

Laikipia Steps Up Covid-19 Preparedness

.....county prepares quarantine and isolation centres



A team led by Deputy Governor John Mwaniki consults after inspecting the progress of renovations of Nanyuki ASK Grounds

The leadership Laikipia county has upped its stake in readiness to combat Covid-19 should it occur within its borders.

In Nanyuki, the County Government is leading a multi-agency team in operations to renovate the Agricultural Society of Kenya showground and Nanyuki High School to serve as isolation centres.

Once complete, the two facilities will together have a bed capacity of 500, and will also serve as quarantine facilities.

In the past few days, teams drawn from the multiagency taskforce have been undertaking renovations at the Nanyuki Show Ground, with tens of workers engaged on ground and in-house cleaning, plumbing and drainage systems, electricity connection and fumigation of the premises.

The first 100 beds in the various dedicated isolation wards were installed, with the Department of Infrastructure leading a team of engineers in putting up a large tent for additional beds for the isolation centre.

Eventually, Nanyuki ASK ground will have two wings, one for isolation and another for quarantine use.

By April 8, the quarantine centre had 14 units. Persons placed under quarantine will be in a hygienic environment and social contacts will be minimized.

The multiagency team working on the isolation and quarantine facilities is drawn from the county government, the Kenya Defence Forces and the Red Cross Society.

Despite the preparedness, citizens are being cautioned against laxity in observing the virus prevention guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health.

"Much as we up our preparedness to combat the virus, our message to the public is that self protection measures of hand washing, maintaining social distance and use of masks are the most realistic approaches that will keep all of us safe," said Deputy Governor John Mwaniki.

The county government has announced that similar operations are underway in Nyahururu town that will see the setting up of isolation centres with a capacity of 500 beds at the Laikipia University and at Ndururumo High School. The two centres will serve the entire western and parts of Laikipia North, especially Sosian Ward.

Mr Mwaniki says the facilities are meant to cater for patients who might need intensive care, where Laikipia has projected a possible 1,000 to 1,200 cases in its model.

Plans to recruit additional 250 health workers to assist in strengthening operations in the newly established centres are underway.

The Deputy Governor says the Government has identified and reserved hotels to accommodate the entire frontline medical team involved in case management as a way of preventing them from interacting with their families and posing a danger of transmitting the virus. "It is a very difficult moment to be called a health worker, having to stand in between a killer disease and saving lives, but we know they are up to the task," said Mr Mwaniki, adding that the Government shall take care of them to the best of its ability. As a way of strengthening the team, a team of 650 Community Health Volunteers have been brought on board as a build up on surveillance activities of Covid-19 at the community level. Further interventions include budget reorganisation that has seen the government channel ksh 741 million to finance Covid-19 interventions. The government targets to raise an additional Ksh 154 million shillings from a fund raising drive, and a further Ksh10 million from salary cuts from senior and middle level managers. With everything now put in motion in terms of preparedness, perhaps the most striking aspect of the whole operation is the apparent inter-agency synergy in the efforts to bring the isolation centres into operation. The nature of the works involved has brought together virtually all the County Departments on a single most engaging project, with the rapid results revealing a seamless collaboration rarely observed elsewhere.

Laikipia Coronavirus

Information Hotlines:

0110 094 440

0738 055 343

0721 799 365

More Doctors Join Laikipia to Boost Health Service Delivery



Kimajo Sub-County hospital surgical theatre. Two doctors have joined the hospital on locum basis

More than 14 doctors have signed in for locum service with various health facilities in Laikipia as County Government makes efforts to provide quality healthcare to all.

Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital is the biggest beneficiary with 10 doctors on locum, Rumuruti and Kimanjo two each and Lamuria and Doldol one each.

NTRH chief executive officer Timothy Panga, says the new doctors will plug occasional staffing shortages as the government works out a long term solution.

By engaging the services of doctors on need basis, the county hospitals now have the capacity to offer critical services like emergency for 24 hours, services that were previously limited to the day time working hours only.

This approach allows hospitals to fill clinical staff gaps immediately they arise by engaging any available doctors pooled from private practice, the flexibility boosting the efficiency of the plan even more.

Under this plan, doctors have been contracted on weekly basis, with the Government incurring costs for services rendered.

The 10 doctors at NTRH will offer services in different departments. The hospital's emergency department will now operate for 24 hours courtesy of five doctors assigned to run the unit. This crucial step has enabled patients to access timely emergency services at the time of need.

The other five doctors at the hospital serve the diabetes and the amenities clinics, as well as the in-patient department.

