

Kefri Building a Regional Centre in Laikipia



The ground breaking of the Kenya Forestry Research Institute Sub-centre which is under construction in Sossion ward

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The Kenya Forestry Research Institute (Kefri) is constructing its 14th regional research centre in Sossion ward to serve Laikipia and neighbouring counties.

The Centre will be used as a dry land research centre whereby local communities will be taught on the best trees to plant in which area as part of the efforts towards achievement of the 10 percent forest cover target.

On Wednesday, Deputy Governor John Mwaniki presided over the groundbreaking ceremony for the centre at Sossion. The county government provided land on which is being built.

Mr Mwaniki said the facility will benefit from deliberate efforts by the county government to improve roads as well as access to clean water not only in Sossion and Rumuruti

wards, but in the entire county, in its efforts to improve the quality of life of the residents.

Regional Director Dr Eston Mutituu said that the research centre's was focusing on commercial tree planting model, whereby communities are able to earn money in their own tree nurseries as they sell the seedlings.

Additionally, communities are encouraged to grow plants like aloe vera that produces soaps, detergents and other medicinal products to add their economic basket.

KEFRI promised that the primary beneficiaries of jobs at the research Centre would be people from Sossion and Rumuruti.

Capacity Building training will also be offered so that our communities can know how best to take care of their trees, importance of tree cover and how to make money out of tree business while consciously conserving the environment.

Joy As the First Baby is Delivered at Newly –Opened Nturukuma Maternity

There was excitement last week as Nturukuma dispensary registered the first delivery at the newly opened maternity ward.

Initially, the maternity lay idle because mother did not use since it was located near a road and therefore there was little privacy.

To solve this problem, the ward was relocated to far away section with the building and equipped with modern delivery facilities and more beds.

Apart from Nturukuma, 16 other dispensaries across the county have well equipped maternity wards as the government implements its strategy to invest in the diagnostic capacity of dispensaries and health centres, as well as increase the services available in them.

Other dispensaries with similar facilities as Nturukuma are Ol Jabet, Chumvi, Sipili, Muramati, Luoniek, Salama, Pesi, Arjiju, Matanya, Wiyumiririe, Kalalu, Muthengera, Solio, Minjore, Karandi and East Laikipia.

In line with its universal health care model, the county government has also been expanding the role of primary health care facilities and personnel.

The facilities currently undergoing upgrade include Lamuria, Doldol, Kimanjo, Rumuruti, Ndindika, Ol Moran, Wiyumiririe and Kalalu and will soon be rolled out

.....continued on pg.2



Nturukuma Maternity Delivery excites community

.....from pg 1

to our other facilities like Kihato, Solio, Matanya, Ngobit, Likii, Nturukuma, Githuci, Mugumo, Muramati, Powys, Ipolei, Ewaso, Chumvi, East Laikipia Arjiju Luoniek, Sosian, Lorien, Ndurumo, Ol Ng'arua, Thigio, Oljabet, Melwa, Salama, Pes, Thome, Mwenje, Maili Saba and Losogwa. The Laikipia UHC model is based on investing in primary health care facilities especially on diagnostics and maternities as a way of making health services accessible to as many citizens as possible.

The revamped Nturukuma Dispensary is serving the residents of Nturukuma, Likii, Nkando, Karachi, Mukuri, Nyariginu, among other areas.

Maternity wards in Seria, Melwa, Tigithi and Luoniek will be operational later this year.

Ndindika surgical theatre and the 120-bed capacity Mother-Child facilities in Nyahururu and Nanyuki will be completed within the same period.



The new Nturukuma Dispensary maternity. Maternity wards in Seria, Melwa, Tigithi and Luoniek will be operational later this year.

Laikipia Ranked Number Two in Equipping of Health Facilities



H.E. Governor Ndiritu Muriithi with some health staff and citizens

Laikipia's health facilities have been ranked number two in terms of having all basic equipment required to offer quality health services.

Ninety-one (91) percent of the county's health facilities are equipped with basic equipment, the latest Kenya Health Facility Assessment Report indicates.

