



Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

WEEKLY
BULLETIN



Finally, NTSA Licenses Laikipia *Tuk tuk*

By Jesse Mugo

Sagak Tech Enterprises Limited, the manufacturers of the locally made Four-wheeler *tuk tuk* has had a flurry of activities in the past week following the li-

censing of their first six units.

This milestone is as a result of concerted efforts from the County Government of Laikipia's innovation and enterprise development programme and other government agencies involved in the certification and licensing of locally manufactured products.

Steered by the great conviction of the county boss HE Ndiritu Muriithi and an equally energized principal secretary at the State Department of Infrastructure Prof. Paul Maringa, the inter-agency team has been able to support the local entrepreneur to realize one of the country's big four agenda of manufacturing at the heart of Laikipia.

The first batch of six *tuk tucs* from the assembly line in Nyahururu received their number plates and logbooks on 12th August 2021. This means that the local manufacturer has been given the documents of title for the *tuk tucs* after a process that has taken close to three years.

General Merchandise

It means a lot for the manufacturer. From a transactional view, the manufacturer can now comfortably take deposits from interested customers who are now assured that the *tuk tucs*

from Sagak Tech Enterprises are fully licensed by NTSA after full compliance with the requirements.

The customers who had been making enquiries on the availability of the *tuk-tuk* in the market have now started streaming into the manufacturing plant seeking to be included in the growing list of customers who are buying direct factory price.

From a finance perspective, the company's ability to boost its working capital needs has been boosted since the complete vehicles are now in a position to be presented as debenture securities to financial institutions in return for medium term financing.

Dedan Kimathi

The company is also in talks with local financial institutions and major banks in the country and is sure to lock some asset financing arrangements to make the vehicle easily accessible to the many interested businessmen across the transport, agricultural and the general merchandise business.

The firm is seeking a financing partnership with banks of up to 80% to enable customers with as little as kes 90,000 be able to start or up-scale their transport business with a unit of the

BJ-50 *Tuk tuk* with the balance being fully funded by a financial institution.

The BJ-50 is an off-road *tuk tuk* developed and built with the Kenyan roads in mind. The firm has risen from humble beginnings having received a lot of support from Dedan Kimathi University of Science and Technology (DKUT). There were naysayers and negative critics who never believed in the dream of Samuel Njogu, the founder of Sagak Tech.

The Licensing could not have come at a better time than now when the company has just unveiled their pick-up model. The pickup model that is fuel efficient and with a capacity load of one tonne will be a game changer in the local transport industry for hardware, supermarkets, hotels and other merchants in the retail and wholesale trade.

The pick-up attracted a lot of attention locally and across the country when it was sighted on its routine road test in Nyahururu town.

Hundreds of people couldn't hide their admiration for the pickup and also its versatility. Loaded with a weight of 1 tonne, the pickup was easily making its way around the town to the admiration of the local public in the hometown of Nyahururu. It's the solution for Laikipia's transport and logistics industry. Buy Laikipia, Build Laikipia.

Steer Fattening is Steering Oramat Cooperative to Profitability



Oramat cooperative Cattle graze in Borana Ranch

By Nahashon Maina

Laikipia has been a forte for beef production supplying over 2.6 million kg of meat annually.

According to Laikipia County Statistical Abstract 2020, beef farmers earned over Ksh 740 million. The county government has been encouraging pastoralists to adopt modern farming methods such as the feedlot system to increase production.

To this end, the county has partnered with Oramat Lenaboisho Cooperative Society by advancing loan facilities to them to support their cattle fattening activity. They are based in Borana Ranch Conservancy, where they are provided with grazing land and hosting of their offices. Oramat can handle over 1000 steers through the system annually.

Cattle fattening is a practice of livestock production that reduces the animal movements to enable them to fatten within a short period of time. The Oramat has adopted this new cattle fattening technique, which has boosted their members' earning.

The cooperative has benefited from a Ksh 5 million loan from the Laikipia County Cooperative Revolving Fund. With the initial loan of Ksh 2 million, they could buy 63 steers, eventually sold and repaid the loan. They applied for a second loan of Ksh 3 million, bought 90 steers.

