



Kenyans Impressed By Laikipia's Industrialization Model

By Muriithi John

Laikipia has demonstrated that it is possible for Kenya to become an industrialized nation by 2030.

Chosen by the State Department Industrialization as the host of this year's Africa Industrialization Week, Laikipia clearly impressed top government officials and other agencies charged with the responsibility of driving the industrialization process with its practical SME growth model.

"Kenya may not industrialize unless we make drastic changes. Not just to policy – which is wrong because it promotes imports of machines and tools. We must also match policy pronouncements with appropriate action, and at scale," Governor Ndiritu Muriithi, a former assistant minister for industrialization said.

There was no question that Laikipia's model is the path that the government agencies should follow if they were truly committed to driving the industrialization process.

"The Governor has shown passion in helping these MSEs growth. I'll consult the CS so that we open a KIRDI (Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute) branch in here. We go where we are needed and where there is proof that our services are in dire need," said Industrialization chief administrative secretary David Osiany.

Laikipia's model is so far handholding 1,545 enterprises with a number of them ripe for graduation to the secondary manufacturing tier. These enterprises have so far created 22,000 jobs both directly and indirectly.

Through the Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development Programme, the enterprises the enterprises get 360 degree business advisory services from 200 business development officers.

The county in partnership with several financial institutions has put together Kshs3.3 billion fund from where local enterprises can access up to Kshs 4 million.

"The aim is to reach 5,000 businesses. If this is replicated in all the 47 counties, we will be achieving true industrialization," Governor Ndiritu Muriithi told the guests.

Kenya may not industrialize unless we make drastic changes. Not just to policy – which is wrong because it promotes imports of machines and tools- but by matching policy pronouncements with appropriate action, and at scale!



One of the main reasons for government existence is to create an enabling environment for business to thrive.

As a proof that Laikipia is progressing well towards industrialization, the Ministry chose Laikipia to be the venue for the Africa Industrialization Week. This helped in bringing together different bodies that should facilitate manufacturing in the country.

Top government officers agreed that the Laikipia model should be rolled out to the rest of the counties to realize an industrialized country. Some products produced in Laikipia have gone to the international market.

Industrialization PS Amb. Kirimi Kaberia insisted on the need to open and support industries where raw materials are and not transporting raw material to industries.

Calling upon people to utilize Laikipia products, Amb. Kaberia gave an example of Mwireri Drier, which has a solution to aflatoxin.

"We have in the past had some millers who could not buy Kenyan maize because it has aflatoxin which comes because of mishandling of the cereals. And here we are saying, pick your maize, dry it in the right way and with that we will be able to increase not only value but also shelf life," said Amb. Kaberia.

On his part PS State Department of Trade Amb. Johnson Weru said that time is now ripe for Kenyans to fully exploit all the available

markets for local products.

"We have reached a certain stage in our development where we must go beyond our boundaries. If you are able to take your products in neighboring countries, we have collapsed and still collapsing these markets in COMESA, CEDC, EAC and African Continental Free Trade Area," said Amb. Weru.

Amb. Weru insisted that the main reason for having bodies of standard certification is to ensure the products comply to the standard requirement of other countries for competitiveness.

"Our ambition is to produce what we are currently importing. That is why we have this day to give impetus and hope to our local manufacturers," said Amb. Weru.

Governor Muriithi insisted on the need to put our money where our mouth is to realize true development. We also need to believe in ourselves and the products produced within our borders. It is impossible to get out of poverty without industrializing.

Laikipia has high percentage mineral deposits that need to be exploited and enable the county to lower cost of production for the manufacturing industries. This will in turn help in achieving true independence. True independence comes from control of your means of production for the items you consume every day.

Construction Industry in Laikipia Registers Growth



By Nahashon Maina

Construction industry in Laikipia has grown almost double in the last three years.

Investment in the sector, hit Kshs 4.5 billion in 2020 up from Kshs 3 billion in 2019 and Kshs 2.5 billion in 2018.

