



Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

WEEKLY
BULLETIN

Why Governor Made Changes in the Government

Performance played a key role in the changes that HE Governor Ndiritu Muriithi made in his Government last week.

The changes saw Ms Wangari Wachira nominated as County Executive Committee Member for Education, Youth, Sports and Culture while Mr James Mwangi Mbucho was nominated for chief officer position.

Until her appointment Ms Wachira has been the chairperson of the Laikipia County Revenue Board. Her Board is credited with the phenomenal growth of the county's own source revenue even without burdening citizens with more taxes. Ms Alice Kimemia will now be the acting chairperson of the Laikipia County Revenue Board.

Ms Wachira has a Masters in Arts in Sociology and Master of Arts in Counseling Studies. She brings global experience having worked at California State University. Ms Wachira has in the past served as the chair of Laikipia Tourism Association and the vice-chair of the Laikipia chapter of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI).

It has emerged that the performance of Education Department where Ms Wachira is headed has been consistently wanting in terms of performance and has not performed as expected.

A peer rating held on 5th August 2020 by senior Laikipia County Government managers, revealed performing and non-performing departments. Education scored the lowest in the process that involved the top managers rating their performance.

The senior managers had been asked to rate their own performance based on a number of parameters within their work plans.

Health department topped in performance with an average of 7.7 points followed closely by Water department 7.5, Administration 6.6, Trade 6.2, Agriculture 5.5 and Infrastructure 5.4. Education was at the tail with 4.7.

This peer rating would later be mirrored by the staff performance appraisals held in September. Education was the last in terms of performance. The annual staff performance appraisal is a rigor-



HE Governor Ndiritu Muriithi, Deputy Governor John Mwaniki (seated) with a section of CGL workers. The Government has embraced a high performance culture measured with a strict staff performance appraisals conducted twice a year

ous exercise conducted by Governor Muriithi, Deputy Governor and the county secretary. To eliminate subjectivity, the County Public Service Board is also invited during the appraisal of departmental leaders.

Within a financial year cycle, each of the officers has an annual work plan with specific targets that are measured using the appraisal tool.

Results of the appraisal process always inform critical human resource decisions such as promotions, dismissal or reprimand.

For two weeks, the Governor was involved in a thorough appraisal of the senior officers, from the level of CECMS, Chief Officers to directors, with each of the department teams appearing individually.

The exercise ended with warning that non-performers will be removed or get a warning while performers would be promoted. The officers are normally hard pressed to provide proof of performance. They are also advised accordingly.

"Following this exercise, there will be several promotions for officers who have been found to have performed well. Similarly the exercise brought to fore a number of officers whose performance is wanting and will therefore exit the service while a number will get a warning," the county secretary Mr Karanja Njora said after the exercise.

This came to pass on 2nd November 2020 when the Governor announced the changes in the government.

Externally, an Infotrak perception poll released a fortnight ago similarly reflected of the peer rating and staff performance appraisal.

Although there have been notable upward improvement by departments since a similar poll was conducted in 2015, Education only managed to climb six steps from number 39 in 2015 to number 33 in 2019. Health climbed from position 41 to position 25 while agriculture climbed from number 45 in 2015 to 34 in 2019.

New Officers Deployed to Strengthen Delivery of Service

As part of the ongoing reforms in the Laikipia County Public Service, 21 administrative officers have been brought into the service to improve service delivery.

Some of the officers have been deployed as field (ward) administrators while others have been posted to the headquarters on November 03 2020. This incoming team, mostly young men and women, bring in new impetus in coordination of Government activities at ward level and departments.

The team is primarily expected to aid production. To mean, all development projects must be properly coordinated to achieve maximum impact. For Instance, agriculture must graduate to agribusiness, Innovators must create technologies that will bring value addition in production, while enterprises expand to create wealth and employment.

Administrator's work therefore, is to ensure that all projects from various departments initiated by the County government, from their individual wards, must be aligned to the overall objective of creating wealth and employment to Laikipians.

