



# Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

WEEKLY  
BULLETIN

#Nanyukiat100 Edition

# Gearing Up For the Big Leap

## .....Laikipia's Theory of Change

By Nahashon Maina

The high pitched voice of a teacher in class, the chirping of birds perched on red cedar trees that dot beautiful lawns and the muffled roar of vehicles in the distant all combine to create an almost hallowed atmosphere at County House on 10 Mt Kenya Road, Nanyuki.

This is the aura that greets you on a typical day when you step in this compound that houses the offices of the Governor of Laikipia County. Apart from hosting the Governor, the conference hall in this compound has become a training centre of sorts, mostly for government officers.

For weeks now, the county government has been training officers in all the cadres on Enterprise Development – and this conference hall has been the convergence point. Why enterprise development?

“We are a high performance team looking for the next big step of change...we want each of our officers to become a business development officer to be able to advise local enterprises to grow and create wealth,” says Governor Ndiritu Muriithi.

### Outcomes

For many years development agencies, Government included, have been setting aside and dedicating various resources in form of budgets, human capital, among others for development. These inputs have often resulted in outputs in form of good roads, hospitals, piped water, railways, and many others.

Our development has always stuck at the output since these inputs and outputs do not directly translate to prosperity of the people.

Under its theory of change, the county Government of Laikipia has identified enterprise development as the missing link to wealth creation and prosperity of the county. The continuous training of its officers is basically meant to re-orient them to focus beyond outputs to outcomes in form of hundreds of manufacturing enterprises, jobs and high in-



Directors, section heads and administrators undergoing training on Enterprise Development/ Photo: Alice Mbaki

comes.

These outcomes will certainly lead to impact such as productivity and prosperity for the Laikipia people. The missing activity in development is enterprise development.

“Entrepreneurs need help such as developing a sound business plan and how to raise finance and creating value chain linkages. Industries do not necessarily occur spontaneously! Government has to create the conditions necessary, as well as find the industrialists,” Governor Muriithi, a respected Economist, explains.

Enterprise Development will from this year become a key parameter in appraising the county government's staff performance –attracting 40 percent of the overall process. During the appraisal, each officer is required to demonstrate and provide evidence of the number of businesses they have supported.

### Own source revenue

Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development Programme is a deliberate effort by the county government to find such industrialists to spur manufacturing. More than 400 Laikipia SMEs are working under the programme.

In addition to the training, the government has a pool of 200 full-time field (business develop-

ment) officers to handhold the SMEs. Deliberate efforts have been made to address transport for field officers with two vehicles.

Some of these efforts are yielding results. Laikipia's County Gross Product has increased three-fold-from Ksh38 billion to Ksh100billion, making it the third fastest growing county economy. More than 8,000 new jobs have been created and the average daily income rising to Ksh800.

### Reforms

In the last three years, the county's own source revenue has doubled from Ksh460 million to Ksh815 million.

Last year, it became the first county to venture in leasing programme of vehicles and equipment after a thorough appraisal of its credit worthiness.

More than two dozens of counties have come to benchmark with Laikipia.

It all started with the rollout of reforms in the county public service to make it professional and productive.

The reforms are centered on right sizing, matching skills to positions, and continuous training of staff.

# Court Dismisses Unions' Bid to Stop Public Service Reforms

Three workers' unions have lost an appeal seeking to have the process of restructuring of the Laikipia County public service in which some positions were declared redundant stopped.

But the judgement came a bit late for the County Government of Laikipia as the auditor general had already general flagged it for overshooting the expenditure on wages. This is because the government had to pay the workers whose positions were declared redundant pending the hearing and determination of their case.

What this meant is that the government had to pay salaries which it had not factored in the budget. This only aspect denied the county government an unqualified opinion on its books of accounts.

Nevertheless, the Court of Appeal judgement is an endorsement of the county public service reforms process that were rolled out three years ago to make it highly professional and productive. It is also a boost to the effort by the government to seek a fiscal balance between the rising wage bill and the dwindling development envelop ensuring that every worker is gainfully engaged and

productive.

