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Rose Geranium proving to be a viable alternative crop in Laikipia

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Kilifi County learns from Laikipia on community land registration

PG 7



From Starehe to Laikipia— student prefers to learn from Laikipia for two weeks

# In Search of Lasting Peace Among Six Pastoral Counties



IMPACT brought together various key actors from Laikipia, Samburu, Baringo, Turkana, Isiolo and Marsabit counties for a deep conversation for two days to discuss matters lasting peace for development in the region. Page 5

# Rose Geranium: A Viable Alternative Crop in Laikipia



*Rose Geranium growing in Laikipia county with minimal rainfall providing a good alternative to county farmers*

## By Mollin Wanjiru

Rose Geranium is an ornamental shrub that grows in most areas of Laikipia County. The oil from the crop has strong antimicrobial, antifungal, and antiviral properties.

The crop matures after four to six months and produces at least four times in a year. Its low cost of production and minimum labour is requirement make it more viable in the county to have more economic benefits to farmers. It does very well with minimum rainfall, thus adding more reasons for Laikipia farmers to adopt it as the county is a semi-arid area.

Horizon Business Ventures (HBV) have contracted over 50

farmers in Solio with the support of officers from the department of Agriculture to produce the crop, providing a ready market for the farmers. HBV processes Rose Geranium to essential oil. The total yield on an eighth acre is approximately 15000 kilograms. A kilo sells at Kshs. 13-15.

The crop is harvested at least three times in a year. The profitability of rose geranium beats all other crops grown in the semi-arid region of Solio and most dry parts of Laikipia County.

Rose geranium farming has enhanced diversification and economic resilience among the farmers. With proper farm planning, the farmers in Solio have fully utilised the 0.5 acres where they

settle and have household water pans that they use to irrigate the crop.

Farmers in Mukogodo East, Mukogodo West and parts of Segera have also been practicing Geranium farming successfully.



# Kilifi County Learns from Laikipia on Community Land Registration

By George Aike

The County Government of Laikipia has continued attracting other devolved units to learn on various matters concerning governance, even at the department levels.

Last week, a delegation from County Government of Kilifi paid a courtesy call to Department of Lands, Housing and Physical Planning in Laikipia for two-day benchmarking exercise on transitioning from group ranches to community lands.

Led by the CO Lands, Dr. James Nguzo the team stated that visit was to learn from Laikipia as it has established itself as a model in terms of experience and successful transitioning and learn about the process. The group ranches in Kilifi County are not yet registered as community land, hence the need to learn from Laikipia that has made it a reality.

The land registrar took the participants through the steps involved in registration of community land and all relevant legislation guiding it.

This transition was in light of Kenya's communal land ownership and pastoralist livelihoods not being easily addressable by individual tenure mechanisms. Kenya's Vision 2030 calls for devolved land tenure governance as a driver to dignified livelihoods for all by 2030. Furthermore, the 2016 Community Land Act (CLA) mandates for community land to be registered, administered and



*Staff members from Department of Lands, Housing and Physical planning with their counterparts from Kilifi when they later visited on a benchmark exercise*

managed by the communities themselves.

In summary the steps involved include:

- ◆ registration of a community
- ◆ notice to the community land registrar
- ◆ notice and invitation to public meeting (public participation)
- ◆ proceedings / minutes of the public meeting
- ◆ election of members of the community land management committee (CLMC) and requisite qualifications for election as a member, term, replacement and functions and powers of the same
- ◆ Issuance of certificate of registration and effects of registration.

John Mepukori shared on the experience gained from the 13 group ranches which had been registered as community land which were in tandem with the

above guidelines. He said the communities were organized and that even women and new members were accommodated.

An experience sharing session from respective representatives from Musul and Makurian group ranches also deepened the conversation, and later a visit to Makurian community land for a practical feel on the ground. Thereafter the team left for Ol Pejeta conservancy for experience on different management regimes, that is, a community land vis a vis a private ranch.

The team also experienced a feel of how Laikipia uses GIS for mapping and as a decision support tool for planning and subsequent transitioning.