This arrangement allows the referral hospital to attend to privately insured patients at the amenities clinic, an additional revenue stream for the hospital. As standard practice, private insurance providers require a doctor on call to attend to their clients. Thanks to the flexible strategy, more scheduled clinics at the hospitals are now running efficiently as the market offers a steady supply of the medics.

Other doctors contracted under locum are serving in Kimanjo, Lamuria and Rumuruti sub-county hospitals as well as Nyahururu County Referral Hospital.



For Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs)
Sanitizers & Protective Mask in Laikipia,

Call & Order

Arrange for delivery.



1. EM Naturals, Nanyuki
Contact Edith: 0702715013
Located at The Courtyard Arcade Along Nanyuki-Cottage road

Sanitizers



2. Clej Supplies Ltd., Nanyuki
Contact Jennifer: 0724678648

PPEs & Masks



3. GIMCO, Nyahururu
Contact Dominic: 0722610278

PPEs & Masks



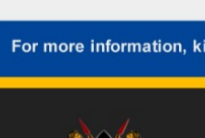
4. Peter Maina, Nanyuki
Contact Peter: 0722242994
Located in Nanyuki Behind AA Driving School Building, Door No. 3

Masks



5. Angaza Crafts, OI Jabet Centre
Contact Judith: 0723369187

Masks



6. Davina Engineering Works
Contact Kagiri: 0720421709

Incinerator for used COVID Masks



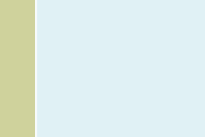
7. Peter Mugwimi, Nyahururu
Contact : 0720409797

Masks



8. Sarah Mumbi, Next to Nyahururu Stadium. Contact : 0742492635

Masks



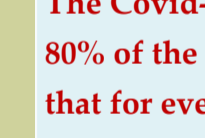
9. Lucy Waitera, Next to Nyahururu Stadium. Contact : 0729463321

Masks



10. Uniform Centre, Nanyuki
Contact Nyamu: 0721350183

PPEs & Masks



11. Gikondi Uniforms, Nyahururu
Contact Margaret: 0716713464

Masks

For more information, kindly reach the Laikipia Innovation Program via 0784 183 702.



#LAIKIPIAONTHEMOVE

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF LAIKIPIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND MEDICAL SERVICES



Do the following to Avoid Getting Coronavirus:

The Covid-19 infection causes mild infection in 80% of the cases. The fatality rate is 2%, meaning that for every one hundred of the cases, 98% recover fully. The disease is spread through coughing, sneezing and spitting and enters the body through the nose, mouth and eyes. The disease can be prevented through these fairly easy -to-do measures :

- ◆ regular hand-washing with soap and water
- ◆ using hand sanitizers
- ◆ coughing into the creave of your elbow
- ◆ using disposable tissues while blowing your nose or spitting
- ◆ avoiding shaking hands
- ◆ maintaining a social distance of one-and-a-half metres
- ◆ avoiding crowded areas
- ◆ avoiding non-essential travel
- ◆ Wear a mask while in public places
- ◆ Stay at Home

The Executive Presents Emergency Fund Regulations for Approval by Assembly

The executive arm of the county government has presented to the County Assembly for approval County Emergency Fund regulations.

If approved by the Assembly the regulations will enable a faster response by the county government to disasters and emergencies such as the Coronavirus outbreak.

A Supplementary Budget proposing a Ksh200 million emergency fund is set to be tabled before the Assembly this week. The development is a follow up of a presentation of the Laikipia County Emergency Fund Regulations to the County Assembly last week.

The regulations allows for the County government to domesticate section 112 of the Public Finance Management Act 2012 to enable payments for emergency needs. This step will see the county better its preparedness and timely response to emergencies like Covid-19, and minimize its negative effects.

The step will further allow the Government to refine the Public Finance Management Act to address the emergency at hand. This will give the devolved unit the go ahead to allocate more resources to the emergency fund beyond the budgeted 10 million shillings annually, which is drawn from the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act (County Regulations) of 2015. To ensure effective administration and introduce provisions to enable audit for the fund, the county government will make use of an advisory



Finance CECM Murungi Ndai will chair emergency fund advisory committee.

committee chaired by CEC Finance with the finance chief officer, CECM for Health, County Secretary and the county attorney forming membership of the committee.

The county government, in addition, will adopt regulations that allow it to incorporate up to three persons who have the requisite expertise to handle the emergency at hand.

The emergency fund will enable Laikipia County to issue contracts and purchase supplies of necessities like protective gears, food, water and hiring of personnel to support the fight against Covid-19. The fund will facilitate a faster, transparent and accountable release of funds for emergency management.