Through the fattening process, Oramat cooperative seeks to address issues such as drought and changing weather patterns in Laikipia North landscape which affects the supply of feeds and water.

The cooperative is adopting proper pasture management to be able to supply the steers

with adequate feeds during the fattening period.

Oramat cooperative has been fattening cattle for a period of 4 years since it was registered as a fully fledged society limited with 150 members. The cooperative operates on two tiers. One involves them going directly to the communities to buy steers. The second one has individual community members or pastoralists bringing in steers for the cooperative to fatten them on their behalf. The cooperative has made a turnover of Ksh 64 million in the last four years.

Oramat buys steers from six communities surrounding Borana ranch. These communities are Chumvi, Ethi, Ngarandare, Sanga, Lukusero and Makurian. The weight of the steers is measured, and they note the value of the animal at this entry stage. They are fitted with microchip tags containing all identification numbers of the owner.

"This is important as it helps in identification of steers during payment time or in compensation claims in case of an incidence where wild animals eat the steer," Oramat Chairman

Wilfred Mejooli said.

The fattening period takes six months where at the end, the steers are put on a scale again to measure the weight they have gained. The payment method that the cooperative uses ensure that the owners of the steers get 80% of the value gain.

The owners also set aside 10 % for the insurance scheme. The rest 20 % goes to the cooperative to cater to operation costs involving grass and water management and herders' salaries.

How the cooperative operates projects ray of hope to pastoralist communities. They see it as a model that integrates modern rearing of animals, making it a profitable venture business.

"We have been able to train our members on how to run cattle rearing as any other business by keeping records, calculating operation cost," Mejooli said.

The cooperative wants to change how pastoralists communities see cattle keeping. In the future, they will integrate a feedlot system where more steers will go through the system. The cooperative will be investing in the establishment of a grass bank and developing of feed formula.



Wahome Fabricates Maize Mills, Culverts in Wiyumiririe, Ngobit



Some of the products that Watson Wahome produces as a fabricator

By Muriithi John

From his home in Wiyumiririe, Ngobit ward, Watson Wahome has been fabricating maize mills for customers on order. Laikipia is the convenient place to do that because it is well known for producing large quantities of maize. According to the 2020 Laikipia County Statistical Abstract, the county produced a total of

129,535 metric tonnes of maize from 44,569 hectares of maize in 2019. Wahome is cautious against committing huge amounts of money for an equipment that may take months before a customer emerges. "I have done over 20 maize millers so far. Due to the huge capital needed to produce one machine, I usually do it on order basis," says Wahome.

Governor Ndiritu Muriithi has been lobbying banks and other financiers to come up with well-structured capital that would enable enterprises such as Wahome's to mechanize their processes to increase their productivity.

The father of two has a background in engineering after he acquired a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering Production from Nyeri National Polytechnic. After working in different organizations, he decided to be his own boss and start a business. Today, his enterprise is among 1,400 SMEs that the Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development Programme is handholding. Wahome has employed six workers but the COVID-19 related problems made him readjust.

He has diversified to making culverts. He has a mold for making the culverts and also makes the items on demand. He also helps in their installation. Further, he has trained eight young people how to make and install the culverts to ensure water runs in the intended direction without flooding.

"My culverts are of high quality as I utilize my expertise to bring out the best quality without compromising the thickness. I have also trained the young people on their installation," he said.

The ever-busy man also makes metal gates, doors, and windows. The designs depend on customer preference as he has a variety of molds, appealing to any onlooker. Laikipia County Innovation and Enterprise Development Programme has been helping manufacturers and other entrepreneurs to expand their business through linking them to markets. So far, the programme is working with over 1,400 businesses within Laikipia and addressing their different challenges. Over 80 entrepreneurs have been linked to the market, courtesy of the programme.

The effects of COVID-19 prompted the government to partner with various financial institutions to give Laikipia SMEs loans at an interest rate of 7.5 per cent instead of the normal 12.5 per cent as a way of stimulating the economy. Wahome is looking forward to transforming his business to a production unit and gain more benefits in being under the LIEDP.



17th August, 2021

Press Release

Drought Response by Amaya Counties Leadership

Drought situation in the Amaya Counties has been persisting as a result of inconsistent rains for the better part of this year. This has led to mass movement of livestock from Isiolo and Samburu towards Laikipia and Baringo.