New sub-county administrators have been posted as follows: Mr Charles Mwai Ndegwa is the sub-county administrator for Laikipia west Sub-county. Mr Anthony Muchungu Waruru is the Nyahururu sub-county administrator, while Ms Grace Nyambura Kinyua is in charge of Laikipia East sub-county. Mr Nicholas Ecaras Leiroia becomes the administrator for Laikipia Central sub-county while John Muruthi Ndung'u is the sub-county administrator Laikipia North.

The former acting Laikipia East sub-county administrator Mr Alexander Maina Mwangi has been redeployed to the Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources.

Former acting Laikipia West sub-county administrator Mr Ikinya Muriu Matindi moves to the Department of Administration, Public Service Management and ICT while Mr Jackson Maina Kibocha who has been acting Laikipia North sub-county administrator becomes the acting Manager, Rumuruti Municipality.

Other appointments are as per the list below;

Below is a list of where every administrator has been deployed and their

NAME	FORMER STATION	NEW STATION
Hellen Wambui Wangai	Thingithu ward	Deputy Sub-County Administrator, Nyahururu
Peter Yekini Leshao	Mukogodo West Ward	Deputy Sub-County Administrator, Laikipia Central
Veronica Wangari Wambugu	Githiga Ward	Deputy Sub-County, Laikipia West
David Ndaya Tumpes	Mkogondo East Ward	Deputy Sub-County Administrator, Laikipia East
Francis Kiama Karani	Rumuruti Ward	Department of Finance & Economic Planning
William Gachoya Gitahi	Marmanet Ward	Department of Administration, Public Service Management & ICT (County Secretary's Office)
Margaret Muthoni Nderitu	Ngobit Ward	Ag. Director, Human Resource
Anthony Loter Amothing	Sossian Ward	Deputy Sub-County Laikipia
Gladys Wachira Mugere	Salama Ward	Department of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries
Ann Wangechi Taiku	Tigithi Ward	Department of Medical Services & Public Health
Rufus Kinoru Makuno	Umande Ward	Director, Fleet Management
John Kimaru Gitonga	Nanyuki Ward	Ag CEO Enterprise Fund

The following list show the newly recruited with their respective station of work

NAME	STATION
Charles Kamau Thumbi	Nanyuki Ward
Boniface Thumi Ndiritu	Governor's Delivery Unit
Daniel Ndiritu Wachira	Githiga Ward
Felix Doho Omondi	Mukogodo West Ward
David Kirera Kimiri	County Secretary's Office
Peter Kionga Lowasa	Tigithi Ward
Naomi Muthoni Waiharo	Department of Finance and Economic Planning
Susan Narinyoki Mosiany	Thingithu Ward
Damaris Wanjiku Karweru	Rumuruti Ward
David Kamweru Wachira	Umande Ward
Esther Gathoni Mathenge	Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development
Luke Murage Gacheru	Sossian Ward
Julia Wanjiru Wachira	Igwamiti Ward
Isaac Burton Kagunya Kirungi	Marmanet Ward
Priscilla Chemtai Chuma	Olmoran Ward
Simon Karoki Wamiti	Department of Administration, Public service Management and ICT
Festus Mutegi Kariuki	Segera Ward
Peter Collins Keshine	Salama Ward
Dennis Kapanat Lomany	Mukogondo East Ward
Speranza Njoki Gathira	Ngobit Ward

Charity Mints Money From Old Calenders



A Muthoni showing the beads and necklaces at her Charity Paper Beads and Necklace Centre

By Muriithi John

How well do you make use of old calendars? Do you just burn them? For Charity Muthoni there is a valuable way of using those unwanted calendars and posters to bring income.

Muthoni makes durable, beautiful and well-designed beads and necklaces from such papers.

Through her business, Charity Paper Beads and Necklace Centre, Muthoni demonstrates on the need to recycle the papers in a manner that is beneficial and profit oriented.

Located in Nanyuki town stage area, the enterprise converts old calendars, magazines and posters and sticks them with office glue with a combination of a clear furnish using a unique design to form presentable beads and necklaces.

So how did this come to be?

Muthoni, as she is commonly known, has been a hairdresser for many years. That alone never gave her satisfaction and needed to do a profitable activity at a profit. It is through a close observation of converting papers into beads that Charity decided to pursue that line. She started collecting papers for the job and the posters used in 2017 campaigns. This provided a huge collection of her raw materials.