The reforms are hinged on continuous improvement of service through constant trainings, matching of skills to positions, performance contracting, staff performance appraisals, development of individual work plans, filing of timesheets.

The County Government Workers Union, the Kenya Union of Nurses and the Union of Civil Servants moved to the Court of Appeal seeking to set aside a judgment by the Employment and Labour Relations Court dismissing their case.

They had moved to ELC flast year opposing the conducting of a comprehensive audit of county staff

"I find that the judicial review sought is misplaced and I dismissed the Judicial Review for being incompetent and brought to court contrary to the doctrine of exhaustion. However, as the parties are social partners, I will make no order as to costs in respect of the impugned proceedings before me," Justice Makau wa Nzioki had declared.

In the latest development, the second highest court in the land found the case by the unions lacking merit and therefore dismissed it.



County Attorney Mr Alexander Muchemi

"We find this application devoid of merit and dismissed it with no order as to costs," Justices William Ouko, Wanjiru Karanja and Martha Koome said in the judgment of 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

The judges pointed out that there was nothing arising from the trial court's judgement for them to stay (set aside) since it was evident that some workers had been paid their terminal dues while others had filed appeals to the County Public Service Board and it had not been demonstrated the kind of prejudice they would suffer if the orders sought were granted.

## From an Arena for Drunkards, its Total Transformation for Lunatic Lane

**D**

uring the colonial period there was a street designated for the drunkards in Nanyuki town. That street is the famous Lunatic Lane which serves the bustling Likii estate. The lane was the only place in the whole town where European men were allowed to act in a disorderly manner after a few too many drinks. Like we have streets set aside for parking cars, lunatic lane was designated for the drunkards. The only place to behave like a lunatic was in lunatic lane.

Only in the peripheral of this lane, men were allowed to become rowdy after taking alcohol. They would scream and shout along the lane without the care of the world.

They would come here to act outlandishly when their personality morphed and became impulsive after drinking. More precisely, the settlers in Nanyuki were notorious for their urban cowboy lifestyle as depicted by

scholar Sheelah Ambani in *Colonial Urbanization in Kenya: The Case of Nanyuki Town, 1920-1963*.

That was the norm during the colonial days. If anyone misbehaved in any other place in Nanyuki town, one would be arrested and fined heavily. This was to preserve the order in the town.

### Different

A 100 years on, things are different and better. Nanyuki is celebrating being a century old as a town this November, the tides have changed in lunatic lane. The one time arena for the drunkards is now a bustling commercial street with all manner of businesses-thanks to the high population of Likii Estate.

The street is today tarmacked and has street lights that allow business to operate even during the evening hours. A lane that Africans were not allowed to inhabit, is now full of activities and is popular among Nanyukians. Here is where many stop to shop when heading home from their workplace.

Also, the alcohol business is now well regulated by the government that ensure anyone enjoys their drinks without being rowdy.



# The Rampage That Led to Ban of Donkeys from Nanyuki Town



*Celebrations of the National Donkey Day in Nanyuki town, 2016*

By Kuria Irungu

The beast of burden has long been treasured and adored for her service. Nanyuki is no exception. Here donkeys have a history of serving the town's need for transport services.

Despite their recognition for this social-economic role, do you know female donkey are banned from setting foot on Nanyuki's central business district?

It happened that in mid-1950s donkeys went on a rampage in the town leaving wanton destruction in their wake in an incident that is still the talk of the town decades later.

On this particular hot afternoon, a group of donkeys went wild and stormed a popular joint in Nanyuki town where residents were having a good time. This was occasioned by a jennet that was being chased by about five jack donkeys.

"When the female donkey stormed Nyakio pub, the males went in with a damaging force" recalls Peter Warutere

a 72-year-old resident of Nanyuki.

"Those that were pulling carts also went in and caused a huge mess," he adds with a giggle at the end.

The chase that ensued inside the joint caused a huge damage.

"They left broken glasses, bottles and furniture".

Customers and staff of Nyakio Hotel fled for safety as the donkeys were berserk and untamable.

