inspire the national and county governments to start similar initiatives.

The CS also pledged to support the registration of Sagak Tech Automakers as an assembler and also with Lathe machines from Numerical Machining Complex.

According to the firm's chief operating officer Wallace Kariuki the firm is keen to bridge the gap in transportation of farm produce, especially delivery of milk by cooperatives.

The vehicle can carry up to 800kg and is economical on fuel use. But more important is the ready market in the Sh2.12 trillion central region economic bloc.



Trade and Industrialisation CS Betty Maina disembarks from a BJ50. She announced that the government would be keen to promote the innovation across the world.

Amaya Triangle Initiative Joins Laikipia North Women -Professionals to Mentor Segera Girls



While observing all Covid-19 guidelines and protocols, women professionals in Laikipia North on July 18 had mentorship sessions for teenage girls in various centres within Segera ward. The sessions included awareness on how to keep themselves and their families safe from Covid-19 pandemic as well as early marriages and pregnancies. The team, which was led by Dr Christine Lekurtut and which also included Amaya Triangle Initiative director Virginia Wahome, was able to reach out to at least 40 girls in Class Seven to Form 4 from the ward. They also provided the girls with sanitary towels, soaps, face masks and body lotions.



KR Seeks Multisector Support for Nanyuki Railway Use



Kenya Railways, County Government and State Departments of Agriculture and Livestock officials at the meeting held in Nanyuki

Kenya Railways has embarked on an initiative to support the agriculture sector in Laikipia to generate enough produce to sustain rail cargo transportation on the newly rehabilitated Nairobi-Nanyuki Railway. The national railway corporation on Thursday held a consultative meeting with national agricultural based agencies in Nanyuki to deliberate on ways to generate viable agricultural volumes required to sustain train operations from Laikipia.

The meeting brought together representatives from the National Cereals and Produce Board, State Department of Crops, State Department of Livestock, Kenya Planters Cooperative Union and the Kenya National Trading Corporation. The participants deliberated on ways to create business by transportation of goods through the revived railway, where traders are set to reap from the reduced cost of transportation.

The newly rehabilitated railway line is on the tail end of the restoration operations, in just over two months.

The line will afford cheaper and safer transport alternatives for bulk cargo to the players in the agricultural sector, trade and mining.

The 11 million litre Vivo Fuel depot is set to be supplied by the railway line, with the expected reduction of fuel price set to ease the cost of doing business. Works are currently ongoing to extend the railway line 200 metres to deliver fuel straight into the terminal.

The railway line cuts through the Central Region Economic Bloc, promoting trade in the region that currently accounts 26 per cent of the country's GDP.

The extension of the railway line to Isiolo is set to link Cereb to new markets that are expected to be served by the Laps-set Corridor .

KeNHA on the Spot As Rehabilitation of Laikipia Road Delays

Anxiety is growing among Laikipia residents over failure by a contractor to start rehabilitation of tattered Laikipia Road in Nanyuki town.

The contractor was supposed to start the project on June 3, 2020 but it was not until last week that he brought a grader to the site.

The nagging question residents are asking is whether the contractor has the capacity to do the project.

The slow progress of the road might cause a delay of the project, which was expected to be completed in nine months.

As of Wednesday, only one grader and a handful of personnel were on site, with the slow commencement of the works dashing the hopes of the road users who continue to face with the risks posed by the poor state of the road.

Kenya National Highways Authority contracted M/s Musden Enterprises to do routine maintenance and spot improvement of the road up to Doldol turnoff from Nanyuki town.

Motorists using the road continue to incur heavy losses as the cost of vehicle repairs soar due to frequent breakdowns.

"This road is taking too long to repair despite the heavy traffic," decried John Kanja, a matatu driver, adding, "The problem is the low quality works. These touches will last just two to three months before we go back to this poor state again." Mr. Kanja argues that the government should reconsider the maintenance and do a complete overhaul instead, as the road serves heavy commercial vehicles ferrying sand, live-



A brigade from BATUK working on a badly worn down section Laikipia Road in Nanyuki recently. The contractor working to restore the road is making slow progress, one month after the date of start of contract

stock and farm produce. The poor state of the road is a safety risk to motorists and riders, as they try to navigate the huge potholes that are filled with water when it rains. "It is becoming increasingly unsafe for us bicycle riders as the vehicles are constantly driving on the wrong side to avoid the potholes," said Patrick Loroo, a regular user of the route.

