



Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

**WEEKLY
BULLETIN**

Water for Production in Solio!



The newly settled Solio Settlement Scheme in 2011. There were no trees in the scheme. Photo/Joe Mwangi/nmg

By Muriithi John

Solio settlement scheme is finally on the verge of transformation. Exactly a decade after settling on the parched, barren 15,000-acre parcel of land, about 3,000 households can now actualize the dream of becoming millionaires.

Last week the county government announced that by October 30 2020, the first 1,500 households, approximately half of the household in the scheme, will be connected to running water.

Every household in each of the seven villages will be connected by the end of the year.

By last week a total of 1,386 household had applied for last mile connection. 1,042 house-

holds had been metered. The county government of Laikipia and Water Sector Trust Fund co-funded the Kes 143 million project.

Presence of reliable water supply in Solio Settlement Scheme is a dream come true for many residents. It has been a long journey for the inhabitants of Solio.

Before Kenya's independence, scores of families were displaced by colonial settlement. Others were deliberately disposed during land demarcation exercise in 1950s for their association with freedom fighters. By the time of independence many of those displaced lived in slums in government forests.

In 1989, the government evicted all those living in its forests. Informal settlements on roadsides cropped up. Those affected were in Chehe, Hombe, Ragati and Kagochi on the slopes of Mt Kenya and Zaina, Kabage and Gakanga in the Aberdare Ranges.

In the early days of President Kibaki's regime, First Lady Lucy Kibaki visited

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Governor Ndiritu Muriithi with Solio settlement scheme residents during the ground breaking of water project on July 26, 2019

Reaping from Sustained Improvement of Business Environment



H. E. Governor Ndiritu Muriithi officially opens the second outlet in Nanyuki town of Chieni supermarkets

Laikipia County continues to attract investments from various organizations and individuals. The most recent investments have been a financial and a retail sector.

The chief role of financial institutions is to offer liquidity to the economy and allow a higher level of economic activity than would otherwise be possible while a supermarket provides cheaper goods under one roof.

The coming of two major investments in the county is clear evidence that an enabling environment has been created. New Fortis opened on September 18, and Chieni Supermarket hit the market with a new branch just six days after.

Chieni Supermarket has opened its second branch just some few metres from the other one within Nanyuki town, indicating the potential the business has witnessed in the county. This is the fourth branch after one in Nyeri town and another in Nromoru.

Finding a conducive business environment, Chieni Supermarket had to give back to the society and thus has employed 72 new workers.

As an indication that the business has their customers at heart, the supermarket will give some incentives to the first customers in partnership with the county government.

One of the first 500 customers to do a Kes 1,000 worth of shopping will be given a Kes 1,000 worth of a shopping voucher every month for six months, the second one will be asked to suggest a person to be employed in the business while the third one will have an opportunity to nominate a needy person to shop goods worth Kes 5,000.

On the other hand, New Fortis Sacco has come when various financial institutions have partnered with the county government to offer subsidized loans to businesses to jumpstart the economy after the covid-19 pandemic.

The Sacco was started in Nyeri in 1976 as Nyeri Teachers Sacco, but has since spread to Karatina, Othaya, Nairobi, and the fifth branch opened in Nanyuki on September 18 2020.

While welcoming the new investment, Governor Ndiritu Muriithi urged the Sac-

co to consider the Small and Medium Enterprises as they in turn offer job opportunities which ultimately lead to economic growth.

“We are happy for the new investment (Newforties Sacco) in our county and urge them to make special considerations for those in production sector as they create more employment,” said Governor Muriithi.

The new enterprises are bound to benefit from the CEREB bloc whose economy (of just ten counties) has surpassed that of several countries. CEREB is the bloc that contributes the largest share of the Country's economy at over 26% of the total National GDP.

In the recent past the county government has made deliberate efforts to ensure investors have a reason to view the county as a greener pasture economically. The Smart Towns Initiative has upgraded the stands of towns with construction of ample well-marked tarmacked/cabrod parking areas, tarmacking of roads, and hygienic environments.

