



Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

WEEKLY
BULLETIN

Laikipia Scores Big As KIHBT Opens Training Centre in Nanyuki

By Muriithi John

When Governor Ndiritu Muriithi learned that the Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology (KIHBT) was planning to devolve its trainings to counties, he saw an opportunity for Laikipia.

He offered a space for KIHBT to set up a training centre and instructed the CECM responsible Infrastructure, Land and urban planning to follow up.

These efforts were rewarded on Thursday, 12th November 2020 when KIHBT unveiled the first of its devolved training centres at Gachuiro in Umande ward, Laikipia County.

During the inauguration KIHBT officials led by Chairman Abednego Etyang' could not hide their amazement at the speed Laikipia jumped at the opportunity compared to other counties.

Laikipia is the first county to partner with his institution to devolve the trainings. The next centre could be set up in Busia. Other KIHBT campuses are located in Nairobi, Ngong and Kisii.

The KIHBT officials said the Gachuiro would eventually be upgraded to a campus. This is the reason Governor Ndiritu Muriithi pursued the established of this centre.

This offers immense benefits and opportunities to Laikipia residents. To begin with, it will serve learners from the ten counties of the Central Kenya Economic Bloc (Cereb) and seven counties of Northern Frontier. With courses taking at least three weeks, it means these visitors will be spending their money in Umande or Nanyuki buying food, accommodation and any requirement. It will improve the local economy.

There is a huge opportunity for the local to build accommodation facilities. The new institution will offer training on better and modern roads design, use of technology and capacity build the locals for competencies in road construction.

"The reason why we do not see many local



Governor Ndiritu Muriithi and the KIHBT chairman Dr Abednego Etyang during the inauguration of KIHBT Laikipia Centre in Umande

youths incorporated in various road construction is because the locals lack the skills required to carry out that project. KIHBT now comes to offer the lacking skills," said Dr Etyang.

Employment

The centre will play a key role in creation of employment for the local communities as it will train contractors in labor-intensive road building technology.

"We would like the local contractors to take advantage of the new training centre to learn on how to provide quality work as that is what Mwananchi wants. With this training the local contractors will be standing chances to win tenders for road maintenance," Dr Etyang said.

Laikipia has network of 7,344 kilometres of roads under the county government which will be for learning. KIHBT will also be partnering with the ten Vocational Training Centres in county to train trainers. Trainings at KIHBT will provide the county with a pool of experienced contractors which will result in high quality road designs and works that has a higher lifespan. These training will also incorporate use of cheaper and long-

lasting technology.

"We have already started constructing various roads under our Smart Towns Initiative using cobble stones and this will help us expand that," Governor Ndiritu Muriithi said.

Skillset

He challenged engineers to embrace modern road designs that takes into that caters for pedestrians, cyclists, motor-cyclists and other non-motorized transport. According to the KIHBT Director Maurice Nabende, it will be a requirement for contractors wishing to work with any road construction agency to have a certificate from KIHBT to win any tender. Therefore, the local contractors need to take advantage of the training Centre that has been brought closer to them. During the inauguration, both KIHBT and the County Government of Laikipia signed a partnership agreement.

"A sure way of empowering our youth is to provide them with a skillset. This is what KIHBT is will do to our young people. As a government, we welcome partners who help our people," Deputy Governor John Mwaniki said.

Laikipia has set the pace for other counties.

Governor's Welcome to new Staff, About Celebrating Nanyuki@100 and Deepening Public Service Reforms



Dear Staff Member,

First, let me welcome the nearly two dozen engineers, physical planners, quantity surveyors, valuers and architects who have, in the last few weeks, joined us in Lands, Roads and Infrastructure Department, as well as at Rumuruti Municipality. They join a larger group of over 200 medics who have joined our team since April this year. Karibuni sana!

This year, Nanyuki town is 100 years old. A number of activities and programs are lined

up this November and December. From a coffee table book, to regular radio programming, to business events, we are stepping out in style to celebrate Nanyuki's many attributes.