In Tiaty, constituency mass movement of livestock has been noted towards Laikipia Nature Conservancy. Encroachment in Laikipia ranches and smallholder farmers has escalated resulting in conflicts.

The Amaya County leadership convened an urgent meeting in Maralal, Samburu on 23rd July 2021, with the livestock sector forum and the Amaya secretariat.

The following resolutions were made:

- 1) Joint coordination on disease control and vaccination for livestock
- 2) Planning for an offtake programme within the four counties
- 3) Development of a joint framework of engagement of intercountry livestock movement
- 4) Consultative meeting with ranchers for provision of more pasture under negotiated grazing rights
- 5) Three inter-county peace meetings to be held per week

Emerging issues

After leaving the private ranches there have been increased conflicts between the herders and the smallholder farmers.

Cases of theft of small cattle and small stock have increased within the smallholder farms.

There have been incidents of loss of human lives involving both civilians and security agents.

Actions/Way forward

1. The region's leadership will hold joint meetings that will bring on board all the stakeholders
2. Structures will be put in place from the level of Elders to *morans* for sustainable peace
3. Do extensive resource mobilisation to put up peace structures.

Social Media, Toxic Information Increasing Suicidal Cases - LHS Psychologist



Top: LHS Psychologist Agnes Wanjiku

Left: Emily Wangari, in charge Medical Social Work Department

By David Serem

The Kenya Police recently released a shocking report that close to 500 people have taken their own lives in three months to June 2021. This is more than the cases recorded in the whole of 2020

The sad state of affairs is being felt in our communities, with the rise of cases of attempted suicide being recorded in local health facilities, with the most recent one being a young teen mother who had tried to end her life by taking poison. Fortunately, she was attended to and discharged at LHS Nanyuki.

LHS Psychologist Agnes Wanjiku says the development is no surprise, given the massive loss of livelihoods since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. The current social-economic turmoil in the wake of the pandemic is to blame for the recent spike in cases of people committing suicide in the country, the psychologist observes.

"The unfortunate thing is that nobody prepared the public on what a pandemic of this scale means beyond the health risk. Job losses have taken a toll on families, as the breadwinners can no longer meet their financial obligations. As a result, people are opting to commit suicide to escape the harsh realities around them," Wanjiku says.

We are seeing the effects of neglect of mental health, and the stigma due to lack of awareness is fueling the crisis to alarming levels. Due to lack of awareness on mental health, the notion that suicide is an escape from life's difficulties is rife in the society. Social media influence is making a bad situation worse, as young people get unlimited access to toxic information, including suicide as an avenue

to end the stresses in life.

Concern is also mounting on young people having suicidal tendencies. For instance, among the 483 suicide deaths, was a nine-year-old minor.

"The environment plays a great role in shaping one's behaviour. You have more children being exposed to toxic settings of alcoholism and quarrels between parents back home," Wanjiku explains, adding that over time, such a child becomes depressed and before long, becomes suicidal at the breaking point.

Societies' negative perception towards mental health is driving more people into depression. The psychologist explains that it is perceived as weakness to seek counselling to address problems, and anyone coming out to seek such support is labelled as weak. This is especially rife in men, as they think it is masculine to keep all his issues to himself and solve them alone.

Mental Health

The society should develop a trend of seeking mental health support, as it goes a long way in building one's overall good health.

"Professional psychological support is invaluable, especially for couples that might be having issues in their marriage. People should understand that it is okay to open up," the psychologist explains, adding that psychologist should be part of every person's life to address the effects of unpredictable negative events.

One is advised to talk to someone they can trust, such as a friend or loved one, a healthcare professional or even a faith leader. However, Wanjiku has a word of caution when it comes to opening up. The mental health practitioner explains that as much as

letting your heart out is a big step in addressing depression, opening up to just anyone can be equally devastating.

"There is no contractual agreement between you and a non-professional. What they do with the information they share can be damaging, so it is important to go the professional way in seeking psychological support," the counsellor explains.