She got encouragement for the good work from many people, most of who were her customers at salon.

Muthoni has never looked back but continues with great determination to make more decorations.

Accessing raw materials for charity has been easy since there are people who bring her old calendars and other useable papers after realising the craftiness with which she can turn ashes to treasures.

"I have never incurred a cost in acquiring the papers for making my beads and necklaces. There are some customers and friends who bring me the needed materials for free. I will forever be grateful for that," Muthoni says.

Her beautiful beads saw a customer from her Salon direct her to see the head of Laikipia County Innovation and Enterprise Development (LIDP) directorate, Ms Winnie Mwangi.

It is after visiting the director, showing her the work she does, and demonstrating the unique craftiness that her business took a new leaf.

"This is an extremely unique and innovative idea. You definitely qualify to be in the innovation programme," says Ms Mwangi.

Since then, Charity has had several trainings courtesy of the innovation programme. She has also enjoyed exhibition and trade fairs which she says has helped her business grow.

"The exhibition and trade fares have exposed me to other innovators and have learned from them. Whenever I learn I come and improve on my work," Charity says.

LIDP is the directorate in Laikipia County mandated to hand-hold innovators with unique ideas that can be elevated to become income-generating activity as the county directs its movement towards making Laikipia a manufacturing hub. There are around 450 enterprises which are now under this programme.

Governor Muriithi insists on promoting Laikipia made products. The sure way to ensure



the same happens is through encouraging production in the county and discouraging importation of products that are produced within the county borders.

For example, there is no need of importing beads and necklaces yet Charity Paper Beads and Necklace Center, situated in Nanyuki town has more quality and beautiful products.

She has two types of necklaces, long and short which she sells Ksh. 350 each. A set of beads, bangles, and earrings costs Ksh. 500.

The business has also been marketed through social media platform and through different exhibitions that the innovation program has hosted.

The innovator is an all round person who believes in taking advantage of any business opportunity. She is a hairdresser by profession, does beadworks, crochet making, warm baby clothes among many others.

For more information contact charity Muthoni on 0721874969.

Business Stimulus Fund Ready for Disbursement

Laikipia businesses can now access stimulus funds after the county assembly last week approved the Laikipia County Business Stimulus Fund Regulations 2020 .

The regulations provide a legal framework for the administration of the fund and empower the executive to partner with financial institutions to facilitate the businesses with the subsidized loans.

This is intended to cushion local businesses from the impact of Covid-19 pandemic which has disrupted their operations.

The county government has set aside more than Ksh.90 million towards the fund with several banks expressing interest by committing more than Ksh. 3.3 billion to support Laikipia businesses recover from the devastating effects of pandemic.

The stimulus fund targets around 5,000 businesses across all the 15 wards. It will enable them stay afloat during this pandemic.

Already, the government has trained 200 business development officers who will offer advice and guidance to business operators.

The officers will help entrepreneurs familiarize with requirements of the application process to be able to access the fund.

Once they succeed in accessing the funds, the BDOs will work hand in hand through follow-ups sessions and be available to offer their assistance to the entrepreneurs whenever needed.

The facilities of the loan include working capital, asset finance, local purchase orders (LPOs),



One of the training sessions for the 200 Business Development officers who will guide entrepreneurs in application and utilization of the economic stimulus fund

group loans and agribusiness loans. The County Government will foot in 5% of the interest with the business financing the rest 7%.

For those businesses which have already applied, the appraisal of the loan applications will start immediately.

To qualify for the loan, a business must be in

operation for at least six months as the loan is meant to boost businesses hard hit by the pandemic.

The county's commitment to chip in and pay for five per cent is an encouragement to increase production in the county.

Public Participation Giving Laikipia Citizens a Voice in Development



A recent public participation at Mwenje, Githiga ward

By Nahashon Maina

There is change in Laikipia county. Decisions are no longer confined in boardrooms only. Citizens are increasingly being involved in decision-making through robust public participation processes,

Nowadays, it is compulsory for county officers to go out to engage and listen to citizens. About 6,000 citizens across the county attended the last public participation on Finance Bill 2020. This is an indication that Laikipians are increasingly enjoying their right which is en-

shrined in the constitution on public participation. It has become a norm to see county officers mobilizing residents of an area to give out their views on issues affecting them and how they can resolve them. These forums give Laikipians an ample opportunity to ask questions and also express gratitude for job well done. Public Participation are opportunities for citizen to give their feedback to a responsive government.