And they are many. Nanyuki is a melting pot of many cultures with many delights. From nyama choma joints to fine dining, it has something for everyone. With a global reputation as the base to climb Mt. Kenya, it has hundreds of homestay properties. It is known for being a military town. Not so well known is the thriving horticulture sector, with dozens of enterprises selling flowers and vegetables to Europe and the US.

A key transit point into Northern Kenya, Southern Ethiopia and Somalia, Nanyuki is often referred to by its moniker "mwisho wa reli", no doubt because the old railway only got as far as Nanyuki, legend being that the engineers lost their maps on arrival at Nanyuki. This may soon change though, when the link with the Lappsset corridor development at Isiolo happens.

The last two years have seen a renewed energy. We repaired, rehabilitated or built anew, many key roads. The railway is back in operation and delivering petroleum products to two key depots. The Nanyuki Civil airstrip is

undergoing extension that will include a terminal building. Pre-covid, tourism was growing strongly, and is expected to recover in the coming months.

Nanyuki is very much a reflection of Laikipia. 34 of Kenya's ethnicities live and work in Laikipia, making us one of the most cosmopolitan counties. This richness of diversity and talent has made Laikipia a hotbed of innovations, as can be seen in the manufacture of the four-wheeler *tuk tuk*, beauty products, grain driers, diary products, milling and cactus wines.

As we open the chapter of the next 100 years, Nanyuki, and Laikipia are poised for rapid growth. For instance, we have just approved a 3,000-unit housing development. We expect to build on our SME support to grow manufacturing and agro-processing, and we expect to stimulate mining activity.

That is why we are putting emphasis on enterprise development. So far 210 of our colleagues have undergone training in this important work, and more will follow! It is our renewed commitment to go beyond outputs in our work and focus on outcomes and impacts – that is creating jobs, increasing incomes, and improving the quality of lives!

My very best wishes,

Laikipia's Bernard Matu Emerges Best Overall ICT Student

Our senior ICT officer Mr Bernard Matu has emerged the best overall from a field of 784 officers attending an ICT training for civil servants.

The thorough week-long virtual training supported by Huawei and ICT Authority culminated in exam for the participants drawn from the national government, parastatals, county governments and private sector.

Awarding the winners on Wednesday, 18th November 2020, Cabinet Secretary for ICT Honorable Joe Mucheru congratulated Mr Matu for the effort.

He reiterated Government efforts and desire to strengthen the work force through ICT. For instance, many civil servants have been trained by the ministry of ICT in conjunction with some private sector organizations such as IBM and Huawei. The CS as-

sured Kenyans that he will be visiting all counties issuing Huduma Cards.

Speaking after receiving the award, Mr Matu highlighted the lessons learnt during the training ranging from e-government to ICT developing smart cities to IOT to cyber security.

As the winner Mr Matu received a trophy, a certificate and quality products from Huawei. A total of 22 counties and all government ministries and parastatals participated.

Mr Matu is a practicing, professional ICT officer working in the directorate of ICT in the Department of Administration. He has a Master's of Science in Applied Information Security majoring in cyber and information security, from Africa Nazarene University. He is currently involved in the development of telemedicine and county spatial planning projects.