The residential buildings took the chunk of this investment with Kshs 1.8 billion invested as appetite for residential space keep on growing, Laikipia Statistical Abstract 2021 indicates. Industrial segment is one of the areas witnessing interest among investors within county as the number of industries and warehouses emerge. This can be attributed to efforts by the Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development Programme support model to SMEs towards industrialization. This can also be attributed to continued planning of ur-

ban centres and regeneration of small towns under the Smart Towns Initiative. Data in the statistical abstract indicates that the industrial space increased from 1,696M³ in 2017 to 4,128M³ in 2020. The total investment in the same period rose to Ksh 1.2 billion from Ksh 65 million in 2017.

The construction industry continues to be one of the leading employers in the county with over 7,000 jobs. In 2020, the builders in the county consumed 3.07 million (50 kg) cement bags bought from 213 outlets in the county. Growth in the construction industry is a key indicator of a performing economy. Projects such as malls, office blocks, holiday homes and estates also contributes to the improved performance of the sector as investors rush in to meet the demand for decent housing in ur-

ban centers across Laikipia.

In 2020, Unison Sacco signed a contract with Nanyuki Water and Sewerage Company (NAWASCO) a sewerage system on its 542 acres at a cost of Ksh 32 million. The Sacco is constructing a well-planned residential estate within Nanyuki town known as Taji Gardens.

The partnership will ensure that the estate has utilities such as water, electricity and sewer system. Proper urban development will assist in solving sanitation issues while also offering conducive living conditions to tenants.

With the return of the railways services, industries within Nanyuki will benefit from convenient and cheaper transportation of cargos out of the county.

Laikipia county is strategically placed at an intersection with some of mega projects by the national government driving the increased investments. To take advantage of the LAPPSET corridor, the county intends to establish serviced industrial zones in Rumuruti, Nyahururu and Nanyuki as it seeks out to position Laikipia as a logistic hub. For economic growth, the county is supporting enterprises to drive industrialization in Laikipia. The utilization of locally available resources can propel growth of industries that attracts manufacturing investors. The county has been carrying out mineral mapping exercise and laboratory test shows the county to have deposit in iron ore and limestone. Limestone is the raw materials used in the production of cement and the hope is that once exploration begins it will low the cost in construction industry. Manufacturing sector is one area that the county is banking on to create wealth and employment opportunities through value chain linkages. The county is also upgrading 10 centers into smart towns to create an enabling environment for investors.

Rebates on Manufacturers to Give Laikipia Products Competitive Edge in Market

By Vivian Wachira

Laikipia is mulling rebates for manufacturers within the county to mitigate the high cost of production and give them a competitive edge in the market.

The rebates will help in sales growth as it will lower the production cost.

Among the areas targeted for rebates is the energy sector. Rebates on electricity bills of manufacturers will enable firms to produce more for local and export markets thus enabling locally made products compete with those from abroad.

For example, a manufacturer in India pays Ksh. 7/kWh while a manufacturer in Laikipia pay Ksh. 21/kWh to produce the same product. Therefore, the Indian manufacturer has a competitive advantage over the local manufacturer. Reduced price for consumer goods as a result of low cost of production will lead to increased demand for goods and widen the county's



CAS David Osiany looks at some products by Nanyuki's EM Naturals exhibited during the African industrialization Week

manufacturing base and reduced taxation of locally produced items.

Expansion of local Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) like the Davina Engineering works, Kiwama Enterprises for yoghurt production, which are located in Nanyuki will greatly benefit from electricity rebates leading to mass pro-

duction of their products.

Other initiatives to curb high electricity prices for manufacturers includes the time use tariff which encourages manufacturers to use more energy for production that is the off-peak hours that is from 6p.m to 5a.m in the morning.

Laikipia is in talks with the CREB counties to do away with tariff and non-tariff barriers.

Rebate refers to the sum of money that is credited or returned to a customer in the context of transaction.

A rebate may offer cashback on the purchase of a consumer goods or service, either as a flat-rate rebate, which is automatically subtracted from the purchase price or conditional rebate, which are only valid under certain conditions.

In addition to the rebates, the county government is facilitating local manufacturing by putting 79 locally-produced items under the list of preferential procurement.

Amaya Football Tournament Enhances Peace in Kirima



By Nahashon Maina

Taking advantage of the fact that football is the world's favorite pastime, Amaya Triangle Initiative organized Soccer for Peace tournament at Sipili stadium on 13th and 14th Nov 2021. The event was a big success with 8 teams engaging in a two-day tournament which were Sipili All-stars, Donyoriwo Fc, Olmoran Bright Fc, Team 18, Wangwaci Fc, Mouwarak Fc, Louniek Fc, and Police Fc. For sure, no matter where you go, football turns heads, stops conversation due to the thrill of the match.