The fact that only Samburu county was ahead of Laikipia in this ranking, is a major drawback to politicians who have been lying about the county's health system.

According to the survey, only one in five hospitals (24 per cent) in Kenya has all the equipment to offer health services...

The Kenya Health Facility Assessment report released last week showed another 77 per cent have basic equipment such as thermometer, adult and child scale and a source of light.

Samburu County had the highest number of health facilities with basic equipment (92 per cent), followed closely by Laikipia (91 per cent) and Murang'a, Kisumu and Lamu at 85 per cent.

Nairobi, Kenya's richest county with more than a third of the country's health resources, medical training institutions, healthcare workers and money, did not even feature among the top 10 regions.

cent) of its health facilities having basic equipment.

The study showed how the health system perpetuated inequity in Kenya. Primary healthcare units — dispensaries and health centres — which constitute more than 80 per cent of Kenya's health facilities and where the majority seek care, were the most affected. Only 17 per cent of these had basic equipment.

Fifty per cent of secondary and tertiary facilities — the former district, provincial and national hospitals — had all the equipment.

The study found that facilities in urban areas were more equipped (30 per cent) than those in rural areas (19 per cent) even though over 70 per cent of Kenyans live in rural areas.

Only 17 per cent of government facilities, which are funded by the taxpayer, had all the basic equipment as compared to a third of private facilities (31 per cent).

Even though Kenya has reached the WHO target of two facilities per 10,000 people, the report showed that both the national and county governments had not matched this with concurrent development to conform to the current standards.

At the launch of the report, Dr Patrick Amoth, the incoming Director-General of Health, said the government would "collaborate with all stakeholders to address these gaps". While devolution has brought healthcare to people who had suffered systemic neglect, healthcare workers have blamed political influence by MCAs for the haphazard management of health.

Dr Hellen Kiarie, the Health ministry head of monitoring and evaluation, said there seemed to be a perception that healthcare provision was more about the physical structures.

The report showed an increase in acquisition of machines and equipment in the counties, but the country is still experiencing a shortage of staff to operate the fixed equipment.

Almost all counties have bought a number of ambulances for emergency services, but the report says the ambulances rarely achieve their purpose due to uneven distribution of ambulances.

The Beauty and Ugly of Our Towns– Who’s Behind What?



A Nanyuki Town street rehabilitated recently by the County Government of Laikipia

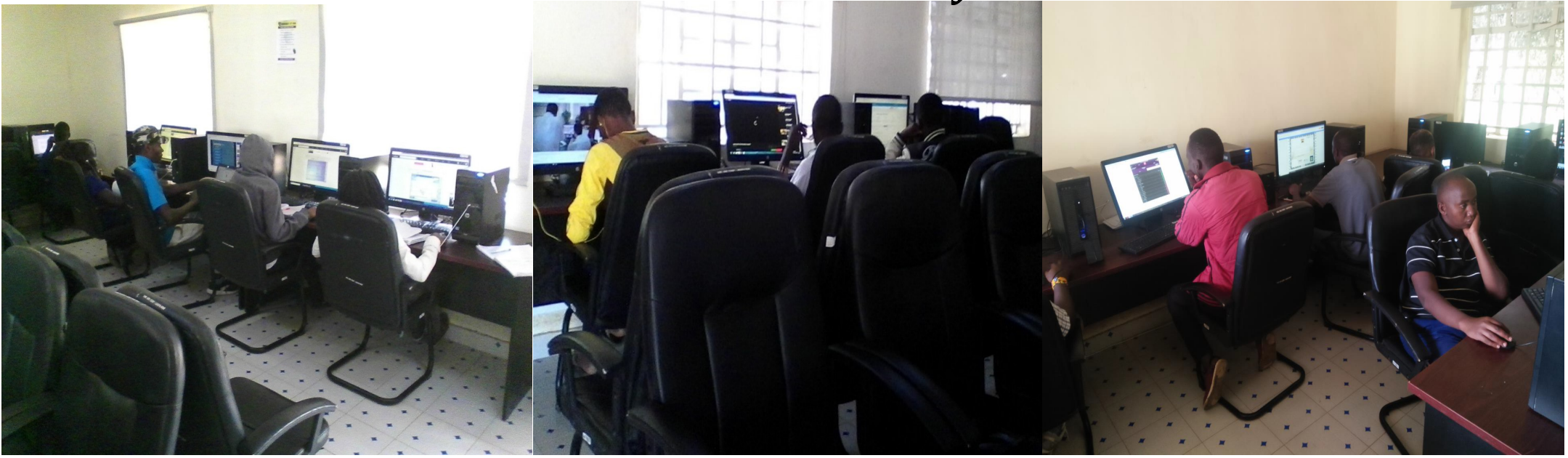
When you drive, cycle or walk within Nanyuki central business district you simply roll. The tarmac is smooth. It’s the same experience in Nyahururu and Rumuruti. While the county government has done commendable work in improving roads and streets in the towns, the road that starts Nyahururu’s Total Petrol station towards Ngomongo and onward to Boiman is more of a scene from hell. This particular is managed by the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (Kerra). The scenario is even worse in Nanyuki town where driving along the road which starts from Total Petrol stations to Batuk and onward to Rumuruti is a nightmarish experience. The road is managed by the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA). Laikipia residents want the national government to address the pa-