It is advisable to seek early interventions when one experiences the trigger signs in themselves or someone close to them. Some of the symptoms of depression include feeling of sadness or hopelessness, bouts of anger and irritability over small matters, loss of interest in normal activities and sleep disturbances. Other signs for early warning of depression that may lead to suicide include anxiety, frequent recurrent thoughts of death, suicidal thoughts among others.

For people with depression, the effects are fairly noticeable in the sense that it affects day-to-day activity at work, school or relationship with others.

It is a development that Wanjiku calls for a total mind shift in public's perception of mental health. Mental health awareness as a whole is paramount in eradicating stigma,

Frequent self-auditing is helpful in detecting early signs of depression. For many people, it is possible to notice when something is no longer the same.

LHS Nanyuki offers psychology at counselling support for those in need, and are covered by NHIF.

The success of interventions for depression are dependent on the person's attitude, as acceptance of one's situation plays a significant role in the recovery process.

"If you want to quit alcoholism, you must first convince me that you have dropped your circle of drinking friends," Wanjiku says.

More Partners Extend Support to Laikipia Businesses

The County Government of Laikipia has entered into strategic partnership with Stanbic Bank and its Foundation to support growth of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, women and youth development.

The broad areas of support include provision of finance – both catalytic and commercial, empowerment and providing access to markets.

Empowerment include governance, entrepreneurship digital skills as well as technical training in manufacturing and agribusiness for crop development, horticulture, aquaculture and value addition along the county's priority value chains.

The partnership will also see the three institutions collaborate to promote digital under the *FutureNiDigital* programme being implemented by Stanbic in partnership with Microsoft and Africa Centre for Women in Information Communication Technology (ACWICT).

It will also include provision of online jobs and digital marketing targeting the youth at the existing digital centers in the county, explore potential income generating business with revenue share models that will sustain operations at Digital Centers while providing sustainable revenues to the bank, foundation and county.

Speaking after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Nyahururu on August 17, Governor, Ndiritu Muriithi said the purpose of the agreement was to establish a framework for collaboration between the county, the bank and the foundation.

He welcomed the partnership saying it supports the county's efforts towards empowering people with skills that enable them to sustain themselves and robust economic growth.

Stanbic Bank Kenya Chief Executive, Charles Mudiwa said the institution was keen on em-



powering the society, mostly women, youth and people living with disabilities as a strategic focus on business places great emphasis entrepreneurship and access to markets.

"We remain optimistic that as we embark on this journey to train our various stakeholders, we will make tangible difference to the lives of many," he said.

Head of Stanbic Bank Foundation, Ms. Pauline Mbayah said the partnership with the county ties well with their main objective of the foundation which is to accelerate and amplify the growth of Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSMEs).