Revamping of the Nairobi-Nanyuki railway line has also made entrepreneur spot potential of businesses' thriving, now and in the future. Nanyuki town is strategically positioned at the centre of the country which will make the town a central point for distribution, to counties that are far from the railway line.

Wise and experienced entrepreneurs see the county to have great potential for success of any type of business and thus invest now before the market floods.



H. E. Ndiritu Muriithi and his Nyeri Governor H. E. Mutahi Kahiga open Nanyuki branch of New Forties Sacco

Solio Water Brings Hope, Prosperity to Former Squatters



Solio Villages

...from Page 1

one of the informal settlements near Hombe Forest in Mathira constituency and was appalled by the living conditions.

Mrs Kibaki, who passed on in 2016, initiated discussions with the Government on the resettlement of the families. The government eventually bought 15,000 acres from Solio ranch and more than 2000 families were settled there in 2009.

The scheme was designed in seven villages. Each was given four-and-a-half acres. The detached

half-acre was for settlement and the four for farming. It was a swathe of treeless land. There was no water and the few boreholes had salty water. Some of the new settlers lost hope, sold their land and went away. Many persevered. They planted trees and kept animals as they pushed to be given water.

"It has been a long and hard journey, but finally there is hope," Mohamed Said said.

Their wait has not been in vain. The water is

here. Like any other infrastructure, water is a great enabler of social economic transformation. A similar transformation is expected in Laikipia North where Makurian water project is taking shape. It will deliver water to thousands of homesteads. The project will reduce the time and distance residents cover in search of quality water and enable them to increase incomes.

For Solio, metre connections distribution is as follows; Furaha-115, Rehema-190, Bahati-189, Tetu- 194, Mathingira-102, Makadamia-128 and Baraka-124. Productivity is expected to increase.

The project will provide access to clean and safe water for domestic use to 3,970 households translating to a population of 19,850 people and 11,040 grade cows, 22,380 goats, 7 primary schools with 2,240 pupils, 2 secondary schools with 160 students, 1 health centre among other facilities.

Growing of oranges, onions and vegetable within the Solio belt will be real. Establishment of quality beef through feedlots technology is now possible. Dairy production is expected to increase phenomenally. This will increase incomes and improve their standards of living for scores of families that lived in abject poverty just ten years ago. And in their hearts and among their scions, they will ever be grateful to Mama Lucy Kibaki... and her scion that carried on her legacy project to fruition.



Residents waiting to be served outside the Solio Community water project Association office

Innovation

From Dry Bones and Ashes, All is Profit for Agri-Flora



Trade and Tourism CEC Biwot Tirop (right) when he had paid Agri-Flora Organic Solutions Limited a visit

By Muriithi John

Do you know that everything that you waste in your home, apart from chemicals, can produce better products...from ash, bones to eggshells?

Laban Kiboi is a living witness that nothing should really go to waste.

Kiboi is the innovator behind Agri-Flora Organic Solutions Limited which manufactures and distributes organic fertilizer based in Nyahururu.

The enterprise has employed 20 regular workers and more than that number as casuals for collecting various raw materials.

This is one of the businesses the County Government of Laikipia has nurtured through the Laikipia Innovation Development Programme. The innovator has witnessed the benefits of falling under this Development program.

One of the unique and critical help Mr. Kiboi has witnessed from the government is facilitation to get a Kibs certificate

"I was about to give up or take Kibs to

court for taking me rounds for more than two years. I thank the county government for intervening to ensure I got the vital document," said Kiboi.

The one-of-a-kind type of manure is purely organic with the raw materials composing only the natural constituents.

The fertilizer is made up of a mix of agricultural waste and fortified with other nutritional feeds that include bones, ash, egg shells to have a wholesome fertilizer feed.

"I only use natural raw materials to ensure no introduction of chemicals in the soil so that people do not contract diseases like cancer," says Kiboi, adding that organic manure has the best yields.

Agri-Flora Organic Solutions Ltd produces 17 active nutrients which help in proper growth of crops which are fortified to withstand diseases.