This event was therefore the most appropriate

to brings youths together on a common ground and deliberate of sustaining peace within Kirima Sub-County. The football brought unity among the youths which will be a model of teaching youths' skills in football and create a culture of peaceful coexistence among residents. The football sought to principles of teamwork and respect for the opponent.

Players in participating in the tournament were evidently happy to get a chance to interact with their fellow football teammates over

the weekend. During the two days, youths spent the night together at Sipili Polytechnic which proved that peaceful co-existence is possible.

"I have seen talent being displayed here; I salute all the players. We must continue to preach peace as without peace everything stops. You cannot even borrow a spoonful of salt from your neighbor," Renowned Radio Jambo Football Commentator Diablo wa Kaberia said.

The atmosphere in the stadium was palpable with great excitement as teams played well together through the knockout stage. Even if the event was competitive, the exercising of teamwork and humility with appreciation of the opponent.

"This event is not a one off, we will continue with the tournament as we want to engage the youth to be peace ambassadors," Virginia Wahome Director Amaya said.

She encouraged the youths to continue peace dialogue at the village level.

"Big thanks to everyone who made this great peace football event happen. I am sure that players and fans enjoyed- Amani Milele, Milele Amani," James Mwangi CO Education, Sports and Social Services said.

The event was attended by OCPD Kirima Sub County, OCPD Laikipia West, health CECM Rose Maitai, CO Peace and Conflict Management Samburu County, NRT, and St. Martins.

County Government Kits Sub-county Football Teams

By Jackline Mariga

The county Department of Education, sports, youth & social services has distributed uniforms to over 45 football teams in the county.

Those that have benefitted are registered sub-county teams which do not have uniforms and the required playing equipment. They were selected after they participated in FKF sub-county tournaments. Not only are they being given uniforms but also being given support to register with FKF. The county teams are performing better compared to last time where they were struggling a lot, but now they have some support through the partnership with FKF Laikipia. The goal is to promote football talents within Laikipia as teams resume football matches after lifting of Covid-19 measures in the country. Effects of the pandemic are being felt till to date. A number of young people lost their sources of income and are also struggling financially leading to stress. Football is one of the best hobbies for the young people. Youth play football even without the right equipment as a way of keeping themselves busy.

When not given the right support, they end falling into traps of using drugs as a way to run

away from their stress.

"Initially, we used to work with county teams only but we are now working on empowering our sub-county teams," chief officer James Mwangi said. A team has about 20 members, this shows if 45 teams are getting support from the County Government of Laikipia, 900 talents will be developed at the sub county level. This is a big move for Laikipia in supporting the youths and nurturing their talents.

This project has been ongoing and so far, more than 20 teams has received their uniforms and are happy about this. Last weekend, eight teams participated in a tournament at Sipili and they received their right playing uniforms.

Soccer jersey gives a sense of ownership to the team members and identity. Teams have a specific colour which they choose for their jerseys, it would be very hard to differentiate your opponent if its not for the uniform. In a case where all players have won different colors it becomes hard for each player and the referee as well. This will not be the case to the subcounty teams in Laikipia since they now own the jerseys and those who have not received theirs, they are about to.

Sub-county teams have a number of challenges especially financial. Through the department of education Laikipia county, Mr Mwangi has come in with a strategy to help these teams. He recognizes that youth have talents but do not have the required materials to nurture their talents. The department did not leave behind people with disabilities. "We are also offering kits for sitting volley ball PWD teams and the deaf," Stated Mr Mwangi. Often, people with disabilities are forgotten and end up sitting at home with their talents. Mr. Mwangi did realize that people with disabilities have talents too and hence he did not leave them out. With all this support they can select top players for the upcoming KISA Games next year. However, last year they took a team though due to the rise in the pandemic of Covid-19, everything had to be stopped. "This year is not possible still because the year is coming to an end already hence hoping for everything a fresh next year," said Mr. Mwangi. With the help of leasing programs, the county government is excavating fields in the rural areas. The department is also creating connection with Sport Kenya for the future activities.