Transforming Nyahururu's Business Environment

...remaining faithful to the promise



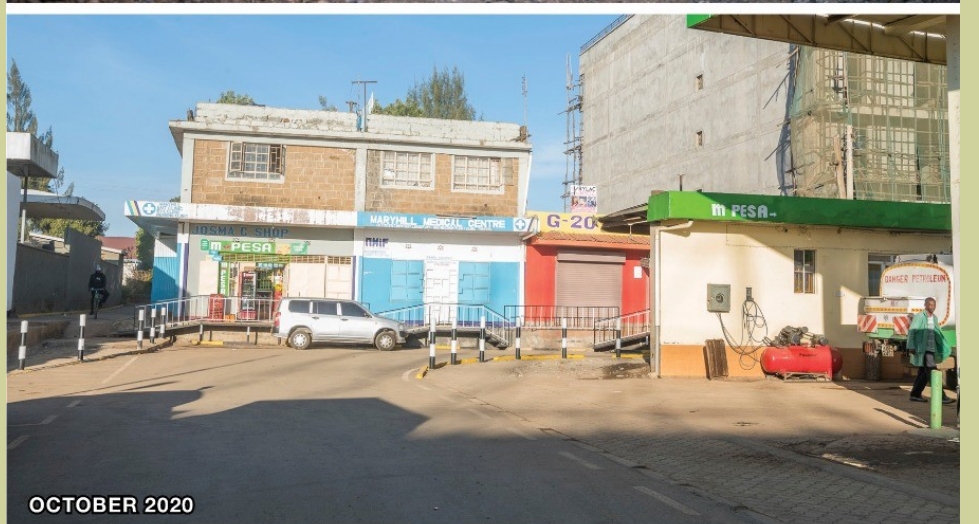
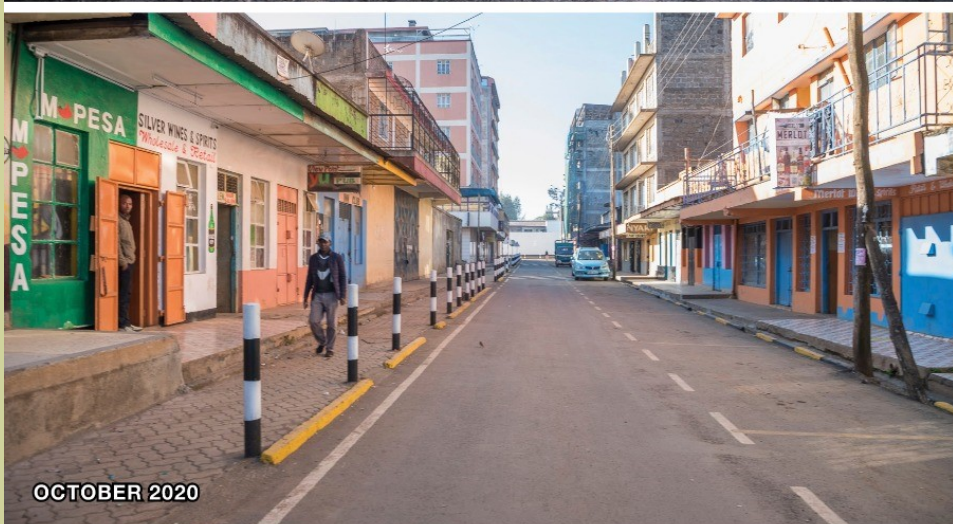
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JUNCTION-LIBERTY PETROL STATION-NYAKI
HOTEL-AGAKHAN HOSP.RD.,NYAHURURU



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Laikipia Government Staff Now More Marketable— Thanks to Reforms



Senior Laikipia County Government managers attending a results management framework training at KPMG offices in Nairobi in 2018

Performance culture inculcated in the Laikipia county public service three years ago has been noted by other organizations which are seeking to poach staff

Approached some staff currently working for the County Government of Laikipia confess to have been approached by other institutions seeking to bring them on board.

The practice is common in corporate sector and is referred to as 'poaching.' Most of those poached are proven to be high performing and are expected to change their organization to higher performers.

The most glaring case is of Infrastructure, Land and Urban development acting chief officer Kenneth Karanja who is headed to a substantive chief officer in Kiambu County.

Kiambu County Assembly approved the appointment on Wednesday, 18th November 2020 after sailing through the interview and subsequent vetting by the assembly committee.

As an acting chief officer, Mr Karanja rolled out the modernization programme of Laikipia's urban centres under the Smart Towns Initiative, providing conducive environment for business and investment.