No destruction comes with this manure but only productivity increment. With this product in the farm, yields increase with time unlike the inorganic counterpart that increase productivity one time and diminish henceforth. Other damages associated with inorganic fertilizer include change in soil pH and killing nutrients in the soil.

The price per 50 kg bag is Kes 3,000, Kes 1,500 for 25 kg bag and the smallest package weighs 10kgs and sells at Kes 600. The industry also makes liquid fertilizer that goes for kes 1,000 for every litre. When applying in the shamba,

the one litre fertilizer is diluted with 60 litres of water.

The business targets both small and large scale farmers in the region and beyond as they niche for themselves in the market.

Kiboi advocates for organic products, not to increase his business' profits but because of the adverse effects associated with using the alternatives.

He advises other farmers to embrace organic agribusiness to certify that the next generations will have productive lands.

Through the innovation program, Kiboi has been enrolled on a Business Management course at Strathmore University. On completion he will train other upcoming farmers on better ways of making money through updated farming.

The innovator has also benefitted from numerous exhibitions and agricultural shows in various counties. This is all in a bid to help him expand his market reach.

Last year, Kiboi and several visionaries went for two weeks training and marketing in Rwanda, all catered for by the county government.

To order the Agri-Flora Organic Solutions Limited's products, contact 0722361763 or 0722887916

AGRI-FLORA
ORGANIC FERTILIZERS



ADVANTAGES

- ❑ Provide balanced elements and minerals
- ❑ Speeds up and enhances maturity rate
- ❑ Offering rapid nutrients uptake by leaves
- ❑ Does not scotch or burn
- ❑ Improves size, colour, texture, budding & budding attributes
- ❑ Eco-friendly nourishment of plants
- ❑ Contains essential trace elements
- ❑ Ensures quality healthy residue free produce
- ❑ No toxic effect
- ❑ Cost effective

DIRECTIONS

Mix a litre of Agri-flora liquid fertiliser with 60 litres of water and spray on leaves, recommended in the evening.



☎ 0722 887 916, 0722 361 763

County Reviving Community Based Tourism

County government of Laikipia has made deliberate efforts to revive the tourism sector in the region. Tourism is one of the leading sectors in the economy of Laikipia County as well as the whole country. The tourism sector in Laikipia in the last three years has been venturing in supporting cultural based tourism (CBTOs) run by organized communities dominated by women and youth especially in pastoral communities where the potential is immense.

The revival efforts by government include construction of resource centres to act as conference facilities and rehabilitation and construction of Bandas, creating campsites, and construction of curios or Shanga facilities. The county also through the Department of Tourism has been offering trainings that teach the CBTOs customer relations, communication skills, book keeping and financial management, diversified beadwork products. Marketing has also been a major focus for these facilities. The County Government has constructed a cottage at Twala tenebo cultural manyatta. Twala/tenebo is a cultural village in Ilpolei Group Ranch in Mkogodo West ward that was created in 1998 to reduce poverty and improve livelihoods through eco/cultural tourism and bio-enterprises by a group of Maasai women. Some of the services Twala Tenebo village offers include; Community meeting resource centre rental for 100 visitors, eco-manyatta cottages that accommodate up to 22 guests, camping grounds, bee-keeping enterprise, Aloe production for cosmetics, beadwork enterprise, and curio shop. On top of that, three guided eco-walks, that is, walking with baboons, walking with livestock and touring and landscape, also are provided. Also authentic experiences for visitors which foster respect for the environment and local culture exist. Some of the benefits



A rehabilitated Banda at Iingwesi Community Lodge

members of this cultural village get are getting dividends bi-annually, 10% of income for supporting education for Maasai girls, and 10% of income to support elderly community members. The department has also constructed a Resource Centre at Ngambolo Cultural Centre which contains a 100 capacity conference facility and an extra room serving as a curio shop for the bead products in Kijabe group ranch, Mkogodo West ward. Cultural entertainment, practices and beadwork products are the key practices in the Centre. Construction of a Resource at Naatum Cultural Manyatta has been complete courtesy of Laikipia Government. This has facilitated a conferencing and catering services with a capacity of 80 individuals. The Manyatta is located in Murupusi Group Ranch in Mkogodo West and helps the women undertake beadworks, organic farming, beekeeping, aloe products and safari

camping. Rehabilitation of Two Bandas by county government at Iingwesi Community Eco-lodge in the idyllic Mukogodo Hills is complete. Iingwesi Group Ranch in Mkogodo East is a community run tourism model.