Honey Processing Sweetens PWDs' Lives



Honey Processing Enterprise displaying their production at 2021 Africa Industrialization Week in Nanyuki

By Jackline Mariga

A PWD group from Laikipia County have innovated a honey processing machine which they are using to process honey.

Although it is registered as United Disabled People of Laikipia, the group is demonstrating is cutting a niche in honey processing enterprise.

It has brought together differently-abled people from around the county and helped them discover their abilities. They have used each other's capability to build themselves.

According to their secretary Mr. Stanely Mbugua they came up with the idea of processing honey in 2014 with the aim of generating income for financial stability.

After having the idea of processing and packaging honey, they sought financial support from UWEZO fund. They were also helped by an innovator in Laikipia, Davido to build the indigenous honey extractor machine. This project has brought money to these people which in turn they have been able to start a business for each member.

Despite the organization starting in 2002 it is not until 2014 when they realized their abilities. The group has 32 members who have different kinds of special needs.

It comprises blind and deaf, people with mental illness, paraplegic and those with mobility issues. Often many PWDs come together to seek for help from NGOs and the government but this is not the case here.

For many of Africa's PWDs, assistive devices such as wheelchairs, crutches, hearing aids and prosthetics are either not readily available or unaffordable. This, combined with a lack of formal education or vocational skills, creates difficulty for the disabled seeking employment. They are unlikely to be hired. Therefore, others end up in town streets with a container or cup to borrow the pedestrians' money to keep them for the survival.

"A number of us are not educated due to the Kenyan system but with this project we were able to gain our worth in this nation," said Mr. Mbugua. However, with the tight economy and the lack of trust towards fellow human be-

ings, they end up getting little support from the empathizers. A lot do sympathize but end up not helping at all even when they have the ability. There have been cases of some wayward PWDs being used to con others and being involved in crimes and other activities that are against the law. The Laikipia groups does not only raise money from selling honey but also selling beehives. Any cash raised from these activities is saved and members engage in table banking where they take loans with less interest of 5% per year. At the end of the year all members get dividend which they divide equally. This has in turn created a balanced life for those who have families. For the purpose of management, every member has to pay a registration fee of Ksh.1,500 and Ksh.50 for membership renewal every year.

"We have been having cases where our member cannot take care of themselves due to their condition for instance mental, at this point we deal with the caregiver," added Mr. Mbugua.

Peris Wambui, a voluntary worker who has worked with this organisation since 2015 stated that she has seen the beauty of working with PWDs. "Am not disabled myself but I do love working together with these people, they have potential that is unrealized by many. In collaboration with Walk About Foundation this organization did start free daycare services for children with disabilities. According to Mr. Mbugua, parents who have disabled children suffer from stigma since their kids do not fit well with other kids. This organisation has seven voluntary workers, two cooks, one cleaner, a guard and three caregivers. Before Covid-19 hit the country the organization would offer free transport for the kids and free meals. After resuming they have been encountering financial problems there by requesting parents to bring food and also take care of means of transport for their kids.

BJ50 Pick-Up Excites Nanyuki Town





Laikipia, India in Talks over Affordable Specialized Medical Care



Laikipia Deputy Governor John Mwaniki with a team of investors from India

By David Serem

Laikipia residents will be able to access specialized medical care at affordable if a collaboration being pursued by Indian investors and Laikipia Health Service succeeds.

The ambitious plan seeks to borrow some best practices from the Indian healthcare system that ensures that a large population of population in need of specialized medicine can afford it.

Last week, LHS hosted the Indian investors seeking to an input in developing healthcare infrastructure for the disadvantaged population. Laikipia was the team's first stop among the counties outside Nairobi.

The choice of Laikipia as the first county was informed by the county's outward-looking perception to new, innovative and cost effective ways of addressing gaps.

Only a fraction of Kenyans can access specialized medical services either locally of abroad due to the high cost. As it stands currently, a large number of patients in need of services

such as knee implants live unattended, with doctors opting to put them on maintenance drugs just to ease their pains.

By targeting the large number of patients locked out by the high cost of specialized treatment, the model leverages on the economics of scale to make it sustainable.