The county has adopted a strategy of listening to citizens as opposed to government telling citizens. This gives room for a two-

way communication which has proven to be effective on how the county operates. Negotiation takes the center stage in every decision-making process that touches on the wellbeing and development of the county. It ensures that county becomes an enabler and implementer of citizen-owned projects. Priority is hence given to what citizen feel need more urgent intervention in their areas. From there, coordination is established with the relevant departments in addressing it. This fosters a goodwill between the government and her people since concessions which mean more to the residents are reached. Inclusivity of the residents has enabled the county government to come up with negotiated agreements and policies. Last month, the government conducted more than 50 public participation meetings where residents gave their views on the County Finance Bill 2020. This leads to negotiated development projects in all wards which are of benefit to their day-to-day life. By finding consensus solutions to their problems they are able to increase their productivity. The county government is committed to ensuring that Laikipians will continue enjoying people-driven projects; with which they can easily associate and be proud of.

Joy and Prayers as Refurbished Nanyuki Market Phase I Opens



Bishop Joel Waiguru of PEFA Church Nanyuki leads Nanyuki traders in praise and worship during the thanksgiving service for the successful completion of the market's Phase I facelift. Right : County leaders during the prayers

By Nahashon Maina

Business stalls at the refurbished Phase I project Nanyuki wholesale market will be distributed fairly.

The secretary of market traders Mr Eliud Muchiri said priority will be given to those who had vacated the market to give way for the contractor to undertake the facelift.

He was speaking during thanksgiving prayers in readiness for occupation of the facility by traders after its refurbishment. Governor Ndiritu Muriithi, Deputy Governor John Mwaniki and Thingithu MCA Stephen Ndiritu Kagondu.

The facelift which started in July this year is aimed at improving the physical infrastructure of the wholesale market as part of the government's continuous efforts to improve business environment across the county for higher incomes.

With phase one complete, attention will now shift to phase two and three of the project.

"The condition of the market is much better now and the first batch of traders will be occupying a very organized market," Mr Muchiri said.

This is largest open-air market in Laikipia County and has been facing numerous challenges such as encroachment and being impassible during rainy season. This made many customers shy away. Traders who will occupy the newly refurbished surface are expected to enjoy a more cleanable environment as the market floor has been carpeted with cabros and has a good drainage system.

There is already an ample parking space for customers after the government paved the adjacent road using cobble stones.

In 2018, the government managed to redeem a huge chunk of the market from grabbers who had occupied it. The spacious market will eventually host approximately 2,000 traders who had been relocated to

occupy the areas surrounding the market and pave way for the modernization to be effected. The traders expect their sales to increase as more customers will be attracted to the market by available parking and a working drainage system. During the thanksgiving prayers, the traders expressed optimism that their businesses will grow after they occupy the newly carpeted market. Ann Nyaguthii, a trader in the market attested to the fact that modernized market will enable her *chama* of 14 members to increase their contribution and do more alleviate poverty. To her, a better market translates to more customers and earnings.

"I want to thank the Governor for hearing our outcry," she said. The goal of the county government is to create an enabling environment for traders to operate in and sell their merchandise. Work of improving access roads around the market is also in progress to attract more traffic to the market. Sustainable solar streets lights that have been installed in various urban centres across the county are intended to extend business hours by providing security.

During the event, Governor Muriithi encouraged the traders to be more innovative and seek ways in which they can increase their earnings through increased productivity.

"I want to challenge you to find ways in which you can now start processing of fruits and an-

other in packaging of goods which can be distributed in Laikipia and beyond," said the Governor.

The County Government of Laikipia is currently undertaking various initiatives that are geared towards uplifting businesses in the aftermath of Covid-19 pandemic.

A partnership between the county government and several financial institution will see up to 5,000 Laikipia access a pool of Kes 3.3 billion at interest rates that have been discounted by the county government. Through the partnership with KCB bank Laikipia businesses can access KES 1.5 billion through Zindua Biashara Initiative to cushion them from effect of the Covid-19. This will be inform of working capital, asset finance, Local purchase orders (LPOs), group loans and agribusiness loans.