Smart Towns Initiative cuts across all the departments and with that of Infrastructure spearheading the physical development. It involves planning of the centres, paving of the streets using long-lasting cobble stones, street lighting and street addressing and changing the mindset of the residents.

Mr Karanja's department is also leading the spatial planning of the county. His experience in the utilization of leased road construction equipment which has attracted the interest of many counties will be valuable to his new employer.

Generally, the County Government of Laikipia has continued to push staff to be more innova-

tive and problem solvers at whatever level they serve. Performance is gauged through a rigorous Staff Performance Appraisal which is conducted after every six months.

This has spawned a serious performance culture in the entire organization which is now driving other counties develop interests in targeted staff to get better results in their organize.

Mr. Karanja is one of the workers admired by many in Laikipia for the quality of his work. During his tenure, he has facilitated in the making the leasing of equipment programme become a reality in the department. The department is one of the best performing in the county.

Time-keeping

The same department has transformed several urban areas into Smart Towns by ensuring tarmac or long-lasting cobble stone beautifies all towns. This has facilitated business activities across the county.

In a move seen to make the department improve further, 15 new officers from the county public service board were deployed early this week, including two planners who will now support effective planning processes of the urban centers. The two will also help speed up building approval processes which have in the past unnecessarily delayed development of buildings across the County.

The fresh pool of workers will help in the department's ability to deliver on building plans approval as well as delivery on essential services for other departments.

Mr. Karanja is only one among several others whose performance has interested other organisation. The County Government Nyandarua has also been eyeing one of the directors in County Government of Laikipia.

Reforms being rolled out in county public ser-

vice have seen increased development activities across the county. The county government's unique approach to issues has also attracted interest of many other counties. About 30 counties have visited Laikipia to benchmark on various sector ranging from the UHC model, to growth of own source revenue to public service reforms to Smart Towns Initiative to water for production model.

Skills development

Skills development for staff is a key ingredient of these reforms.

Numerous trainings have been taking place across departments to incorporate modern technology and develop workers' skills for better service delivery. The newly recruited administrators underwent a one-week training at Kenya School of Government in Nairobi before being deployed to their respective stations of work.

Time-keeping is a brand that defines the county government of Laikipia. Here meeting starts on time with those members who are present. As such a phrase like 'there is no quorum' does not exist. Those who are already present for the meeting are the ones needed for the meeting to go on.

The government ensures that all staff members are appraised by their respective supervisors. This counts in all human resource decisions such as promotions, exits, rewards, reprimand, among others.

Spot award was also introduced as a way of appreciating staff who go out of their way in service delivery to the citizens.

HE the Governor recently made changes in the Department of Education after the appraisal exercise, departmental peer rating as well as external polls pointed to below average performance.

Hope for Laikipia Youth As Nanyuki Stadium Set for Major Facelift

By Nahashon Maina

Nanyuki stadium will undergo general re-orientation to comply with international standards .

This transformation of the stadium's infrastructure will enable the facility to host major sports tournaments.

The Department of Education, Youth, Gender, Sports and Culture is spearheading the efforts to revamp the sport facility together with Football Kenya Federation (FKF) and the British Army Training Unit in Kenya (Batuk).

The two-month renovation will transform it into a modern, multipurpose stadium.

The chief officer Mr James Mbucho says the football pitch will be improved in order to ensure safe ground for football players while a running track will be added to host other sporting activities.

Four other training grounds within Nanyuki town will be established in Majengo (2), Thingithu, Nanyuki ECD Center.

"The aim is to offload the main Nanyuki stadium which experiences high number of football teams seeking to play there," Mr Mbucho said after leading a team to inspect the facility ahead of the planned works.

He was accompanied by FKF chairman Abdul Kaka, Officer Shane Butlin from BATUK and Director Social Services Elizabeth Wangari Mwangi. As it currently stands, the spectator stands in the stadium are in the wrong side of the pitch and so is the main dais. The work will improve the drainage system, additional access gate, running



Chief Officer James Mwangi second right, BATUK representatives and other stakeholders during the assessment of Nanyuki Stadium

track and perimeter wall to improve security.