The main areas of collaboration include skills transfer through capacity trainings, medical equipment supply and servicing, telemedicine, satellite radiology, specialized diagnostics and policy pursuits around costing of healthcare equipment. Currently, Kenya relies on foreign facilities in UK and South Africa for highly specialized lab diagnostic services, with the promise of this being done locally being a welcome move.

Led by PV Sambasiva Rao, the technical team was in the county for a visit to establish the existing gaps that limit access to quality healthcare for people. Unfavorable regulations are responsible for the existing disparity in the cost of specialist services between Kenya and India. The

cost of care in Kenya is four times higher than India despite both countries importing 90 per cent of healthcare products.

Based on local experiences, the investors will seek the best affordable alternative to handle emerging medical needs such as heart surgeries, critical care services, and specialized orthopedic surgeries among other areas.

By widening access to specialized medical procedures, the partnerships will ease the strain on national referral facilities and in the long run realize healthier populations and better quality of life that is in line with the county's health agenda.

Laikipia will borrow best practices in healthcare economics which have helped India and other Asian countries lower the cost of medical care attracting large numbers of previously locked out patients while sustaining profits for the players in the sector.

Giving an example of rampant arthritis cases among the aged around Nyahururu, LHS Chief Officer Dr Donald Mogoi welcomed the start of new collaboration, terming it a long overdue process.

"Most of these people need interventions such as knee implant replacements but due to the exorbitant price locally, we put them on medications to alleviate suffering," he observed. "What we are doing today is the start of a promising engagement that will give us an affordable option to bring comfort to these suffering members of our communities."

An estimated 30,000 travel abroad annually for specialized medical treatment spending approximately kshs 10 billion in the process.

A huge number of Kenyans are left unattended due to the financial constraints.

It also means that given a favourable costing, these Kenyans can sustain a specialized medical provision capacities through the huge client base.

About Laikipia's Homes Away From Home



A glance at some of the spacious, clean rooms offered by Nimmoh's Homestays in Nanyuki

By Muriithi John

Bed and breakfast, commonly known as BnB is the new trend in Laikipia, especially the Nanyuki side. This business operates on a highly professional manner to enable people experience a home atmosphere while still far from their real homes.

Nimmoh's Homestays is one of the leading organizations in Nanyuki operating such a booming business. According to the CEO Nimmoh's Homestays, Linet Wairimu, there is need to make people aware of existence of such operations.

"We operate serious business and provide quality services at fair prices which traditional hospitality entities may not be able to provide. We offer professional services at the discretion of customers," said Wairimu, adding that they partner with other local businesses to ensure customer satisfaction.

They link their customers to event organizers, garage owners, riders, local hotels, chefs and many more as they are not in any competition with hotels.

These services include provision of clean rooms, free Wifi, fully equipped kitchen, hot showers, and many others. The rooms are spacious enough including the sitting rooms and bedrooms.

These respectable places range from a one bedroom, two bedrooms, three, and even bungalows - depending on customer preferences. The positioning of these houses also considers security of the clients.

"Our aim is to ensure that even families can visit and stay at their convenience and have space to do personal activities that otherwise miss in other hospitality places. Imagine having a call in the other normal rooms and there is loud music playing. That inconveniences you despite having paid," adds Henry Machira, the Vacation Rentals Operator.

The system they use provides privacy in that they use codes to avoid personal contact between the owners and clients, provides decent places to live for all- including men of clothes.

Also, a client wishing to hold a meeting does not incur extra cost as would elsewhere, rather they do it at the comfort of their new home.

"Our system ensures that after a client books with us, we give them codes to open a small box in front of their door where we keep house key. Therefore, they can check in and out without meeting us," said Machira, adding that the check in time is from 2:00 pm and checkout is noon.

The organization has 25 units within Nanyuki out of the 150 available. The industry has directly created employment to 150 local people as housekeepers and thousands indirectly. Artists who decorate the rooms, photographers, and content creators benefit from existence of these services.

To ensure adherence to the law and as true patriots of Laikipia, the organization called the Laikipia County Revenue Board for a round

table meeting to see how they can be paying the necessary taxes and levies. This has not happened elsewhere in the county.

Now the various payments Nimmoh's has paid include; annual single business permit, Tourism Regulatory Authority-annually, Tourism Fund, KRA, and Registration fee. However, they have a challenge with TRA which treats them as traditional hotels.