There are six individual 'bandas' or cottages, with adjoining outdoor showers. Two bandas include a platform in which the bed can roll out so guests can spend a night under the stars in comfort. Facilities also include a large sitting area and a swimming pool that looks out over the wilderness. Guests can often view game from the comfort of the lodge that overlooks a watering hole, thus a perfect getaway for a honeymoon or a romantic holiday. It is run and managed by the Maasai community, and 60% of the income of the lodge goes direct back to the community, unique location, very quiet and vast area to see wildlife, good cuisine, expert guides. Rehabilitation of two Bandas at Ol Gaboli Eco-lodge is also complete. This is a Community Lodge in Il Motiok Group Ranch and is the only tourism facility owned by an all-women's pastoralist group in Sub-Saharan Africa. The lodge is an excellent base for rafting, canoeing, mountain biking, walking, trekking and rock climbing. With over 2 million acres of wonderful African wilderness visitors can enjoy the vast expanses of Laikipia exclusively. It has 5 rooms (bandas) all built from local stone with traditional thatched roofs. Each banda can accommodate between 2-8 people, depending on sleep arrangements. Other ongoing cultural based tourism works to better tourism in the county include construction of a Resource Centre at Tool in Mkogodo West and construction of a Resource Centre at Arjiju Cultural Manyatta.



Rhinos at Ol Pejeta Conservancy

Checklist for Accessing KCB Soko Loan



KCB Boresha Biashara (Soko/Market Loan) has formulated a checklist for those applying for the economic stimulus loans.

For eligibility criteria, a person has to be a member of the market association.

The loan amount will range from Kes 5,000 to Kes 100, 000 with a 3% negotiation fee. Payment will be

within one year, but to be paid on a monthly basis.

KCB has a base rate of 13 % per annum to be serviced every month. The loan also has a 0.85% risk premium.

However, applicants must provide three guarantors who are within the market group. The market officials will confirm

the names of the guarantors before presenting them to the KCB bank.

Provision of National ID/ passport and KRA pin certificate are vital possessions to be regarded as a serious person in need of a loan. One should also be CRB cleared as an assurance that he will not default the subsidized loan.

As collateral also, the applicants will provide chattels mortgage over household items and stock hypothecation depending on the nature of stock.

On top of presenting a business summary, borrowers have also to provide their bank statements which can be from any bank/financial institution. In some instances M-Pesa statements will also be required.

Further confirmations before accessing the loans come from market leaders that the person is member of a given market association, and also to certify ownership of a market stall.

Finally the borrower will have to provide photographs of their business and those of their residential place.

Amref Donates Kes. 10 M Worth of Medical Equipment

African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) has continued partnering with County government of Laikipia in matters health, with the recent one being a donation of a huge consignment.

The donation of Personal Protective Equipment and Medical Supplies from worth 10 million is meant to help in fighting against Covid-19 pandemic.

The consignment includes protective clothing like goggles, gloves facemasks and gowns, all designed to protect the frontline workers, especially the health care workers and community health volunteers (CHVs). PPEs help users keep safe from injury or infection in the course of duty.

There has been a general outcry of shortage of these vital items in the country. However, AMREF has chosen Laikipia County to be among those that do not lack of the PPEs. All citizens are urged to keep safe and wear masks in the right manner and not to assume coronavirus has been defeated yet.



CEC Health Dr. Lenai Kamariuo (clapping) receives PPEs donations from Amref representatives

Until otherwise communicated, all must avoid shaking hands, staying in congested places but ensure regular sanitizing hands or washing them with clean running water.