After the completion of the renovation, the county government will establish a committee of six members to oversee the management of the stadium and training grounds. The committee will implement directive that require only teams that are in division 2 and above get access to play matches in the stadium.

At the same time, betting firm Odibets donated training kits and six balls per team to the 17 teams across the county. This will offer support to teams during training sessions and get more youth involved in the sporting activities. The donation was received by director social services Elizabeth Wangari.

Ward Offices New Focal Points for Service Delivery

By Nahashon Maina

The County Government of Laikipia is opening offices at the ward level as it continues to devolve services closer to citizens.

The county government has been undertaking major reforms geared towards ensuring that citizens access services with ease.

All departments will have a representative in every ward office with the ward administrator being the coordinator of all government activities.

This means decisions will be made closer to the people, communities and businesses they affect. Citizens will access all county government services at the ward level without having to travel to Nanyuki," the director of administration Mr John Lemuna said.

Basically, the offices will act as the first stop for citizens seeking government services. They will also improve government response to issues affecting residents at the village level which will save them both on time and money to travel to the headquarters. All the officers will coordinate with their counterparts at the main office to ensure smooth service delivery to the citizens.

Laikipia residents have been travelling long distances seeking gov-

ernment services . But now that will be resolved by bringing the same services at the ward levels.

Ward administrators are expected to be aware of everything that needs government intervention and assist other agencies to deliver. They are the government foot soldiers at the grassroots as they are the officers closest to the citizens.

The ward offices are expected to enhance productivity with increased participation by citizens in the development process. Governor Ndiritu Muriithi's government is focused on scaling up production and manufacturing to increase the county's wealth for high standards of living for the residents. To achieve this, the county government is training its staff to become Business Development Officers. Each officer is expected to advise and guide local entrepreneurs to grow and create jobs and wealth.

Increased engagement with residents will enable the government to actualize its agendas. It has set to improve every aspect of doing business through adoption of productivity in all sectors of economy. Access and delivery of services will be achieved by these offices and be the most important benefit of devolution to Laikipians.

Already, 11 ward offices are ready for occupation. Of the four remaining, Mukogodo East and Mukogodo West are at advanced stage of completion while those of Ngobit ward and Segerera wards are still in the implementation stage.

Igwamiti Daughter Returns Home With a Special Gift

By Nahashon Maina

We have an obligation to give something back to the community that gives so much to us- Ray Kroc.

In your life, what is that 'something' you have given back to your community?

For Evelyn Wangari it is time to give back to her community. She is organizing a free agri-farm clinic targeting the town she grew up in- Nyahururu.

Under the banner of her 'Farmer on Fire' firm, Wangari will hold the event outside Spears Supermarket building, on December 4, 2020 in partnership with County Department of Agriculture.

Wangari who was born and brought up in Igwamiti, Nyahururu relocated to Kitengela to work as a project manager in a construction company. After six years, she left what she described as a desk job to start farming where she found her satisfaction.

Modern farming

For her, what started as a small kitchen garden to save time going to market every evening has transformed into a full enterprise. Her farm attracted neighbours who work in corporate world as they were excited to buy fresh vegetables directly from her. Through their encouragement, she requested owners of plots surrounding hers to rent out their land in order to increase farm space. She got the plots rent-free as she assured them, she would take care of them land by fencing them off.

"Most of the plot owners had bought the plots just for speculation and they were just bare. But I saw an opportunity. I believed I



Evelyn Wangari of Farmer on Fire on a Yesni lavender plantation. She will be visiting Nyahururu town on 4th December to teach local farmers about Smart Farming

could get something out of it," Wangari says.

She was able to acquire 3 ¼ acres which she currently farms. She adopted modern farming technology such as drip irrigation, green houses and horizontal mess bags. A venture which she started to for her own use has significantly grown to a full-time enterprise.