*George Aike is a GIS technologist in Laikipia.*

# Joy as Three LHS Nanyuki Nurses Recognized for Innovation in Primary Healthcare Provision



**By David Serem**

Excitement met LHS Nanyuki's nursing fraternity as three of its members made it to the finals of Beyond Zero Awards, in recognition of their frontline role provision of primary healthcare.

The three nurses were recognized for their exceptional essays that demonstrated innovation in healthcare provision in diverse areas, edging out thousands in a competition that saw over ten thousand participants take part in.

"It's such a great honour for me personally, though I must admit that it caught me by surprise," Douglas Sagini, a cancer care nurse at LHS Nanyuki. "This is a remarkable milestone in the

recognition of the role of nurses towards the realization a UHC," he added.

Mr. Sagini's essay focused on innovations in wound care among other areas, an achievement he says was a result of research and peer learning from professionals in and outside the country. He admits the award was satisfying, given the effort that went into the research, writing and review of the paper.

The nurse says such recognitions will motivate the healthcare givers, and should be sustained at even the local levels to strengthen primary healthcare. The developments, he says, reiterates the central role of nurses at all the stages of healthcare provision.

"I would like to thank each and everyone who contributed to the success of the essays. It takes positive mentorships for new ideas to sail through," the nurse says.

Lydia Wanjohi, the nurse in charge of the outpatient wing, lauded her colleagues for the recognition, saying the achievement is no mean feat.

"I am really proud of my colleagues, and this is testimony to the fact that we have a really competent workforce here," she said. Beyond Zero Nurses Awards is the initiative of the office of the First Lady. It recognizes outstanding nurses for their role in the provision of primary healthcare, with focus on those going out of their way to deploy innovative approaches in the process.

"Achievement of UHC depends largely on skilled workforce, particularly nursing to strengthen preventive, diagnostic and curative healthcare," read a statement from the First Lady Margaret Kenyatta during a Beyond Zero Summit last year.

Out of the over ten thousand participants, 578 nurses made it to finalists in the nurse-led healthcare initiatives.

The other two nurses from LHS Nanyuki are Christine Komora and John Njenga.

# Six Counties Join Hands in Search of Lasting Peace

By Muriithi John

“There is no development without peace.” This is the unanimous agreement that dominated the two-day peace meeting organized By Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation (IMPACT) in Nanyuki.

The meeting that brought actors from six counties that have experienced constant conflict, sought to enable all embrace peace as a tool for development. These counties are Laikipia, Marsabit, Isiolo, Samburu, Turkana and Baringo.

Themed *Nurturing peace through inter-county community dialogue for a better tomorrow* the meeting involved all the parties from national government representatives, and county representatives to the members of the communities who have experienced the wrath of conflict.

Conflict from these counties, whose economy greatly involves pastoralism, mainly comes from fighting over the scarce resources of pasture and water. However, these were discovered to be just an iceberg of what really goes on. These members discussed at length what has been ailing them and sought to bring a lasting peace solution.

Among the suggestions for solving this is to have a political goodwill expressed by the leaders. There needs to be no more blame games as who has been the



*Some of the members of six counties who took part in the two-day meeting in Nanyuki to ensure lasting peace is found among the pastoralist counties*

cause of conflict, rather moving forward it is about taking responsibilities to ensure peace prevails. Many have lost their loved ones while they had gone to steal livestock from other communities and counties. Some have been seen to have no value for human life as they kill to take away their animals.

It was established that it is not a community that steals from others, rather they are organized criminal groups who strive to tarnish the name of an entire community. To disassociate with such, the rest of the community must take charge and report these people and ensure the stolen livestock get back their owners. The elders must also take charge and direct the youth on the need to respect other people's property.

Need for embracing formal edu-

cation also dominated as one of the strategies to ensure peace in the long-run. It is unfair to subject children to only knowing how to graze animals in the forest. The communities must also embrace alternative source of economic activities.

Adopting feedlot system and Nomadic pastoralism has become a challenge owing to the increased human population and more land dedicated to housing and industrialization.

Through a good negotiation with the elders and grazing committees, people from a different county can take their animals to another county until there is enough pasture in their area. For example, Isiolo county is currently hosting livestock from neighboring counties like Baringo, Samburu, Marsabit, and Laikipia.