The saga prompted a ban whose aim was to prevent such an occurrence from ever happening again.

As funny and strange as it may sound, the jennet donkey was banned from setting foot anywhere within Nanyuki town. Ms. Sophy Grattan, a Nanyuki resident and a celebrated champion for the donkey rights, out of the love she has for animals has not helped secure freedom of movement for the female donkeys after the discriminative ban on them after the 1950s incident.

She opines that the ban on jennets alone

was selective since "the jack donkeys being the boys were probably the worst" in terms of behavior.

She shares the story of one lady who encountered donkeys mating outside the banking hall.

According to Ms Grattan the elderly women of European origin was absolutely furious and shocked by the scene which also prompted the ban on the female donkeys "for behaving badly". "The ban has never been lifted, but don't let the police stop the jennet donkeys from coming in because it is just an amusing ban" she adds.

From what had been witnessed after the wild rampage Warutere acknowledges that the ban was justified.

Another old resident of Nanyuki Mr. Elias Esafa reckons it was illegal and a punishable offence for a female donkey to visit the town for the reason that it would make the male ones go nuts and in turn cause damages.

"A female donkey on heat was chased by male donkeys and ended up inside the old Nyakio" he reiterates. The Nyakio story was a vivid example of how discriminative colonial policies were.

For the working jack donkeys, it was business as usual.

As arrogant as it may feel that only the jack was favoured, worth noting is the fact that the jennet was not a beast of burden back then. Only the jacks pulled carts and carried goods as the working ones were allowed to serve the town and the beautiful ones stayed at home.

On a lighter note Mr. Warutere says that donkeys also had "bad manners" and believes the ban was also aimed at censoring the bad image of mating donkeys from the public eye. According to him the residents felt that it was obscene especially for young children to see donkeys mating in public.

Misbehaving in public seems to have been the root cause of the ban. As ridiculous and as natural as the reasons may sound, I still argue that it tells a moral story of how dearly the Nanyuki society embraced moral uprightness and public decency.

As Nanyuki turns a century old it is still a mystery if the jennet's cry for freedom can be heard. If the ban was truly put down on paper, one can only ponder and wonder if the county government of the day will go down in history for lifting the ban.

## LCDA Wins KNCCI Award for the Best Business Advocacy Group



*LCDA Staff receive the award for being the best business advocacy organization at Maiyan Resort*

## Deaf Coach Overcomes Odds to Train Others in Football

By Nahashon Maina

Imagine the reaction of spectators during a football match when a goal is scored... What happens in the stadium or a bar with a crowd watching the match? A cheering crowd, making noise, screaming and clapping in joy.

Now imagine a second goal – this time it is the winning goal. This time round emotional intensity is at its limit, an ecstatic crowd of people can no longer control themselves, this gives way to a wave of collective joy.

To the player in the field who scored the goal, this elicits pride and in the team.

To others like Dominic Maruku, the facial expression in the celebrating crowd is enough to communicate the joy and feeling among them.

The 38-year-old who is deaf has been able to overcome this challenge and formed Laikipia Deaf Football Team which he is the coach.

“During my school years, I had challenges playing football, a game that I love so much. I could not interact with my teammates during the game,” Dominic says.

In 2013, Dominic formed the football team with the aim of motivating others in his situation break free and find satisfaction through playing football.

Today, the club has 16 deaf players aged between 17 and 23 who train at Nanyuki Sports Club.

“I want to create a safe place where they can play during their free time since some are still in school and be able to interact freely,” Domi-



*Dominic Maruku (Right) with a tech that he coaches despite having hearing problems*

nic asserts.

He says that although he has not trained professionally as a coach, that did not thwart his plans of forming a team.

The team has been able to partner with the County Government of Laikipia through provision of football kits such as jersey and balls.

The Laikipia deaf team has played with other deaf football teams from Kakamega, Nakuru and Nairobi and have emerged winners in the competitions with two trophies. They have also had friendly matches with BATUK team where Dominic works as a carpenter.

As a coach, he has trained his team to always look at the linesman and not wait for the whistle due to their hearing problem.