thetic state of these two key roads immediately. Failure by the two national government agencies to work on the roads has drawn the anger of the residents. “The county government has done a lot of commendable work on its part. Its work is visible. But Kerra and Kenha are letting the national government down,” said Ms Margaret Gitonga, a resident of Marmaret. KeNHA could not respond to the emergency when rains cut-off the section near Ol Pejeta Gate of Nanyuki-Rumuruti road a few months ago, disrupting commerce and general communication. However the County Government responded to the emergency and after consultation with KeNHA deployed its staff to repair the dilapidated section using its emergency fund. The staff worked throughout the night to restore normalcy.



A section of of the Nanyuki-Rumuruti road maintained by KeNHA

Rumuruti ICT Hub Creates Jobs for Youths



By Margaret Njeri

Rumuruti ICT Hub was created out of the need to create employment to youths. The Hub enables creative youths to access to online employment, learning resources, digital skills ac-

quisitions, entrepreneurship skills, and important a workspace. Located in Rumuruti Town, it provides a physical space & equipment for young people to explore and learn digital tech to build themselves new livelihoods and to craft prototypes of their ideas. An average of 50 youth are served at the

ICT Hub per day as earn a living through online jobs working through different account, research and learning. The centre is equipped with high speed internet of around 150 mbps. This facility is critical in creation of 30,000 new jobs in Laikipia's economy, as promised by HE Governor Ndiritu Muriithi.

Four More Boreholes for Segera, Mukogodo wards



Drilling of four boreholes in Segera, Mukogodo East and Mukogodo West wards forms the main plank of a partnership between Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, Laikipia Permaculture Centre and the County Government of Laikipia.

Two of the boreholes will be drilled in Mukogodo West while Mukogodo East and Segera will have one boreholes. The water is expected to transform the living standards of more than 2,000 people by enhancing their participation in in the value chains of Opuntia Catctus, Aloe and honey. With the availability of water, the communities also expected to establish kitchen gardens and water troughs for their livestock.

Laikipia Governor Ndiritu Muriithi who presided over the launch of the new project called on the women groups and all stakeholders to actively devise new technologies of precipitating value chains.

"For any development to be complete it must include behavior change of the beneficiary community. The communities must think of how this project is going to transform their lives," the Governor said.

The county government through the departments of water and agriculture will provide technical expert on the project which is covers areas with 11 women groups in Laikipia North that are affiliated to the Laikipia Permaculture Centre.



The groups are involved in honey and cactus wine production, opuntia biogas, opuntia jam, organic fertilizer production, among other economic activities. The Italian government is contributing Sh140 million to the project. The 11 groups have 770 women who will be trained to improve on the opuntia, aloe and honey value chains.