Under the deal, the County Government will foot in 5% of the interest with the business financing 7% of the same. The intention of the County Government is to boost businesses and help them restart their operations were disrupted by Covid-19. The Governor retaliated commitment of his government to assist business traders in ensuring they operate in a conducive environment. He also appealed to the representatives of the traders to ensuring they continue collaborating with his officers to be able to address challenges facing them.



Government, Construction Industry Stakeholders Agree on Building Standards



HE Governor Ndiritu Muriithi addressing Construction industry stakeholders at the meeting held at the Sportsman Arms Hotel

By Muriithi John

In a move geared towards better service delivery and security of citizens, the County Government of Laikipia has engaged the National Construction Authority (NCA), Nema and other stakeholders to ensure the standardized levels of construction.

The government will henceforth be helping contractors to improve on their work and ensure that all buildings are well supervised and approved to ascertain they are safe for human occupancy.

Through the working of all the concerned entities, all contractors making buildings in the county will use modern designs that takes in account accessibility by People Living with Disabilities and also have enough space for occupants.

PLWDs

“The modern design constructions must have a provision for water harvesting for houses. They must also be accessible to the PLWDs,” commented Governor Muriithi. The governor was speaking on the role of government and other agencies in the en-

forcement of construction regulations during a joint meeting between Laikipia government and construction industry stakeholders.

Management of water surface runoff has been an issue especially on well-tarmacked or graveled roads with poor drainage systems.

Some road construction designs may incorporate creation of water pans on the road sides to collect runoff water from the road.

Floods that lack an exit route from the tarmac weaken the durability of the mode of transport.

Drainage system

Now with the collaboration between the devolved unit, Nema and NCA, all road contractors will not only have the motor vehicles in mind, but also the pedestrians as well. Motorbikes, cyclists and pedestrians make a larger number than the cars and thus it is fair to consider them while constructing any road. The main mandate of NCA is to oversee the construction industry and coordinate its development.

On the other hand, collected water from

buildings may be used for consumption. If the water is not clean enough for use, it may be used to improve green areas and flower beds.

7,000 jobs

The unwanted and dirty water collected will be directed to the drainage system to avoid floods all over a given area.

Construction industry is one of the main sectors offering job opportunities for the people. In Laikipia County, the industry has provided more than 7,000 jobs.

“The construction industry has created 5,700 jobs in direct construction and 1,500 in services that support construction,” Governor Muriithi said.

The supporting construction services include power installation, air conditioning, decorations, and many more. It is only through working together of different bodies that planned development would happen. For instance, through a clear communication between the government and other service providers like KPLC, there would be no connection of power on illegal or unapproved structures.

What Laikipia Pastoralists Can Learn from SA's Karan Beef

By Nahashon Maina

Can tranquility and lasting peace be found among pastoral community and private land owners in Laikipia North? Yes. How? Through adoption of modern technology of livestock keeping - feedlot.

Feedlot is an area where livestock are fed or fattened up mostly beef cattle before maturity. Animals are kept in confined quarters (zero grazing) rather than being allowed to range freely over grassland as is the case of many pastoralist communities in Kenya.

A look at a South African Karan Beef (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-IBFCvkDq4&t=110s>) portrays a picture of how rewarding feedlot technology can be for Laikipia pastoralists. This is the largest cattle feedlot and abattoir in Africa covering just 2,330 hectares of land able to accommodate more than 180,000 cattle and process around 2,040 head of cattle every day.

This means the farm is far much smaller than many of the Laikipia community group ranches.

The ranch is the leading exporter of beef meat to major markets in the world such as China, Malaysia, Kuwait, Egypt among others. Now, imagine that being reciprocated here back in Laikipia where large swathes of land exist and is owned by community ranch groups. For instance, II Ngwesi and Musul ranch groups received their community land title deeds two weeks ago giving them right to recognition, protection and administration of community land.

Although, the two community ranches occupy 8,675 hectares and 2,646 hectares re-



Mature beef cattle in a feedlot at South Africa's Karan Beef farm

spectively-meaning they are bigger than Karan Beef- they can only dream of the number of cattle accommodated at Karan Beef at any single day.