He has not been trained on coaching professionally but would like to advance his career. He texts players since some of them live far from the training ground at the sports club and sometimes experience problem of bringing them together for the exercise. Most of the team members are students who often have a challenge in transport means, owing to their widespread areas of residence.

## Why Destination Laikipia Is the Deal for Real Estate Sector

By Nahashon Maina

Nanyuki town continues to gain traction as a major investment destination and logistic hub. Due to its location, Nanyuki is able to serve adjacent counties and those in northern frontiers like Isiolo and Marsabit.

Once an area dominated by ranches, conservancies and pasture land, Nanyuki is changing its face as investors trickle in with massive infrastructural projects.

Over the past three years, the real estate market has experienced exponential expansion as construction of new high ends hotels, malls and lodges are coming up at a high rate.

The latest entry being the KSh1.4 billion cedar mall which brings new shopping experience to both residents and visitors.

The town pride of being located at the crossroad to many of East Africa's most beautiful and wild areas. It sits as it does

in the heart of the country right under grandeur Mount Kenya and on the equator.

The entrance of revived Nairobi-Nanyuki railway line has also contributed to renewed interest by investors as a logistic hub. It has also witnessed revival of industries wishing to take advantage of the railway for easier movement and evacuation of their cargos.

The railway will provide a competitive mode of transport enabling establishment of industry with assurance of speedy evacuation of products to reach other parts of the country.

The town has witnessed rapid growth in residential and commercial properties, holiday homes, hotel and adventure parks. Many conservancies are promoting tourism as demand by tourists for a peaceful place to relax increases and Nanyuki offers this in many established holiday homes.

The entrance of Maiyan Homes and the Mt. Kenya Wildlife Estates are making Nanyuki a competitive destination to the coastal region and Naivasha. The changing fortunes of Nanyuki can in some part be associated with



*An upcoming skyscraper next to what used to be Nanyuki Settler's Store*

the vision 2030 which proposed a resort city in Isiolo under the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport (LAPSSET) project which borders Laikipia county. The value of land bordering Isiolo county has appreciated exponentially as investors rush to cash in. This proximity will spur further development in the town.

# Umande Residents Savour Sweet Fruits of Leasing Programme



Nyarigino-Roads 2000 after compaction and (inset) before compaction

**A**s Nanyuki celebrates 100 years since being named as a town through gazette notice of 1920, road connectivity has gathered momentum. This infrastructure development has been witnessed throughout Laikipia county.

For instance, in Umande ward, 55 Kms of roads have been rehabilitated in the last three months. The rehabilitation work involved clearing of feeder roads never done before to open up the area and make it more accessible.

More than 29.5 kms were graded while 25.5 Kms have been graveled. More of the roads had been maintained for a very long time.

Infrastructure development has been identified as one of the factors that will contribute to economic growth among the residents.

The upgrade of these feeder roads to all weather standards is expected to ease the movement of goods and people. It will also provide connectivity of major transport routes in the county at wards level.

The residents are expected to enjoy more service as the development agendas of the county government continues to be implemented.

Some of the roads in Umande ward rehabilitated include:

- Umande - Munyi (Umande Centre)- 0.4 Km (grading and gravelling)
- Kongosisi rd – 0.2 km (grading and graveling)
- Mwereri centre – 0.2 km (grading and gravelling)
- Nyarigino – Road 2000 - 1.7 km (grading and gravelling)
- Murungai Primary - Road 2000 – 4 km