Generally, safety starts with an individual, and thus directives from Ministry of Health must be obeyed without following those who are ignoring the simple rules.

Strathmore Invites Gov. Muriithi As Guest Speaker at Public Policy Webinar

H. E. Governor Ndiritu Muriithi will be a guest speaker at a high level webinar on Public Policy webinar organized by Strathmore University Business School (SBS).

With a population of over 5,000 students, Strathmore University is one of the most respected private institutions of higher learning in the region. It was started in 1961 as an A-Level College by a group of professionals, who were inspired and encouraged by Saint Josémaria Escrivá, founder of Opus Dei.

In 1966 the School of Accountancy opened to train accountants for Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania and in 1991 the university introduced Information Technology Courses.

The webinar themed "Positioning Counties for Dynamic Growth and Transformation through Competitiveness" will take place on Wednesday, 7th October 2020 from 2:30pm to 4:30pm EAT.

Laikipia has a vibrant innovation and enterprise development programme that is currently hand-holding about 300 SMEs to upscale their production. The county government in partnership with a local start-up Sagak Tech Automobiles has ventured into mass production of a four-wheeler Tuktuk.

It has also partnered with Dedan Kimathi University of Technology to make a ventilator. The Governor has also initiated a wide range of reforms in the county public service to make it professional. These reforms are hinged on innovation and technology.

Laikipia has successfully negotiated with several banks a Kes 3 billion stimulus package for local SMEs affected by Covid-



19 pandemic. Under the package, about 5,000 businesses will be able to access subsidized loans to push the back to the tracks after the disruption by the disease.

"The overarching goal of this event is to discuss and develop specific understanding of how counties can enhance productivity and competitiveness through innovation," the executive dean, Dr George N Njenga noted.

Governor Ndiritu Muriithi is a seasoned economist and financial markets expert with over 25 years' experience in leadership and management within diverse settings in Kenya, South Africa, Canada and Australia.

An accomplished practitioner in the African financial markets, he has spearheaded numerous financial market strengthening initiatives across African countries covering establishment of credit sharing and scoring institutions, improved bond market func-

tion, expansion of mortgage markets, and even growth of women-owned enterprises.

He was primarily involved in the design and implementation of these programmes and contributed substantively to the development of financial markets that provide required services to many nations.

Beyond his work in financial markets, Governor Ndiritu Muriithi previously served as an Assistant Minister for Industrialization for five (5) years and drove reforms to improve the environment for doing business, and improving incentives to promote investments.

He was also involved in the development of policy and law related to finance and economics such as legislation governing establishment of credit bureau, interest rates, taxation and other fiscal measures.

Specifically, he contributed to legislative frameworks for banking and small businesses including successfully advocating for amendments to the Banking Act in 2006, to allow for credit reporting, a key pillar in improving access to finance; resolving an impasse in the passing of the Finance Bill 2011/2012, dropping of the legislation for fixing interest rates, and introducing the Kenya Bankers' Reference Rate for use in loan pricing; as well as promoting and championing the passing of the SME Act which resulted in a comprehensive and coherent framework to promote small enterprise development in Kenya.

This demonstrated mastery of the economic and financial matters, especially within the Kenyan context, has earned him the recognition as a well-respected and regular contributor to magazines, journals, and TV programs on various topical economic issues.

Twende Nanyuki by Train is a Journey to the Last Century

Ever wondered how it feels to go for miles without experiencing traffic or the disturbances of bumps on the road? Well that is what it takes to reach Mwisho wa Reli, Nanyuki! Rail travel cannot be compared to a ship, leave alone a Ferrari! To me, this was a lie until I encountered the feeling over the weekend from Thika to Nanyuki in what we called Twende Nanyuki, for exploration. I must admit Nanyuki has lots of good places, conservancies, view of our great Mt. Kenya and a gate way to climbing the same. But, the story of Nanyuki goodies is for another day. Let's go back to the exemplary feeling on the train. I'm the kind of person who must sleep when a journey exceeds 30 minutes, but not this time. I moved from one end to the other, peeping through

