



Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

WEEKLY
BULLETIN

WB Grants Ksh10.8m for Laikipia Beef SPV



The World Bank has granted Laikipia Ksh 10.8 million to hire a transaction advisor to support the County and the livestock value chain stakeholders set up the Laikipia Beef Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). In Laikipia had 294,620, 450,000 sheep, 350,000 goats and 10,000 camels. The county slaughters average of 18,000 cattle, 35,000 sheep and 74,000 goats per year across county. Laikipia Beef SPV targets to triple production and processing of livestock within five years. This grant will supplement the County Government's investment towards transforming the pastoral economy to provide a steady supply of high value meat and related products to local and export markets.

"We are investing to raise productivity and value of the livestock by upgrading the genetics, ensuring adequate nutrition and disease control. We will invite the Amaya region Counties to take a stake to guarantee a market for their livestock," says economic advisor Githuku Mwangi.

The investment will actualize the recommendations of the Laikipia integrated feedlot scheme's feasibility study to set up of an integrated meat distribution, processing and production holding company to market Laikipia beef.

The County Government has set aside 1,000 acres in the planned Rumuruti Special Economic Zone (SEZ) to house the abattoir, feeds processing plant, tannery and apparels manufacturing, and finishing paddocks.

The transaction advisor is expected to lead the

structuring of the company, finding an established global meat processing and distribution firm to act as a strategic investor and to sign up community and commercial ranchers as well as feedlots operators to be suppliers and shareholders.

The consultant will also assist in raising funds to finance the business.

In addition to processing, Laikipia Beef SPV will coordinate establishment of community and commercial ranches and feedlots as disease free compartments to enable Laikipia beef meet import standards in Europe, Middle East and Asia markets.

According to the business plan, both community and commercial ranches will be funded to start feedlots to ensure continuous supply of animals to the processing plants.

Leasing Programme Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships

By Muriithi John

Laikipia Leasing Programme has come with extra benefits other than just construction of roads at a cheaper cost.

In place is an innovative way in form of partnerships associated with the programme to bring about mutual benefits to Laikipia residents and the government as well.

Two forms of partnerships have developed between the county government, citizens and business entities as well, leaving all parties with great benefits.

In the first form of partnership, the government engages farmers who have gravel in their land and lack enough water reservoir in their farms. It excavates the gravel for use in the improvement of roads across the county. By excavating the government saves the farmers the hustle of drilling a water pan to store rain water in exchange of getting the gravel.

According to Eng. Duncan Mwangi, the chief officer Roads, constructing a water pan ordinarily costs an average of Ksh0.25 million – meaning the government is saving farmers from spending this amount.

By July 7th 2021, 40 households across the county had benefitted from this partnership which saved the Ksh10 million cumulatively.

This means the farmers will have enough water after rains and can use the money saved from the water pan construction to buy seeds. The amount saved helps in improving the



quality of lives for the 40 households.

Water pans created from the partnership also helps the farmers to have more water for irrigation during the dry spell and thus increase their farming time.

The government also benefits from the partnership by reducing time spent traveling from the source of the gravel to the construction area. This is because the government identifies people from the neighboring localities where there

are roads to be graveled. The reduced distance makes the gravelling work to be much faster and saves on fuel.

In some instances, the pits formed as a result of excavating the gravel also help in improving the drainage of the roads by directing water in such surfaces.

“Some of these pits act as places where we channel the surface water run-off of the road. Thus, we are able to take care of the drainage of the roads that we construct,” said Eng. Mwangi.

Another form of partnership is public-private partnership where the government and a business entity provide machines and other logistics for construction of certain roads.

Such an engagement involved Ol Pajeta Conservancy and the county government where the partnership realized gravelling of 11.6Km and grading 13.5 Km from July 2020.

In the partnership, the conservancy provided gravel, an excavator, two graders and a drum roller. On the other hand, the government fueled the machines and provided the trucks and expertise in form of supervision to warrant quality construction work.

The visitors who went to the conservancy expressed their gratitude for the road improvement because of better accessibility.

The people living around the conservancy also benefitted from the improved roads as the government was able to improve more kilometers because of the partnership.

The two partnerships have enabled the government save around Ksh50 million, thus allowing for more road construction.

Laikipia County is the pioneer of lease of road construction equipment. The success of the initiative has seen Laikipia grade 941km of roads, 402km graveled and 71kms opened up as at July 7 2021.