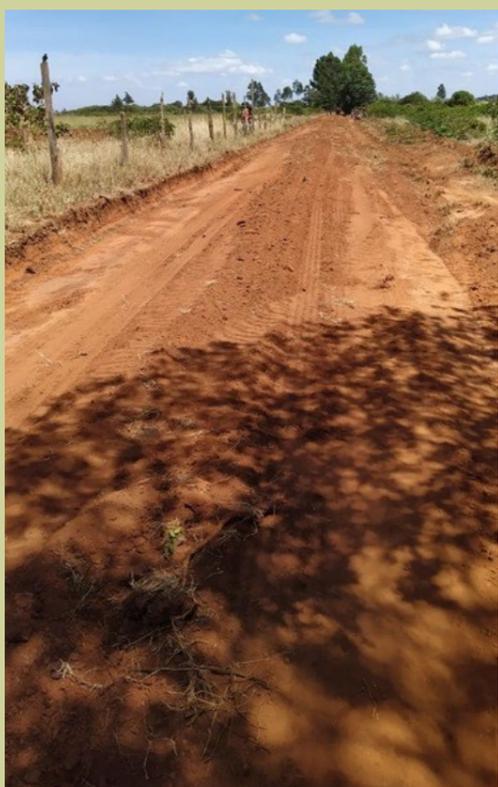
(grading) and 3.7 km (gravelling)

- Mwireri police post – world vision - 1 km (grading and gravelling)
- Karobia - Mbaitire rd – 1.9 km (grading and gravelling)
- Road 2000 - Quarry – 7.7 Km (grading and graveling)
- Mugumo Road – 0.2 Km (grading and gravelling)
- Murungai Secondary – Road 2000 – 0.6 Km (grading and gravelling)
- Mathagiroad – 0.5 Km (grading) and 0.6 Km (gravelling)
- Nginyii road – 2.2 Km (grading) and 2 Km (gravelling)
- Quarry – Tetu Pentecostal – 2.2 km (grading) and 2 Km (gravelling)
- Mahigaini – Full gospel – 1 Km (grading) and 0.85 Km (gravelling)
- Mwireri - Muchwiri rd - 0.6 Km (grading and gravelling)
- Nginyii Bridge Emergency works – 0.2 Km (gravelling)
- Kalalu – Methodist – 1.95 Km (grading)
- Tetu - Murungi rd – Independent church - 0.45 Km (grading)

Tetu shopping centre - Tetu primary school- 1 km (grading)

This work has been made easier through the county leasing program. The county has been able to undertake road maintenance as equipment are readily available. The leased construction and transport equipment include graders, excavators, trucks and trippers.

Through the leasing program, improvement on time delivery has been achieved at a lower cost. The program has ensured that roads are also rehabilitated within the shortest time possible unlike when contractors used to take long time to do the work. The work is progressing in other wards albeit delays due to the heavy rain experienced in the county last month.



Nginyei Road during and after the makeover

# Amaya Tringle Initiative Champions the Cause for Girls' Education



*Members of the mentor team from Laikipia county in Oldonyiro with some of the beneficiaries*



**By Virginia Wahome**

Every time the Amaya Triangle Initiative (Amaya TI) gets engaged in mentorship programmes, people tend to ask how it is related with peace and security in the region. Amaya TI has five pillars namely;

1. Infrastructure
2. Water, environment and natural resources development.
3. Livestock development.
4. Education and capacity building through training
5. Tourism and cross border trade.

The enablers are;

- ◆ Finance and planning
- ◆ Peace and security

In the Education and Capacity building pillar, Amaya TI is keen in supporting the pastoralist areas to get school infrastructure in place. It also makes sure that all the children who are of age enroll in schools and retain them till they complete their education by bringing in all the stakeholders and lobbying on the same.

Traditional culture of the pastoralist communities puts cattle way ahead of anything else and this culture prohibits the boychild from attending school and opts them to graze their family cattle. The girl is also married off early to acquire more

cattle for the family. The fight between balancing culture against education has been a slow but fruitful engagement between the educated, the church and the local government administration.

In the Pastoralist Communities, the girlchild is getting more and more empowered and the educated ones are getting more organized in supporting the younger ones. Risks involved in the pastoralist communities for the girl child is getting teenage pregnancies, forced early marriages and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

## **Mentorship**

Emily Lerosion is one such girl who was educated under the Catholic Diocese of Oldonyiro in Isiolo County but later their family relocated to Laikipia. She has been at the forefront of championing for the girlchild education through her organization formed specifically to empower their women and girls. Emily and other local women leaders have teamed up with the Amaya TI in championing the rights of the pastoralist women.