The Agency's director Fabio Melloni said the Italian government opted to finance the project as part of its commitment in partnering with Kenya. Head of Mission of Istituto Pace Sviluppo Innovazione Acli (Ipsia) Julia Bello said her NGO will assist the groups in dealing with all components of value chain from production, transformation and marketing. Ipsia is an Italian institute for peace, development and innovation. The Laikipia permaculture is located on a five acre land and works as social enterprise focused on empowering the surrounding pastoral community to develop sustainable agricultural practices aimed at enabling them diversify their resources of livelihoods while making them food secure. The centre works with women groups through participatory approach and offer training on permaculture which gives the local community an opportunity to be educated on the techniques of growing and producing food from the resources that are available locally.

Rehabilitation of Nanyuki Open Air Market Underway

.....better environment expected to improve business and open up more job opportunities

A major rehabilitation of Nanyuki Open Air market is underway as the Government steps up its efforts to provide conducive business environment and job creation opportunities across the county.

The market supports 800 direct jobs and 200 indirect ones, it rehabilitation will provide conducive environment for both traders and customers.

This will create customer satisfaction and thus enhance commerce as well as revenue for the county.

Once rehabilitated the market will support 800 retail traders, 50 wholesalers, 50 hawkers, 200 transporters, 300 fresh produce suppliers and 20 restaurants.

The Nanyuki open Air Market was initiated in 1972 and currently holds 1000 traders and 30 stalls operating inside the market.

It is situated in Thingithu ward in Laikipia East Sub-County within Nanyuki town.

Nanyuki town serves as the administrative centre for the Sub-county. The town also serves as the transit town for

travelers headed to the Laikip-



Top and below: Rehabilitation of the Nanyuki Open-Air Market has kicked off with the construction of parking lots outside the facility

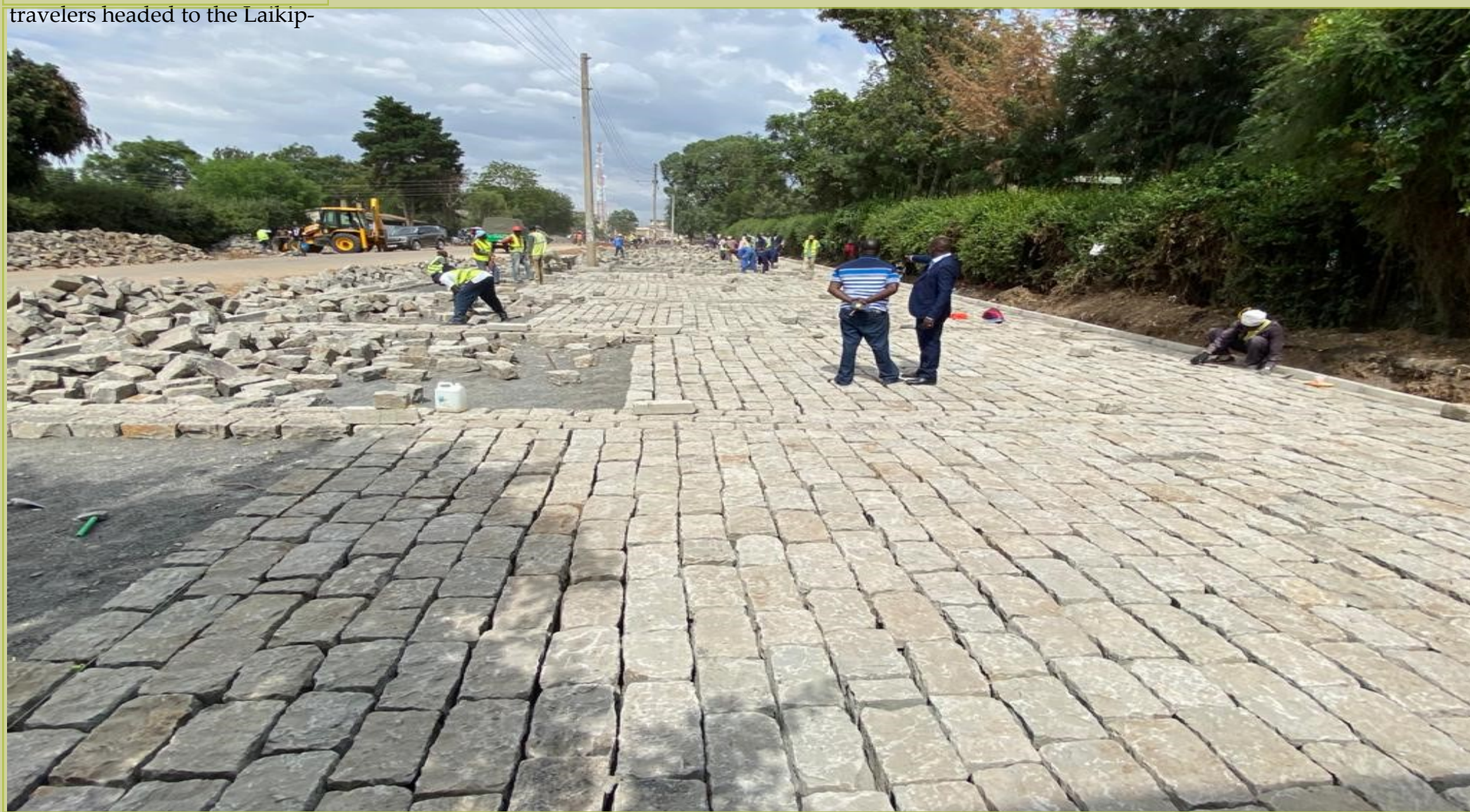
ia North, Isiolo, Meru and Nyeri and a commercial hub for traders in the region.