Nanyuki-Based EMNaturals Ventures into Mass Production of Hand Sanitizers



Edith Makena at displays her Instant Hand Sanitizer in Nanyuki town

By David Serem

At her mini industry located on the way to Cottage Hospital in Nanyuki Town, Edith Makena is busy with her five employees producing a commodity whose demand is on the rise-hand sanitizer.

She is a Small and Medium Entrepreneur, keen on ensuring her customers get a steady supply of the product that health experts says is crucial in containing the spread of Covid-19.

Makena whose business deals in natural skin care products has expanded her production line to include production of the hand sanitizers that have been recommended by the Ministry of Health.

With the news of her production of sanitizer spreading fast, new orders have been coming in, a development that has prompted her to increase the workforce.

"We are now supplying the hand sanitizers beyond Nanyuki Town and we have orders coming from as far as Eldoret, Kericho and Nakuru. Additional of essential oils make our sanitizers stand out from the rest," says Makena.

The sole entrepreneur-turned-employer has acquired a 100-litre mixer to scale up her productions to meet the sharp rise in demand, a step that would boost her income and create additional jobs. With the mixer, she can now produce 100 litres in 15 minutes, up from the previous capacity of 15 litres in 10 minutes.

She is among 205-plus entrepreneurs nurtured under Laikipia County Innovation and Enterprise Development Programme. She has benefitted from expert training on the production of her new brand of hand sanitizer and other products. The training has also equipped her with extensive knowledge on product quality, marketing, branding, patenting among other areas.

Thanks to the mentorship of the innovation programme, Makena's products are Kenya Bureau of Standards certified, enabling them to compete with others countrywide. Locally, the Instant Hand Sanitizer are now retailing at Nanmatt Supermarket and Le Restique Restaurant in Nanyuki. Her plan is to avail the sanitizer to online shoppers and is registered on the online shopping platform developed by the Laikipia County Government to link traders and clients to facilitate e-commerce. The recently launched online trading platform has brought over 600 merchants on board. This form of trading assists the government in maintaining hygiene standards on food items, as well as regulating transport providers for purposes of accountability.



Nanyuki Water & Sewerage Company

USSD CODE *483*08#

Nawasco app @ google playstore

Email Address: info@nawasco.co.ke

Website : www.nawasco.co.ke

NAWASCO, pursuant to Section 154 of the Water Act 2016 operates as a County Water Service Provider mandated to serve Nanyuki and its environs including parts of Nyeri and Meru Counties. Our core-mandate is derived from section 78 (1) of the Water Act 2016 which stipulate:

- Provision of water services within the area specified in the license; and
- Development of county assets for water services provision.

Financing for the capital expenditure in the water sector for asset development and operations and maintenance comes from taxes, transfers, tariffs, and repayable finance. Tariffs, which is the fees paid by the consumers cover our operations and maintenance costs and also do minor works. This makes it difficult, if not impossible to provide clean, adequate and affordable water for free.

As an essential service provider and in line with the National and County directives to stop potential spread of the corona virus, we are observing high hygiene standards, we are keeping social distance at the work place, and all staff and customers are required to wear masks within all our premises.

To encourage our customers and other stakeholders to stay at home we are maximizing use of our virtual platforms as indicated below:

Paying Bills

1. Equity bank -a/c no . 0270295023483
2. Sidian bank -a/c no 01019020000667
3. Family bank -a/c no. 11062
4. Mpesa Paybill no . 540300

Enquiries / Feedback

1. Water connection
2. Disconnection
3. Sewerage services
4. Metering
5. Water bills
6. Water leaks
7. Sewer blockage

In an effort to prevent the spread of the corona virus NAWASCO has further taken the following measures:

1. Provision of hand washing points with continuous tap running water at the following places:
 - Main Stage
 - Miraa selling joint
 - Dol Dol stage
2. Provision of hand washing points with tanks of a capacity of 1,500 litres at the following places:
 - Katheri Market
 - Makutano Centre
 - Likii (2)
 - Majengo (2)
 - Thingithu
 - Kabiro Centre
 - Kanyoni
 - Old Market
 - Kwa Mbuji
 - Mungetho Centre
 - Ukumbusho
 - Main Stage
 - Central Park
3. Encouraging our customer to pay their water bills to ensure availability of water at this critical moment.
4. Not disconnecting in the low-income areas that is :
 - Likii A,
 - Majengo and
 - Kwa Mbuji
5. Solio Water Project:
 - Last mile connection is on going
 - All public amenities have been connected at no cost on the users for now
 - Hand washing points at all the seven villages

We will continue doing what we possibly can as an institution to stop the spread of the corona virus and to ensure our people continue getting water and sanitation services at this critical moment.