Mentorship program of girls has been ongoing in Laikipia County since July 2020 in Doldol, Chumvi, Endana, Depatas, Ewaso and Oldonyiro in Isiolo County.

Girls between the age of 13 and 19 are invited through the area chiefs for the sessions. Topics covered range from why education for the girls is important, risks involved in

FGM, early pregnancies and early forced marriages, and how to protect oneself and their immediate families against Covid-19. A gift pack with girls' essentials is later given to each. The girls are given a platform to ask as many questions as they want.

On Sunday the 22nd November 2020, we went for mentorship in Ewaso and later in the afternoon had a major session at the Oldonyiro Catholic Church. Through the special invitation by Father Cyril Wario, we were able to talk to over 70 girls. It was a humbling experience to see the work done by the Catholic Church in keeping the teenagers busy especially at this time of Covid-19. We found a compound full of young men and women all busy towards preparations of the Sunday Service the next day.

The Sunday mass was great with lots of dancing which is typical of the Catholic Church, we later got a chance of talking to the congregation.

I spoke of the Amaya TI and our role in Peace keeping. After the Church service I got many young men coming up to me with a promise of working with us towards finding sustainable peace especially at the border of Laikipia and Isiolo. Our next mentorship will take us to Sosian and Ol-Moran wards where likeminded people from the said areas are encouraged to join.

*Ms Wahome is the director, Amaya Triangle Initiative*

# Why Government, Private Sector Need to Work More Closely in The Next Century



By Michael Dyer

The conventional wisdom is that the public sector exists only to create the 'rules of the game'. It is then the role of the private sector to come up with profitable solutions to the world's problems.

This, however, couldn't be further from the truth and if we highlight a few examples in a global context, you will all be carrying a mobile phone. The technology in this phone wasn't created by money-making titans in Silicon Valley. Rather, the fundamental technologies that power your phone were conceived in hybrid partnerships between the private sector and US government.

For instance, the parts of the smart phone that make it smart - GPS, touch screens, the internet - were advanced by the U.S. Defense Department.

Tesla's battery technologies and solar panels came out of a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Google's search engine algorithm was boosted by a National Science Foundation Innovation.

The benefits that come out of private-public partnerships are clear.

In Africa, public private partnership (PPPs) is used to bridge the government's financing gap and deliver more efficient and cost-effective infrastructure.

The Lake Turkana Wind Project is the single largest private investment in Kenya's history - KSH 70bn - and would not have been possible without regulatory support and risk sharing

from the government. Along with of course the provisions and guarantees for sharing and distributing the power into our national grid.

In the eco-tourism sector, PPPs are relatively new but successful. For example, South African National Parks Signed a build-operate-transfer concession with a management company to operate 11 restaurants, two shops and three picnic sites in the Kruger for 10 years. Positive effects included a significant increase in SANParks' profit, the upgrading of restaurants and shops, and an eventual improvement in service and quality. Our national Parks Service KWS are exploring similar concepts with private sector that may also include contractual management of parks.

PPPs exhibit attractive characteristics for effective economic development. They combine the efficiency of the private sector with the financial risk-sharing role of the public sector, while potentially reducing corruption by holding each side to account.

But, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development note that for PPPs to work properly, they must follow certain guidelines. Namely, a detailed study of the feasibility and affordability of the project, clearly defined financial terms, effective regulation and transparency.

The Laikipia county Development Authority is well positioned to provide the bridge between Private sector and our County Government and to help provide the guidelines and feasibility studies to ensure success for all parties.

This month we celebrate 100 years of Nanyuki Town and we also look to the future next 100 years. A future that is perhaps all the more secure as the relationship between Public and Private sector becomes increasingly resilient. Built upon true and progressive partnerships

with transparency and commonality of purpose.

Opportunities to progress and strengthen PPPs arise out of good governance (under the present administration we can certainly we can tick that box) the targets are covered in our Governors manifesto.

These targets are guided by the basic principles that all people should have access to clean water, food security, health care, education, security, employment and opportunities to progress.

By creating an enabling environment for the private sector to engage, our county continues to be very attractive from that perspective.