the window for a view of different terrains across the five counties. Talk of the hills and valleys in Murang'a County. I realized that it is only through the train that you get to experience the diversity of different economic activities as the rail line moves from towns to villages to forests. I viewed myself a tourist as people waived at me (of course we were many but felt the greeting were intended to be mine) and I waved back. The ones that were close to the line were so happy to see me waving back and took selfies as the gigantic snake coiled its way to Nanyuki. The interaction with different people in the train also gave me a classic experience. Connecting with people and making new friends like Bobby McJones whose melody in Country music is of another world, literally. He had come to entertain the guests visiting Nanyuki, but the advantage of being in a train that day is that we were the first to be entertained. Another experience I got, and which also

taught me a lesson is bathrooms. I wish you could see us running to look for washrooms and making long queues before the train took off, only to discover later that the same essential services exist inside the train! Well, we should be forgiven we are used to matatus. As a famous Kikuyu saying goes... *Kumagara ni kuhiga*, translated as getting out of the normal makes a person wiser, I discovered, in contrast to my long and wrong belief that a train does not stop moving until it reaches its destination, that it actually can. As I arrange how to make another trip, it is a challenge to you to move out and become wiser. Experience the feeling that I felt that cannot be expressed in writing and you will have a story to tell also.

-Muriithi John

How to Ensure Lasting Peace, Prosperity in the Amaya Region



By a show of hands, the communities resolved to embrace peace

Scores of leaders spent Friday, 25th September 2020 persuading Samburu and Masai communities living along Laikipia and Isiolo border to stop killing each other and stealing each other livestock. The government invested heavily in the peace meeting. Rift valley regional commissioner George Natembeya and his security team landed at the venue in a NPS chopper. Other leaders came in about 100 vehicles. Other leaders included Governor Ndiritu Muriithi, Senator John Kinyua, Isiolo senator Ms, Fatuma Adan Dullo, Laikipia North MP Sarah Korere, Samburu East MP.... MCAs and former National assembly speaker Francis ole Kaparo. Although the two communities speak the same language there have been bloody animosity

since 2016 which has led to loss of lives. During the meeting there were accusations and counter accusations between the Samburus from Isiolo and Maasais.

“There’s no difference between Samburu and maasai. You are the same people. The tags have been put to enhance animosity,” a no nonsense Mr Natembeya told them.

“More than 50 years after independence, when the rest of the country is planning and strategizing how to build sky crappers you’re busy shooting each other and stealing your brother’s livestock,” he said.

How to bring to an end this and many other constant conflicts among the four pastoralist Amaya Triangle counties of Baringo, Samburu, Isiolo and Laikipia? This is what Gover-

nor Ndiritu Muriithi has always championed: First of all the people and communities affected must resolve to end hostility and embrace each other. Community elders, women and morans in the warring camps must talk to each other and talk peace. Secondly, the leadership of these counties must support and champion the tagging of livestock or Livestock Identification and Traceability System (LITS). This systems which has already been rolled out in Laikipia is an identity for each animal. The animal can be traced wherever it moves. It is akin to a car logbook. Using it, livestock keepers can get loans from the banks against their animals. The region controls a significant portion of the Kes 110 billion livestock economy. Unlocking the entire livestock value chain would transform the region. For instance the leather industry alone can support the region’s economy. This should start with mindset change. In addition pastoralist communities must embrace technology to survive the vagaries of climate change and the growing population. Moving the animals up and down in search of pasture is now outdated. Growing grass and other fodder and feeding it to livestock in a feedlot is easier and will produce high quality animals. So far, Laikipia and Baringo county assemblies have ratified the Amaya agreement. Samburu and Isiolo have not. Ratification of the agreement will give the respective county governments the legal basis to invest in the initiative. Synchronized projects in water, education and infrastructure by the respective governors would ensure uniform development in the four counties.

Samburu and Isiolo should therefore ratify the agreement.



Mr George Natembeya during the peace meeting at Tura