The main economic activity in the town is trade, thus the ever growing need for trading spaces in the town. Of the 10,629 licensed businesses in the Laikipia East sub-county, 70% of them are located in Nanyuki.

Expansion of the market is expected to generate significant employment opportunities, directly and indirectly.

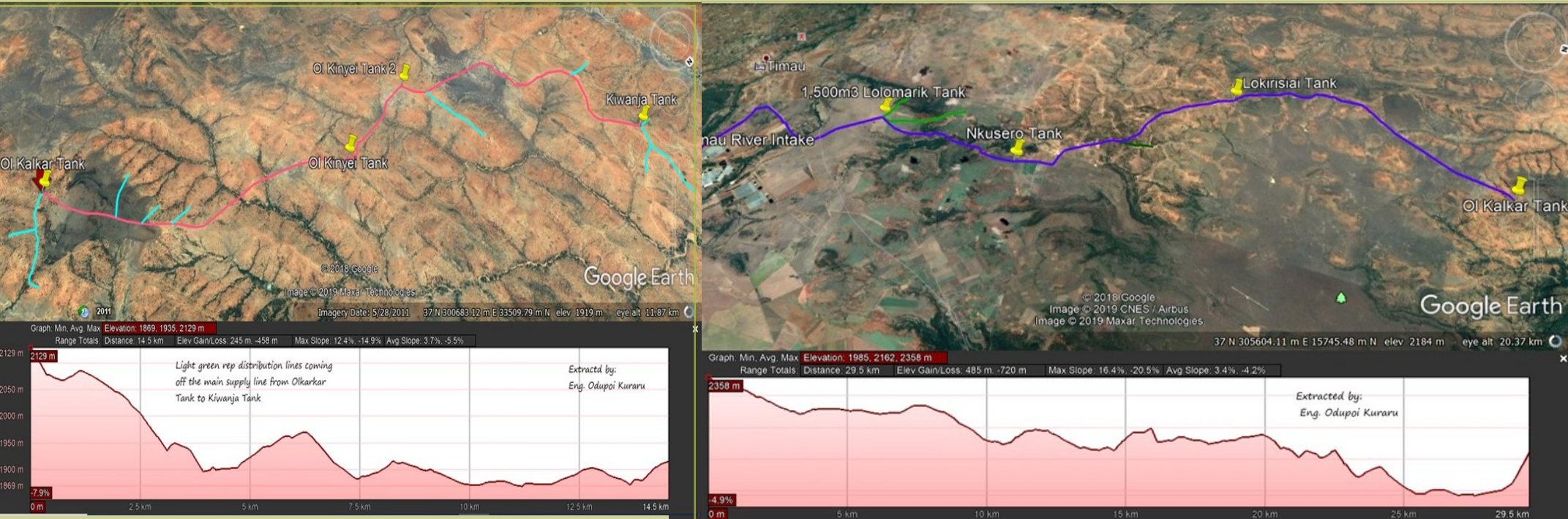
With a conducive environment for doing business, revenue will increase. A clean business environment will enhance hygiene and food safety as well as improved cash flows as more customers will patronize the stalls.