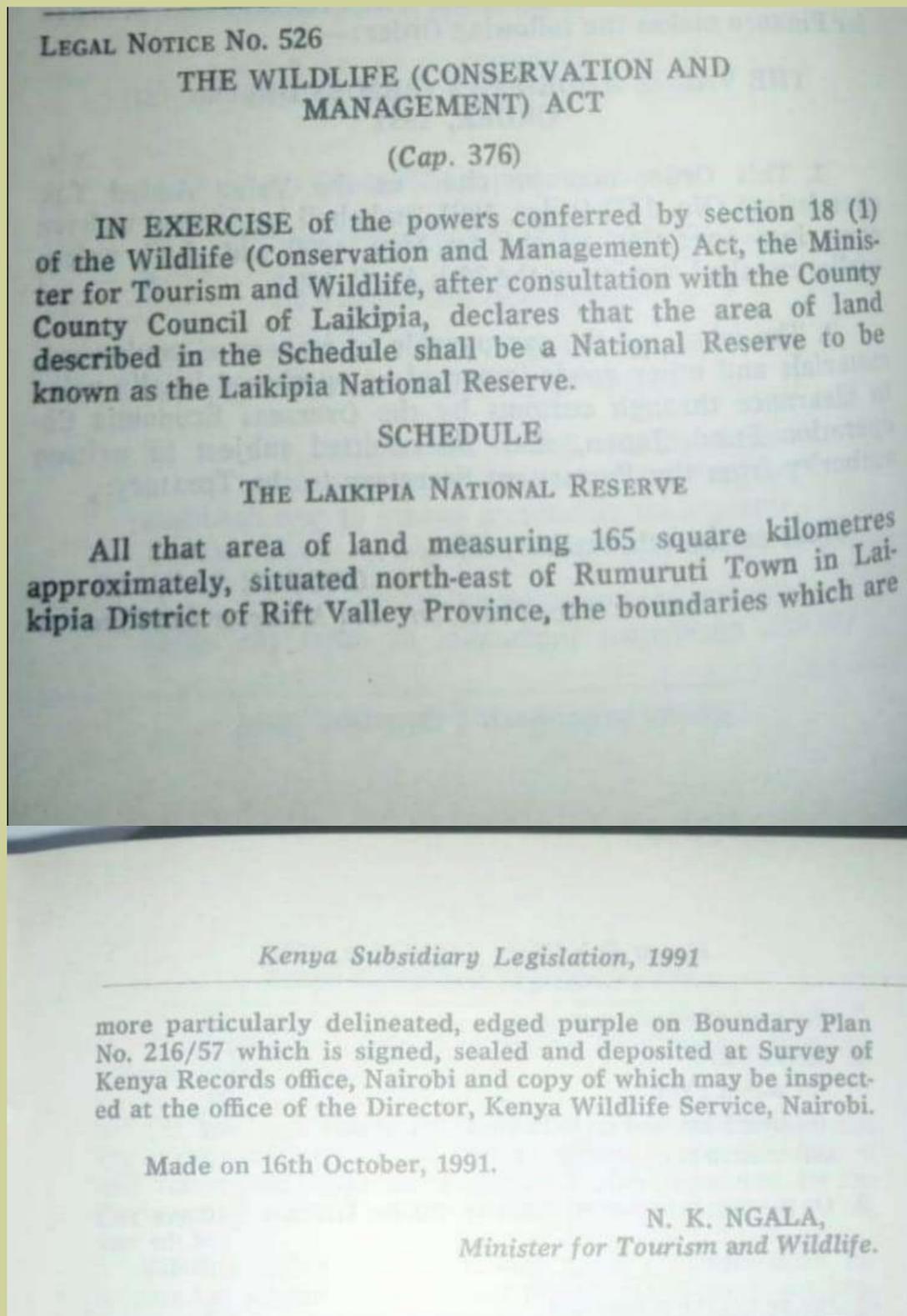
"We have over the years been deliberate about providing our MSMEs with training and tools that enable them to consistently deliver quality services and products to their customers. Besides MSMEs, we also support women, youth and differently abled persons by stimulating inclusive social economic growth," she added.

The partnership will avail affordable financing to mass markets and corporates for women, youth, differently abled persons and Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the county. It will also explore Information Communication Technology (ICT) innovations around renewable energy, smart cities, environment, crop development, livestock production and horticulture and climate change in line with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The three partners will also explore other areas of co-operation from time to time.

Stanbic Foundation's areas of focus are job creation and enterprise development, financial inclusion, health, Corporate Social Investments (CSI) and corporate volunteerism.



Laikipia National Game Reserve (Kirimon) Belongs to County Government



Laikipia County Government owns Laikipia National Game Reserve as is evident from the

Legal gazette notice 526 of 16th November 1991. It covers Kirimon area which was originally owned by the Livestock Marketing Division and

subsequently the national youth service that is approximately 165-square kilometres.

It has been noted that some communities have moved into the reserved and occupied some areas. They have contracted semi- permanent and transient pastoralist groups who have established some basic social infrastructure such as early childhood centres.

In the interest of a stable governance and management of this important asset, the county government wish to notify the residence of the reserve to vacate with immediate effect from the land. Being a protected area, nobody should occupy or settle on any portion of this conservation area. The reserve will be used to for beneficial projects that will enhance growth and development within the county.

The reserve will support all forms of tourism such as outdoor activity like hiking, camping, mountain biking. For instance, a key part of tourism product is ornithological safaris and Lake Kilele. The surrounding wetland areas are an important habitat for birds – both migrant and migratory species. There is also investment opportunity in high end eco-lodges within the reserve. The department of water, environment and natural resources is developing a comprehensive work plan on the reserve.