The two combined are almost 5 times larger than Karan beef. A huge opportunity lies in the Laikipia plateau that pastoralists can exploit. If this land fully utilized through establishment of feedlots and fodder production, Laikipia's pastoral communities can take beef production to new level. The issue is just embracing the technology to rear more and quality animals. This would increase county earnings since the livestock value chain is quite long and has many players.

Pastoralists can start with very simple feedlots and scale up gradually.

Already, the II Ngwesi ranch group has been

growing has started with 80 acres of fodder farming.

Feedlot can be also be a success here since pastoralist communities equate having a large herd of cattle as a symbol of wealth and pride. Adopting this technology will prevent constant conflicts over pasture. It is the surest way for survival of pastoralism in the midst of the changing climate. When nature has its way and drought strikes the livelihoods of pastoralists is threatened.

This modern method offers a solution to management of pastoralists as a culture.

What happens then is; peace and economic prosperity thrive in the absence of conflict in addition to pastoralists owning more and high quality cattle that become a cultural pride.

More Investors Streaming to Laikipia



Gatundia Concrete Limited is latest investor in the county. The crusher was commissioned on 30th September 2020. Supporting private sector through creation of an enabling environment for investors is a key commitment for the County Government of Laikipia. The new facility will create jobs, increase incomes and improve livelihoods.

Alarm As Covid-19 County Infections Rise Sharply



Frequent washing of hands, wearing masks while in public and avoiding crowded places are key to preventing spread of Covid-19

The number of Covid-19 infections in Laikipia continue rising due to reluctance of citizens to follow the laid down protocols by the Ministry of Health.

The government is contemplating strict enforcement of measures to curb the spread of the virus in the county.

As at 9th November 2020, cumulative number samples tested in the county stood at 7,279 of which 566 have been positive. This is a huge number and has escalated in the last few days. Between September 1 and November 10, 2020, the county recorded 435 infections. The number of the infected involved 235 and 200 males and females respectively.

From the data released by the County Department of Health, the cumulative number of death stood at 15 as of Monday November 9th.

Due to the increased numbers of positive cases and fatalities, the County Multi-agency Committee on Covid-19 Management and Response, which is co-chaired by HE Governor Ndiritu Muriithi and County Commissioner Daniel Nyameti, has immediate enforcement of the guidelines to prevent the disease.

These include wearing of masks, washing of hands and keeping social distance. The Multia-

gency committee was clear that there will be no service in public office for people who do not have masks.

There also talks with the private sector to adopt this resolution which will go a long way in curbing the spread of the disease.

Together with the County Commissioner, the governor has consoled the families that have lost their members to the pandemic.

There will be stringent enforcement of the health guidelines in the coming days to curb the spread of Covid-19 pandemic.

There will be no service in any government office to anybody who is not wearing a mask. The committee asked the private sector to embrace a similar resolution.

Citizens must observe the laid down health protocols to contain further spread of Covid-19 as well as observe the new measures spelt out by H.E the President. These include proper wearing of a mask while in a public place, washing hands or sanitizing, ensuring maintenance of social distance. Laikipia government is committed to ensuring citizens will be kept updated on the efforts to contain the virus. There will be weekly citizen briefings.

Other measures include ensuring that bars

and restaurants close by 9pm as directed by HE the President. No food in funerals and weddings. No political meetings. Only a third of hall meetings will be allowed.

The Department of Health noted that the largest number of infections is between age 20-30. Whilst most of them are asymptomatic, they are the highest spreaders of the virus because of their increased movement.

However, the county government has stepped up measures to create awareness and enforce health ministry directives on COVID-19.

Among the confirmed cases, 36 are health care workers who are gallantly standing on the forefront in the fight against this deadly virus.

A total of 215 individuals have been discharged from Home Based Isolation Care (HBIC). Both Nyahururu County Referral Hospital (NCRH) and Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital (NTRH) isolation centres have been equipped to meet the minimum 300 isolation beds.

The government continues to urge residents to always wear a mask when leaving their house, maintain social distance, wash hands frequently with soap and running water.