This is the experience she desires to share around her home town of Nyahururu as a way of giving back to the community that brought her up and educated her.

Through her YouTube channel <https://youtu.be/e4aOitMqkcwM>, Wangari teaches and empowers farmers on how to farm smart. The main take-homes for farmers who attend her trainings is that the small piece of land they have can be able to produce much more. That they do not require large swathes of land to produce more.

Mess bags

"The vertical mess can hold up to 100 vegetable plants ensuring they save on space. All these vegetables would occupy a much large space on the ground", she says.

With changing climate posing a major threat to food security, Wangari's training make a lot of sense to our farmers.

Since agriculture is the world's leading industry, there is need to ensure that farmers adapt smart and sustainable farming practices. This will improve farm productivity and in turn increase their earnings. To do that, farmers need to be equipped with adequate information and data before they start planting.

Wangari notes that, a farmer can invest

around Kshs 100,000 in farming activity and one single mistake can cost them all this investment. She sees the need to take time in research consulting agricultural experts beforehand.

"For instance, an agronomist costs around Kshs 1,500 to offer their services, why rush to invest your Kshs 100,000 in farming without first seeking their advice?" she wonders. She says it wise to reach out to the experts and those who are experienced and have successfully done it.

Smart Farming

If this happens, they will be able to develop efficient, self-sufficient and economical production practices that generate decent income to sustain their families.

The aim of her event is to provide farmers with relevant information needed to transform their farming practices.

Wangari believes that adaption of smart farming practices can enable a farmer harvest crops throughout the cycle of seasons with less reliance on rainfall. Be it on the small plots owned by majority of small-scale farmers, maximize benefits can be achieved through smart farming.

To her, this is a venture that many unemployed youths can also engage in for maximum reward.

The clinic will provide an avenue where farmers to ask their questions. Wangari and her team of experts will answer them. It is set to be an information-driven event on smart farming approaches in order to achieve maximum output in agricultural sector.

Narudi Nyumbani Agrifarm Clinic

Farmer on fire and onion doctor are coming home to do a **FUN & FREE Agribusiness Clinic**



Wangari Farmer On Fire



Wangari - Onion Doctor

The tour will be on **4th Dec 2020**, outside **spear supermarket**. All afternoon. They will passby Olkalau town enroute to Nyahururu that morning.

WELCOME ALL TUJIVINJARI

for more information Contact Us: 0721444655



Laikipia Student Wins Nuclear Essay Competition

By Muriithi John

Laikipia continues to shine not only in matters economic development but also academically. Despite some schools being in the interior of the county, their exemplary performance shout nationally.

Master James Kipkoskei Kipkemei, a former student at Ol-Moran Secondary School has attracted national recognition after winning a nuclear essay competition. The student from Mbombo village Ol-Moran Ward beat all the odds to clinch the First Runners-up position in the Nuclear Essay Competition 2020 for primary and secondary school students.

The essay was based on ways in which economic development may be realized in the country from utilization of nuclear energy.

The question read: "Describe how nuclear

electricity generation would contribute to economic development in Kenya."

The Nuclear Power and Energy Agency (NuPEA) organized this national essay competition targeting learners in both primary and high schools.

The outstanding performance by Master Kipkemei is an inspiration to many more students across the county.

He is a representation of many others who can beat a myriad of challenges to access education. The student will receive a First runners up trophy, cash reward amounting to Ksh. 25,000, a Certificate of Excellence and many more privileges meant to encourage other students to follow their dreams.

Governor Ndiritu Muriithi's administration has been encouraging innovation and technology. It sees Vocational Training Centres not as institutions of those who fail to proceed to university, but for those with aptitude technical



(Left) Master Kipkemei with his classmates (top right) Master Kipkemei

courses. Being a government that is focused on production, Laikipia encourages a mindset change to toward a technical courses. .