The usage of this area, as it was originally designed by the government through the Livestock Marketing Division, livestock production is still the most conservation-compatible and environmentally suitable production system for this landscape. The re-introduction of weighing apparatus at livestock market would create a better market environment by boosting disposal of livestock during dry seasons at fair prices. The market structure will boost revenue collection that can be channeled to incentives partnership between ranches and pastoralist producers. The reserve can also be used for pasture production.

The plan establishes the reserve with a functional management and security structure will promote security in the area for both human and wildlife. The county government is in talks with the KWS to have a warden deployed to the Game Reserve. National Police Reservists will also be deployed for the effectiveness of management of the reserve.

Laikipia Media Practitioners, Influencers Trained on Terrorism Prevention

Nanyuki media personnel and influencers go through a training organized by Foundation for Dialogues on August 11, 2021. The meeting aimed at training and empowering journalists and influencers in Laikipia county in preventing radicalization and violent extremism. It was facilitated by director Foundation for Dialogue Dr Michael Mugo and Director National Counter Terrorism Centre Dr. Martin Kimani. Radicalization is the individual or the group process of acquiring through text and narrative a system of ideas and ideals that glorify hospitality, discrimination, hatred and enmity against a group or groups based on organized militant action.



ASDSP, HiHEA Partner to Support Value Chain Actors in Agriculture



Agriculture CO Emily Kioko addressing members of ASDSP and HiHEA members in Nyahururu.

Below: Japheth Muli, the Chief Operations Officer –HiHEA addressing the same congregation

On May 27, Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase Two (ASDSP II) and Hand in Hand East Africa (HiHEA) signed an MoU to work together for the benefit of value chain actors in agriculture in Laikipia.

The two institutions have related responsibilities and thus the partnership has been to complement each other.

Speaking during a meeting between ASDSP and HiHEA (Nanyuki and Nyahururu), the Chief Officer Agriculture Emily Kioko reiterated on the need to work towards a common goal.

“We must work to ensure we bring a positive impact to the farmers and other value chain actors,” she said. The partnership should help the value chain actors in improving their yields without compromising the quality.

HiHEA’s core competence is in social mobilization and enterprise development with the ultimate purpose being able to facilitate creation of sustainable enterprises and jobs. Similarly, ASDSP is primarily designed to enhance the capacity of different Priority Value Chain Actors (VCAs) at different levels to tackle the problems that hinder commercialization of Agriculture.

From the MoU, the two parties have a common responsibility; to strengthen the rural communities along the priority value chains with entrepreneurial skills, for creation of sustainable enterprises, jobs as well as food and nutrition security.

The two parties have agreed to increase the number of vulnerable actors engaged in priority value chains from 2,117 to 2,964, enhance the capacity of value chain actors along the three priority value chains (maize, dairy milk, and sheep and goats).

They also aim to improve VCA’s access to affordable financial and insurance services by 80 % (from 1,389 to 4,191), improve VCA’s market access to 100%, strengthening consultation and coordination structures of VCOs.

Further, the two agreed to share information in

development of the value chains, have review meeting on a quarterly basis, support joint community mobilization at the grass root level together with relevant partners, facilitate joint program Monitoring and evaluation process, and also facilitate joint learning/exchange visits of VCAs

Still the parties have each well-stipulated objectives to accomplish for the successful engagement.

HiHEA Responsibilities

1. Support poverty alleviation through enterprise and job creation within the prioritized value chains.
2. Mobilize VCAs to partake the opportunities along the ASDSP II Value Chains.
3. Strengthen existing groups to enhance their engagement in value chain developments.

Within the County Prioritized value chains

HiHEA will provide VCAs with;

Training in group management, savings & resource mobilisation skills, enterprise development training and financial management training alongside the prioritized agriculture value chains, while ensuring environmental sustainability

Facilitate access to Microfinance services that includes promotion of savings services, resource mobilization, internal

group borrowing and micro insurance to enable them up scale their economic activities.

Facilitate access to sustainable markets through the ASDSP II supported Value chain platforms.

5. Jointly participate in Value Chain Platforms (VCPs) activities including meetings, field days, demonstrations, and shows among others.