# Resolving Land Issues in Laikipia



**By Julius Murage**

As Laikipia County experiences developments, growth, and human settlement, resolving land issues is of utmost importance to promote investment. The county government has been implementing legislative policies and partnering with investors.

Since 2018, Laikipia County working in partnership with National Land Commission (NLC) has identified more than 300 parcels of public land acquired irregularly.

“We discussed with the governor on land issues in Laikipia to see how best we can deal with issues

of grabbed lands, spatial planning,” NLC Commissioner, Regional Okumu said.

The land recovery process seeks to streamline land issues in Laikipia. The process has involved mapping of community land and resources, preparations of community appraisal, and the development of a tool for monitoring land rights.

The streamlining of the land issues in the county has witnessed the issuance of title deeds to community-owned lands for 40000 acres in 3 months. There has also been the implementation of digi-

talized land registry, and revoke of title deeds belonging to over 700 public utility Land.

The public is urged to comply with the regulations on building and land acquisition. For all ongoing developments, they must have approval from the County Government through the County physical planning office through the issuance of form PPA 2.

This is accompanied by a receipt for building approval fees, architects practicing certificate, and structural engineers practicing certificate to ensure any construction meets standards for safety.

Also to meet the huge demand for residential buildings, the County Government in 2019 signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Housing Corporation (NHC) to build 2000 houses for low and middle-income earners over the next five years in identified 21 sites across the county.

NHC targets the development of 10000 housing units under the rental, mortgage, site, and service tenant purchase programs in Nanyuki, Rumuruti, Ng’arua, and Nyahururu.

# Starehe Boys' Centre Student opts to Volunteer in Laikipia

By Muriithi John

Martino Stanley Munyi is a student at Starehe Boys' Centre and School who has volunteered to keep himself busy through the seven-week long holiday to work in the county Government of Laikipia.

The student who hails from Rumuruti has been fascinated on the working of a government under one person, something that grows his interest in knowing more about the working of a county government.

"I have never quite well understood how one person, the governor, operates a vast county like Laikipia. This is the reason why I decided to quench my curiosity and work in this institution," said Munyi.

His joining the institution is in accordance with the school Voluntary Service Scheme that seeks to provide the students an opportunity to give back to the society by providing voluntary services to various institutions during the school holidays.

Dressed in full school uniform, Munyi reports to work from in the morning like other county workers and leaves in the evening. He is working from one department to



*Martino Stanley (Right)Munyi working in the ICT Department. The Starehe Boys' Centre Student is on a two-week voluntary learning programme in Laikipia*

another in a bid to learn as much as possible during the two weeks that the school requires from the student volunteering. He reported in Laikipia on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March and will be completing on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Though the dedicated young man has a vision of becoming a pilot, he does not regret joining an institution that may not be directly connected to aviation.

"I aspire to be a pilot. I have learnt that everything I learn is related to my career as I'm learning how to relate with other people in different positions.

"The people I have met so far in

this institution are very welcoming and are very knowledgeable and willing to share their wit. The knowledge I have gotten here I don't think I would have found it elsewhere. I'm very thankful for this opportunity," he said.

Munyi will be starting his Form III in May this year. The County Government is thankful for the good work he is doing and wishes him all the best in his studies. He will definitely become a good pilot.

## Modern Incinerator to Manage LHS Facilities Waste

Laikipia Health service Nyahururu is now equipped with a modern state-of-the-art incinerator that is aimed at serving the whole county on waste management.

The main purpose of incineration is to reduce the volume of waste and also to protect our community from harmful pathogens and chemicals in any advanced healthcare facility.

This is a great addition to LHS Nyahururu that guarantees efficient waste management since the unit can process 50 kgs per hour. The new sterile wave 250 medical treatment system uses an innovative grinding mechanism and microwave technology that treat medical waste. Within 30 minutes it converts biohazardous waste into dry inert waste with a weight reduction of 85%.

The machine has a low operational cost and zero environmental impact



The work on the Makurian water project is on course as piping reaches Kiwanja Ndege tank in Makurian area from Mt Kenya intake a distance of 44 Kms. The project is expected to provide water to over 7000 residents of the Makurian and Chumvi regions.

The transformative project will ensure that the areas have clean water for consumption and farming throughout all seasons.