Eng. Kennedy Gitonga
Managing Director

Covid-19: Inside Laikipia's Plan to Cushion Local Economy

The County Government of Laikipia has announced a raft of measures to help the local economy pull through the hard times, as businesses take a blow from the Covid-19 pandemic. Governor Ndiritu Muriithi said his Government was reorganizing the 2019/2020 budget seeking Ksh741million to mitigate the effects of coronavirus. The supplementary budget will be tabled in the County Assembly this week. Bulk of the money will be used to support front-line interventions against Covid-19 in health, food provision for poor households and supporting the local enterprises. Part of the money will be channeled to small businesses to cushion them from imminent collapse, as they form the bulk the county's economy. Some Ksh96million will be availed as loans to the SMEs, with a lowered interest rate of two per cent. The capital will be availed to the borrowers through the County Cooperatives Revolving Fund and the Enterprise Fund. The county government is also fast-tracking the payment of suppliers to improve cash flow. It is also sourcing sanitizers and Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) like face masks and gowns from local SMEs. A further incentive towards this initiative will



HE Governor Ndiritu Muriithi addressing the assembly in February 2020

involve the release of Ksh33.7million that the government has holding from contractors as retention. This is the cash normally retained for six months after paying a contractor to ensure accountability in standards of the project paid for. Hospitals will receive Ksh80 million to support infra-

structure such as the 18-bed Intensive Care Unit facility at the Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital and a similar 15-bed facility at Nyahururu County Referral Hospital. The government is banking on the equipment leasing programme to further open up road transport network to facilitate movement of

Government Initiates Food Support Vulnerable Families



H.E. Governor Ndiritu Muriithi

Laikipia County Government has set aside Ksh264 million food support programme targeting 40,000 vulnerable households during the current Corona virus pandemic. The amount will go into supporting families facing food shortage and is drawn from the emergency fund. The aim is to cushion the affected whose sources of livelihoods have been cut short following the Covid-19 impact on the economy. About 17,000 vulnerable households have already been identified to qualify for the food package,

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS

LAIKIPIA COUNTY EMERGENCY FUND

FOOD PACKAGE

CASH & IN-KIND DONATIONS

LISHA FAMILIA KOMESHA CORONA

DONATE TODAY

40,000+ HOUSEHOLDS NEED THIS AID

DROP FOOD DONATIONS HERE:

1. Wangumo Cereals - Nyahururu	10. Chieni Supermarket - Nanyuki	18. Wiyumirrie Catholic Church
2. Quality Cereals - Nyahururu	11. Shirikisho Supermarket - Nyahururu	19. Jumua Mosque Nanyuki
3. Jamaa Supermarket - Nyahururu	12. St. Martin Catholic Social Apostolate - Nyahururu / Kinamba	20. Jamia Nyahururu
4. Mugo Wholesalers - Nyahururu	13. PEFA Church Nanyuki Stadium	21. Deliverance Church Nyahururu
5. JMI Wachira Wholesalers - Nyahururu	14. Worldwide Church Karandi	22. PCEA Church Nyahururu
6. Chief Cereals - Nyahururu	15. Deliverance Church Rumuruti	
7. Budget Supermarket Nanyuki	16. Catholic Mission Doldoi	
8. PCEA Church Nanyuki	17. Gospel Outreach Nanyuki	
9. GGFAN - Manguo Nyahururu		

LAIKIPIA COUNTY COVID-19 SUPPORT ACCOUNT
 ABSA BANK NANYUKI A/C NUMBER 2042569251
PAYBILL 303030

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT : 0716 031 031

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF LAIKIPIA AND LAIKIPIA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (LCDA)

based on the data the government had collected through the mobile data collection platform, M-Jali.

Governor Ndiritu Muriithi made the announcement during a media briefing in Nanyuki. The government food support will go to a further 15,000 households, whose sources of income have been cut by job losses. These are families who relied on daily income for their daily needs. A further 10,000 households whose breadwinners have been laid off by their employers such as flower firms will also benefit from the food aid. The food aid programme is expected to sustain families for a period of about 70 days, as the Government explores other alternatives. To boost the local economy, the Government will source the food items from the local distributors such as the maize and wheat flour milling companies and shops in the neighbourhood. The Government will make use of the existing distribution systems where chiefs and ward administrators will assist in distribution process. In an effort to eliminate gatherings and in observation of social distancing, vouchers will be used by the target recipients at the points of collection

Varsity plays its Rightful Role in War Fight against Covid-19

By John Muriithi

When life gives you lemon, produce lemonade. The outbreak of Coronavirus has given Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (Dekut) an opportunity to play its rightful role in the society.