The market generates an accrued gross income of Kshs192million annually.



.....after successful implementation of Solio water Project

Makurian Water Project Will Transform the Wild North



The Makurian Water pipeline and tanks as captured by the Google map

Following the successful completion of Solio Water Project, the county Government has embarked on another similar project targeting 7,630 residents of Laikipia North sub-county. The Makuria Water Project, which involves at total of 43 kilometres of the main pipeline and two 225 cubic metres concrete tanks, will cover Chumvi, Il Ng’wesi and Makurian locations.

The survey of 29 kilometre of the main pipeline which will be laid out in the first phase, environmental screening as well as public participation, have already been done as the project gets underway. Fourteen kilometres of the pipeline will be done in phase two of the project. Mapping of the beneficiaries has been done and the intake, which is located on the northern slopes of Mt Kenya, rehabilitated.

Feedlots

Like in Solio, once complete the projects see residents access clean and safe water which will reduce cases of water borne diseases. Improved quality and reliable water at household level will in addition reduced livestock diseases due to the absence of overcrowding at water points. Residents have an enormous opportunity to start micro feedlots as a modern way of beef production. Households will be able to improve livelihood through kitchen gardens, increased productivity of livestock and milk.

Productivity

Residents in these areas will achieve higher productivity from time and energy saved from household chores such as fetching water. They have an immense opportunity to start small irrigation within their farms. Availability of will reduce conflict on water points and there is likelihood that there will be resettlement in abandoned areas. There will be increased tree cover as institutions such as schools and families will be able to water and nurture trees. Availability of water will also promote a sense of self-believe among the pastoralist communities who inhabit the area that they too can venture into crop farming. This means movement of livestock in search of pasture will reduce greatly as well as conflict with ranches. The Villages that will get water under the project are Granto, Wiyumiririe, Ositat, Murua,Olitiki, Kundula, Mugushi, Nkusero,Olokirisia, Chumvi, Arjiju, Katunka, Mlango, Laria-korok, Olkinyei, Kantana, Nanyoki, Ntonyoki, Ntomia, Kiwanja Ndege, Osinoni and Loisukut.

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES

S/ N	VILLAGES	HH	TOTAL PUPOLATION
1	Granto village	105	525
2	Wiyumiririe upper and lower	108	540
3	Ositat	12	60
4	Murua	34	170
5	Olitiki	165	825
6	Kundula	18	90
7	Mugushi	54	270
8	Ngusero	80	400
9	Olokirisia	112	560
10	Chumvi	202	1,010
11	Arjijo	76	380
12	Katunka	78	390
13	Mlango	42	210
14	Lariakorok	9	45
15	Olkinyei	76	380
16	Kantana	32	160
17	Nanyoki	70	350
18	Ntomia	40	200
19	Kiwanja Ndege	102	510
20	Osinoni	60	300
21	Loisukut	51	255
	Total		7,630

Economic outcomes

- Kick starting of feedlots system from arid areas
- Improved livelihood through kitchen gardens, expansion of livestock /milk production and subsequent improved livelihoods,
- higher productivity from time and energy saved currently while fetching water.
- Putting arid areas under irrigation
- Reduce conflict on water points hence resettlement on abandoned areas