"TRA are based on old definition of hotels. It's like you would describe an orange while holding an apple," said the operator.

Flexible

The managers view this type of business as a very important for growth of the economy. The heavy investment tells it all on the seriousness they take on their business.

"We have heavily invested in this business. In fact, the average investment per house is Ksh. 350,000 - 500,000 for one bedroom, Ksh 500,000 - 800,000 for two bedrooms and so forth. Some of these houses were redundant but we came to improve their economic value," said

The charges are flexible and vary depending on seasons. During the low season, a 2-bedroom house ranges Ksh. 5,000 to 8,000 per night. Such a business plays a vital role in the economy.

During their interaction with customers, they market Laikipia as a preferred destination. They also provide a gateway to the Northern part of the country for tourists who visit their rooms.

Nimmoh's are grateful to the County Government of Laikipia for providing a conducive working environment thus making their work easier. They say it is easier now to market their work because of cleanliness of Nanyuki town, beautification of the same, well-marked parking areas, waste management and general orderliness.

Department on a Mission to Quench Thirst of Laikipia Residents



Mounting of a drilling rig in Laikipia. Regular maintenance of boreholes is equally important

By Janet Wambaki

For the past two weeks, Laikipia county department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources, has been on a mission to ensure that boreholes across county are fully functional.

Mr. James Maingi, the Section Head of Operation and Maintenance, says that they have worked on more than eight boreholes in the county.

This department handles maintenance, repairs and servicing of the boreholes not to mention creating awareness to residents on how to operate them.

They also advise beneficiaries on dealing with breakdowns and tools to purchase when handling any faults. They are proud

to say that they have the right equipment and skill sets to help residents effectively use the boreholes.

Maingi, who has worked in the department for over three decades, has a competent team of six who work tirelessly to ensure that all ground water catchment areas are proficient for residents.

There are different types of boreholes in the county such as those equipped with hand pumps, solar pumps, gen sets and those that use electricity from KPLC.

Over the past fortnight, the team has visited a vast area in the county equipped with hand pumps for maintenance purposes.

Some of the areas include Muramati, Tetu and Segera ward, where a borehole had not been working for a month and was repaired and is now operational. They later went to Kibiru Borehole in Ngenia where they rectified the water source which had been faulty for two months.

The team also serviced two boreholes in Laikipia East and Wiyumiririe. The group also paid a call to the residents who use Bingwa Special Borehole which was completed this year and talked to them on how to maintain and sustain the water source.

They also aided residents of Doldol using the two Kulum boreholes with spares for repair. The same team visited Soitotach Borehole in Mukogondo West where they did some repair work.

Next week, they will be heading to Mukogondo West to repair three boreholes in Kimanju. They will also head to Rumuruti where they will be mending a windmill and hand pump.

The boreholes which are more than 200 feet deep, offer clean water for residents and are neither contaminated nor added any chemicals. After the drilling, a sample of the water is normally taken to the laboratory for testing to certify that it is

good for consumption. If not, then pumps are not installed.

Boreholes ordinarily serve approximately 250 to 2,000 people and livestock. This is dependent on the number of people and livestock in an area and the yield of the borehole.

Chief Officer, June Kawira, assures that they are working on bringing in better equipment for the department and offering the facilitation for them in the coming jobs.

The department expects to get more modern technology. They also hope to get more manpower and skills-set to ease the repairs and maintenance duties.

Plans of offering facilitation to the team when they go to remote places and have to work for more than a day are underway. There are also more vehicles to be purchased to be able to transport both staff and equipment to remote un navigable areas especially on rainy seasons.

The department has been working with the National Drought Management Authority to help drill, service and maintain boreholes in areas hit by drought.

NDMA has also equipped three boreholes with gen set pumps in the county and put in pipelines and tanks in hospitals and schools to help the ministry in distribution.

There are some NGOs that have aided drill of boreholes and later left it for the community and ministry to maintain. Some ranches such as Ol Pejeta and Borana Farm have also drilled boreholes to benefit the residents near them.

“I am very impressed with the work that the Department of Operations and Maintenance are doing. I hope that they continue with the same level of service and that led to their last Spot Awards win,” the Chief Officer commented cheerfully.



Extending Partnership to Frontier County of Mandera