Teachers are encouraged to link students with to the Laikipia Innovation Development Programme (LIDP) which is helping in graduating Laikipia innovators into full production.

According to the Laikipia County Statistical Abstract 2020, there are a total of 1,100 learning institutions around the county.

Ol-Moran Secondary School has a population of 710 students of which 123 are KCSE candidates, Master Kipkemei being one of them.

The County Government of Laikipia Congratulates him for the feat.

Mass Production of Laikipia Tuk Tuk Enters the Home Stretch



Production of the Laikipia four-wheeler *tuk tuk*, BJ50, has entered a critical stage with the registration and branding of the first units according to customer specifications. Several of the county government departments, individuals and private sector have placed their orders for the machines. The vehicles can carry up to 800kg and consumes very little fuel and therefore quite convenient for government departments. Sagak Tech Automakers, the firm behind the production of the tuk tuk, is eyeing the KSh 28 billion Central Kenya Economic Bloc, where the vehicle would be useful in ferrying farm produce such as milk to processing centres.

Laikipia's Big Opportunity for Hay Farming



Lukuai Hay Farm near Nanyuki, Laikipia County

By Nahashon Maina

Laikipia farmers stand a chance to make millions of shillings by satisfying a growing demand for hay to feed the country's vibrant dairy sector.

The sub-sector experiences a deficit of 20 million bales of hay every year but Laikipia farmers are yet to take advantage of this opportunity to focus on serious production of hay as core business. Laikipia has the potential to bridge this deficit.

Currently, the total acreage under hay farming in Laikipia is about 23,380 acres producing over 2.5 million bales (15 kgs) earning farmers Ksh 537,264,800 last year.

The county's expansive land is enough for significant hay production.

GDP

It can provide enough fodder to cattle farmers in Laikipia at the same time supplying it throughout the country.

Kenya has one of the biggest dairy sectors in Africa producing over 5.2 billion litres of milk. According to Farmers Review Africa, the sector contributes 4% of National Domestic Product (GDP), 12% of Agriculture GDP and 44% of Livestock GDP. It also notes that although the biggest, its capita per consumption stands at

110 litres per annum below the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recommended per capita of 220 litres per annum. This is because of low productivity of between 7 and 9 litres per cow.

According to the Laikipia County Statistical Abstract 2020, estimated milk production in the county was 32, 699,907 litres from 72,860-dairy cattle in 2019. This figure is bound to change during the dry season with a drop of 80-90% of milk production being experienced. This is blamed on insufficient resources and deficit in fodder which eventually leads to constrained profitability. An increase in fodder production in Laikipia can ensure adequate supply to support the sector and improve the demand for milk production. With Kenya Dairy Board (KDB) setting to achieve 1 billion litres increase in milk production within the next one year, hay farmers in Laikipia can take this advantage to ensure dairy farmers are supplied with enough quality hay in order to achieve the target.

Already investors are making inroads to Laikipia after identifying its dominant and potential in hay growing

Laikipia is well strategically located and

surrounded by major milk producing counties especially in Mount Kenya regions. Hay farmers can establish direct linkages with dairy farmers to improve hay supply in these areas where huge demand for hay exist and supply is low. Others can set up hay storage facilities near major transport routes which will create employment opportunities to youths.

Group ranches

Already investors are making inroads to Laikipia after identifying its dominant and potential in hay growing. Ndumberi Dairy Farmers Cooperative Society from Kiambu county has leased 1,180 acres of land in Nyahururu to grow and supply their members with cheaper hay. This has been achieved through partnering with Kenya market trust (KMT) to mitigate glut in milk production during dry spell.

Registered community group ranches can also exploit this opportunity as the county government encourages them to adopt feedlot system of rearing cattle. The ranches occupy a sizeable portion of Laikipia county and venturing into hay farming will ensure the feedlots have sufficient fodder. This will also help in combating the unending pasture related conflicts in the county as they will produce enough to sustain their animals in one place.