6. Train the County ASDSP II staff on the HiHEA job creation model.

7. Link value chain actors to relevant partners and government departments for technical and skills training.

Enlist the services of ASDSP II on trainings in Agricultural Value Chains.

ASDSP II Responsibilities

1. Support linkages of Value Chain Organizations (VCOs) to HiHEA

2. Participate in meetings and other value chain platform activities

3. Ensure HiHEA is represented in county structures of consultation and coordination.

4. Sharing of relevant information pertaining the priority value chains.

5. Participate in quarterly priority value chains review meetings.

Enlist services of HiHEA on training of VCAs in Entrepreneurship and Governance.



NAWASCO Among Top Performers in the Country



Nanyuki Water and Sanitation Company (NAWASCO) has been ranked among the top improvers in the recent ranking by the Water Services Regulatory Board.

The report produced on 30th June 2021, placed the water and sewerage company at position five from position 12, rising seven positions.

According to WASREB Impact Report 13, NAWASCO was position five overall out of 88 water utilities, scoring 134 points out of the possible 200 points. This was for the findings of the 2019/2020 financial year.

In the previous Impact Report issue 12, NAWASCO scored 131 points. The report analyses the performance of the water services sector for the year 2019/20.

The Water Services Regulatory Board is mandated under Water Act 2016 section 72(m) to report annually to the public on issues of water supply and sewerage services and the performance of relevant sector and gazette the findings.

WASREB collects and analyzes performance of the Water utilities using a number of indicators. However, for ranking, nine KPIs have been selected. The nine KPIs are Water Coverage, Drinking Water Quality, Hours of Supply, O+M Cost Coverage, Personnel Expenditure as a % of O+M Costs, Revenue Collection Efficiency, Non-Revenue Water, Staff Productivity and Metering Ratio.

NAWASCO's improvement on both position and scoring in the 13th Impact Report was caused by improvement in submission of data to the regulator, better drinking water quality, efficiency in revenue collection, and our operation and maintenance cost coverage.

1) Data Submission

The data for performance reporting is collected using the Water Regulation Information System (WARIS). This data is further subject-

ed to validation using data from other sources that include; inspection reports, tariff applications and the quarterly monitoring and evaluation reports from the utilities. This is to ensure the continuity in improvement of the quality and consistency of the reported data.

2) Drinking Water Quality

Drinking Water Quality (DWQ) measures the potability of the water supplied by a utility. It is a critical performance indicator since it has a direct impact on the health of consumers. This is a weighted composite indicator measuring compliance with residual chlorine standards (40%) and bacteriological standards (60%). The two sub-indicators are also composed of two components each, namely:

- The number of tests conducted as a percentage of the number of tests planned per the Guidelines on Water Quality and Effluent Monitoring (GWQEM) weighted at 67%
- The number of samples within the required norm as a percentage of the total number of samples taken weighted at 33%.

The performance on this indicator nationally was 92%. NAWASCO scored 96% in the previous year and 98% in the current impact report, which is above the national average.

3) Revenue Collection Efficiency

Revenue Collection Efficiency refers to the total amount of money collected by a utility expressed as a percentage of the total amount billed over the same period. It has been used to measure the effectiveness of the revenue management system in a utility. Revenue collected, as opposed to amounts billed, is what impacts a utility's direct ability to fund its operations.

The national average revenue collection efficiency is 89%, while NAWASCO is at 95%.

This was made possible by the loyalty of our customers and County's support.

4) Operation and Maintenance Cost Coverage

(O+M) Cost Coverage is the extent to which internally generated funds cover the cost of running a utility. O+M Cost Coverage is critical to the performance of a utility as it is the first step towards full cost coverage. It ensures long term financial sustainability. A utility is estimated to have reached full cost coverage when it reaches above 150% O+M Cost Coverage. At this level, a utility can meet its O+M costs, service debt and renew its assets.

Currently the national average on O&M cost coverage is 103%, NAWASCO's Cost Coverage is currently above the national average at 109%. However, the performance of this indicator continues to remain below the sector benchmark of between 130% and 150% required to cover justified O+M costs, debt service and undertake new capital works.

Source: 13th Impact Report



A product of NAWASCO