Festus Muriithi, a resident, has in the recent past been on the lookout for a possible job opportunity on the construction

"We are constantly turned away. There has not been any clear communication as to when the work will commence fully," Mr. Muriithi lamented, and urged the contractor to consider locals when recruiting personnel.

The poor state of the road has almost paralyzed transport as it a key link between Nanyuki Town, Laikipia Air Base and British Army Training Unit Kenya, BATUK, and the heavy trucks ferrying sand from Laikipia North.

Why Scores of NHIF Customers Choose NTRH



Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital is a Level 4 hospital which serves over 50,000 patients in a quarter.

This is impressive because the nearest Level 5 hospital, Nyeri county referral hospital, with more resources, external subsidies and physical infrastructure, serves about 54,000 in a quarter.

For NHIF capitation alone, about 45,000 individuals have chosen it as the primary healthcare provider. Its workload compared to the existing physical capacity is certainly the best in the region.

This means its resources stretch and do more. About 600 patients are treated at the facility every day.

NTRH's Renal Unit is the best performing the region and the busiest renal unit in the region. In June 2019, 230 dialysis sessions were conducted. The patients in the renal list report a good dialysis experience in a clean and quiet environment with complementary first class meal provided at no extra cost to the patient (and certainly no gain to the hospital, other than the delight of seeing a satisfied patient with a difficult medical circumstance made bearable).

Some patients changed their dialysis service from the high-end hospitals in Nairobi to NTRH. They receive the service at the standard they are used to and at the convenience, of being near home.

On Thursday 11th July 2019, the hospital launched a revamped Youth Empowerment Centre that provides essential health services, advice and mentorship to our youth from ages 15-24.

The youth friendly services have encountered challenges in the past across the country. The hospitals current approach is sustainable and fully integrated with the institution's normal services.

The County Government through the Department of Health has entered into partnerships that are of benefit in delivery of services. The partnerships have also built staff capacity to be more effective when making healthcare decisions. NTRH has long-standing relationship with Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust in the UK. The partnership has been in specialised surgeries, emergency care, including the equipping of the emergency department, development of care protocols and tool, and in quality improvement. Four (4) Quality Improvement projects under a 'SpringBoard Programme' have been implemented as a result by staff in the outpatient, maternity, female ward and in the radiology departments.

The hospital also has partnership in medical education and research in collaboration with Quinnipiac University. The Quinnipiac University team was in the hospital and other county facilities last year undertaking operational research, continuous medical education and providing healthcare services. A related partnership with Yale University has enabled urology surgeons to train local teams and work alongside them to improve patient care.



Laikipia VTCs Becoming Viable Businesses

All the 10 Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) in the county have been set to generate own income and contribute to county revenue.

In this financial year all the Centres are expected to submit a business plans based on their major courses,,

Already, some of these VTCs have started generating income through various activities.

“We are offering training with a purpose as we generate income. We have confidence that finally our VTCs will be able to sustain themselves,” commented Mbiriri.

Marmanet, Nanyuki and Nyahururu VTCs have combined efforts to produce 300 hospital beds in one area for close monitoring. The beds are of high quality that other surrounding counties have shown interest to purchase from the three VTCs.

Nanyuki VTC is operating a cafeteria at the county assembly of Laikipia, thus making money out of quality education gained from the institution. The facility is now focusing on up-scaling their services to serve in weddings, funerals and parties.

Tigithi VTC is running a bakery with a capacity of producing 72 beads per hour. Market for the same



A lathe machine at Nyahururu Vocational Training Centre. The county government is turning VTCs into production hubs.

has been identified at all county health facilities, high schools, and outlets in Nanyuki town among others. Certification of running the bakery from Kebs and Neema is almost complete.

Nyahururu VTC is running a leather industry and producing leather shoes which have been proven to be much better than the ones in the market. Also, in collaboration with Toyota Company, the Centre is setting up a motorvehicle workshop with a service man-hole. Further, it will be making desks to be used in all ECDEs in the county.

In order to conserve the environment, Wiyumiririe VTC is concentrating on production of concrete posts for fencing. Their market is

mostly from the locals as the town grows attracting local investors. The facility is in the process of starting mass production of cobble stones necessary in actualizing the smart towns initiative.

In garment making sector, Olmoran VTCs is the role model as the facility has been in the forefront of making face masks for prevention of Covid-19. Marmanet, Nanyuki, Olmoran, Nyahururu, tigithi and Nanyuki VTCs also participate in making of face masks.

Sipili VTC specializes in masonry works.



Right: The catering department of Nanyuki VTC that runs the cafeteria at Laikipia County Assembly. Left: A loaf of bread made by Tigithi VTC