The institution is appropriately able to match its research role to the needs of the community. Top on this are several solutions it has come out with in the ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of the virus.

"Universities have huge capacities to fight the pandemic. By working together, some may develop social innovations, gadgets, products among others, all aimed at mitigating spread..

"Presently, Dekut is working with Laikipia, Nyeri and Nyandarua counties in this fight," says Dekut Vice Chancellor Prof Ndirangu Kioni.

In its partnership with County Government of Laikipia, the institution is developing ventilators used in intensive care units to aid a patient in breathing, which would have otherwise been imported at a very high price.

The prototypes are almost ready and the county government is keen on purchasing the machines once they undergo all the certification process as part of its preparedness in the face of COVID-19 outbreak.

Engineers from the university are expected to test two of the ventilators in Laikipia in a few days to come.

"The PPEs have been approved by the Kenya Bureau of Standards while 40 ventilators for Laikipia are in the development stage.," explains the VC adding that they are also working with SMEs from

Laikipia in production of hand sanitizers. According to Prof. Kioni, it is the role of higher learning institutions to identify the challenges facing the society and look for ways to counter them.

Through the partnership with the devolved unit, the university has also designed and produced Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to protect frontline teams and also face masks for the citizens. Demand for protective gear has been on the rise as more people across the world get infected with the virus. It has provided an opportunity for institutions to apply theories learnt in classrooms



into practical solutions.

University intervention has not only saved time but money for the government. Importation of such equipment would have required lengthy clearances but the locally manufactured items are delivered on time. The university has been producing market-oriented products. A second-year student at the university, Brian Ndegwa, has developed an artificial intelligence system known as Rona to curb misinformation and unnecessary panic by providing clear concise answers on the COVID-19 pandemic.

"When you ask Rona anything about Corona virus, you will get information from verified

sources only," says the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology student.

Machakos Governor Alfred Mutua recently challenged intellectuals at Kenyan universities to apply research and innovation to come with practical solutions this time when the world is reeling from the adverse effects of Covid-19. Laikipia University has also partnered with the County Government of Laikipia in a business school to assist innovators develop business plans that would see them commercialize their products.

How Laikipia County took lead in fighting Coronavirus



HE Governor Ndiritu Muriithi addressing the media flanked by County Commissioner Daniel Nyameti (right) and Police Commander Felix Nyaema.

When Kenya reported its first case of Covid-19 four weeks ago, Laikipia County moved fast to institute the various hygiene guidelines spelt out by the Ministry of Health. It was among the first counties to introduce screening in all its entry points, suspended livestock markets, installed hand washing points and deployed teams to enforce the guidelines. In addition, it has established a multi-agency command centre that has three toll-free lines. A total of 50,000 people entering Laikipia County had been screened in various entry points in the first four days of the exercise. Governor Ndir-

itu Muriithi and county commissioner Daniel Nyameti brought the top leadership together through videoconferencing to deliberate on how to keep the virus away.

Since then, video conferencing has become a way of life for Laikipia. Video conferencing has now become a daily routine. The Governor starts the day with the first video conference at 7.30am with the communication team, followed by another for top government officers at 9.00am and a broader one at 3.00pm that includes all stakeholders. Despite the efforts the level of compliance has been wanting. Majority of the county residents have been reluctant to stay at home. This has been a source of concern to the

county leadership. Laikipia leaders have a reason to worry. With some exclusive lodges stashed in private ranches, tourism forms a significant proportion of its economy. Some global icons fly there. In addition, the county has strong ties with Europe where the scourge has been devastating some countries. Although the county has no confirmed case, it has several cases of individual self-quarantine. It is the idea of how Coronavirus would overstretch the county's health system that has been giving the leadership sleepless nights. Shock messages and horror images from the most affected countries have done little to change the behavior Laikipians. According to Governor Muriithi, the gravity and horror of the scourge has not sunk into the minds of Kenyans and that is why they are defying the Government and are giving excuses of failing to stay at home.

"The fact is that we are in a precarious situation where you must choose between life and death. By complying with the directive to stay at home and observing the laid down hygiene procedures you will not only save your live and your family but those of hundreds of Kenyans that you would have infected if you fail to comply," he said.

Mr. Nyameti said has warned that drastic measures to enforce the guidelines would be applied especially to people are reluctant to follow them.

A network of 645 community health volunteers working alongside chiefs and ward administrators have been moving to households creating awareness about the disease.