The value of our natural capital should never be taken for granted nor exploited, our natural resources, our biodiversity the extraordinary diversity of climate, rainfall, temperature and growing conditions present wonderful opportunities over the next 100 years with options for domestic tourism complimenting international tourism, development of sustainable regenerative farming practices enhancing food security, quality and tractability. The continued strengthening of the manufacturing sector along with value add to existing local produce ensures that the next 100 years of Nanyuki and the legacy of many residents looks very bright indeed.

In conclusion my maternal grandfather came to work in Kenya in 1907, my mother was born in Timau in 1934 and I was born in Nanyuki in 1961 my children alongside all of your children and grandchildren will shape the next 100 years and the foundations for these future generations to build upon is strong.

Thank you.

*Mr Dyer is a member of the board of Laikipia County Development Authority (LCDA)*

## A Three-Day Free Medical Camp As Nanyuki Celebrates 100 Years



As Nanyuki Celebrates 100 years since it was gazetted as a township, the county government organised a three-day free medical camp at Central Park. The medical check-up involved cervical and breast cancer screening, nutritional counseling and Body Mass Index, BMI. Those who showed-up were also medicated minor ailment and those that needed referrals were advised accordingly. Voluntary Counseling and Testing for those who wished to know their HIV and AIDS status was also afforded. Glucose sugar testing was also done. There are no charges for the mentioned activities.

The activity took place from 24th to 26th November 2020.

# Nanyuki Has Undergone Major Change 100 Years Later



*Great infrastructural development witnessed as Nanyuki town turns 100 years*

**N**anyuki town has over the past 100 years grown from a forest, to a rural area and now to a modern town. Around the time the place was gazetted as a town, the place only housed thatched structures with the main mode of transport being ox-driven carts. Due to its positioning at the base of Mount Kenya, settlers started moving in to rear animals and do farming with

the help of Likii River.

The two economic activities had such huge profits which led to the need for more permanent structures to settle down and continue with the huge profits.

The place has now grown with diverse economic activities contributing to growth. There are lots of business structures and modern markets to cater for all people's needs.

Today the town has grown to be place where all

goods and services are found.

The thatched and wooden houses of the past have now been replaced by high-rise buildings and huge structures.

The town has two malls. People from the surrounding counties must pay Nanyuki a visit for an experience of services in a mall.

The famous Cedar Mall houses some of the international food joints like Java and KFC, and the international shopping store Foodplus Chandarana.

The name comes as a reminder of what old structures in the town were made of.

Apart from the high-end business structures, there are also flats and apartments to house the numerous workforces working daily to ensure the continuous growth of the town.

Some have permanently settled in the town for the immense opportunity it presents.

The conducive business environment that the current county government has created has seen more investors develop interest in the town. Financial institutions as well have gained confidence in the area and today around 10 main financial institution exist.

## Celebrating Nanyuki at 100 Through Sporting Activities

**A**s Nanyuki commemorates attaining 100 years since being elevated into a town through gazette notice of November 24, 1920, various activities have been lined up. Some include cycling and skating challenges in early December.

The Department of Education, Sports and Culture will be spearheading the events in partnership with officials of the teams. The registration of the same will commence next week with a substantive date of the events to be agreed upon in the coming days.

"We want to incorporate sports in celebrating our 100 years as a town but due to COVID-19 and subsequent ban on contact sports like football, we shall be concentrating on two events which are non-contact," CO Education, Sports and Culture James Mwangi said.

The events will involve teams within the town in preparation for the main event which will take place on December 12, Jamhuri day this year.

The cycling events will involve those who have attained 14 years with both junior and senior male and females participating. They will cover

a circuit of 30 kms in Nanyuki town and its environ. The requirement is be in possession of any type of bicycle and own safety gears.

For skating, a person will need to have a pair of skates or skateboard. The event will be con-

ducted within the CBD area on a Sunday. Participants are encouraged to register and get actively involved in celebrate a historical moment are the town turn a century old.



*Some of Nanyuki skaters. Photo courtesy Nanyuki Skaters Club*