NTRH Business Plan Targets Improved Customer Experience



A section Laikipia Health sector managers at a recent meeting in Nanyuki to discuss business plans for Laikipia health facilities

By David Serem

Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital has embarked on the implementation of its business plan, as it readies to take up its role at the apex of County's new UHC referral system. The move ushers in a period of heavy investments aimed at broadening the range of services and scaling up existing ones to improve client experience.

The six-year business plan, which has both short- and long-term goals, seeks to make NTRH a regional centre of excellence in affordable medical services provision for its diverse client base.

The move will see the hospital focus more on secondary health care provision to support referrals from cluster facilities.

Hospital CEO Dr. Timothy Panga says the development, which is part of a wider effort on all the facilities countywide, is set to maximize on quality healthcare provision outcomes in the context of constrained resources.

The strategy seeks to better health service delivery in terms of increased scope of health services available to a larger portion of the hospital's catchment population, improved overall patient experience, strengthened internal and external communication, transparency, accountability, service availability and service readiness.

"We are re-engineering our strategies to deliver better services. We must find new ways of meeting the cost of our operations without increasing out of pocket expenditure on healthcare," Dr Panga explained.

"Our business plan ensures that we are sus-

tainable in our operations; as we work together with partners and the cluster facilities referring to NTRH," he adds.

The business plan allows every health facility to pitch to the larger county government as their core investor. To successfully do this, we must show that the hospital has clear goals as to the services on demand; and that we will deliver these services at an affordable cost. We must also show that the hospital is accountable, transparent and able to meet its cost of its operations. The plan, like any other, is a health investment guide that incorporates anticipated risks and identifies the mitigation measures.

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is about increasing the scope of services to the highest number of people in a population at the lowest possible costs, while focusing on the minimization out of pocket payment for the services at the time and point of access.

"We will do everything within our power to help increase insurance penetration, while aligning ourselves with NHIF and private insurers as the strategic purchasers of the services we provide," the CEO explains.

The ambitious business plan incorporates a range of investments that increase the scope of services available, including the acquisition of high-end medical equipment. The equipment includes MRI and CT Scan machines, a microwave incinerator, the largest oxygen plant in the region, in addition to acquisition of laboratory equipment for specialized tests.

Top on the expansion list is the equipping of the Mother and Child (M&C) Hospital Complex and the Amenity Wing. The complex will house two complete surgical theatres to meet the anticipated increase in clients' needs.

An additional three renal dialysis units, will see the

hospital increase its dialysis capacity to ten. This way, the facility will be able to conduct 20 dialysis sessions per day.

This expansion will more than double the hospital power consumption. As a long-term strategy, and with the support of the Laikipia County Development Authority, the hospital will go green, and utilize more solar power to tame the ever rising electricity costs.

A planned physical infrastructure overhaul will transform the general environment of the hospital as clients currently see. The hospital will be more aesthetically appealing while being more functional in its healthcare mandate. An improved patient flow will be a central consideration in the infrastructural overhaul.

The plan factors in new and innovative ways of engaging health workers that is a mix of the traditional public sector approach and borrows from the approaches that have succeeded in the private sector.

"Health workers deliver health services" the CEO asserted. "As a result, we will find ways of compensating specialized skills that are not currently provided by our permanent staff".

The NTRH business plan is part of a wider strategy by the county government that seeks to minimize patient movements between facilities for referrals, unless essential. For example, for a laboratory test, there is no reason for a patient to be referred. The referring health facility will instead focus on sample referral - moving samples for tests in the upper-level facilities. This way, the patient waits for their laboratory result at the first point of contact, where the resultant interventions are initiated, saving them a lot in travel costs. To do this seamlessly, NTRH must deeply engage with the health facilities in its cluster. The facilities must understand the business plans of their counterparts and adjust theirs appropriately to allow our combined operation as the one service that we are. The approach will guarantee maximum utilization of the resources achievement by avoiding undeliberate wastage.

"Of course, all factors have been considered. This plan accommodates the realities that affect public health institutions such as medical cost waivers and exemptions," said the CEO. Dr. Panga explains that as with any business plan, there are key assumptions.

The hospital hopes that subscribers continue paying for NHIF and private insurance subscriptions, human resource compensation not drastically changing as well as favourable government policies.

Conical Kitchen Gardens Concept Gaining Traction in Laikipia

There is satisfaction when one picks fresh produce directly from a garden. It reduces reliance on vegetables grown using pesticides and inorganic fertilizer with the assurance of improved quality. It is enjoyable to eat food which one has nurtured, reducing the hustle by individuals in sourcing vegetables frequently needed to prepare meals.

The government is encouraging residents to establish kitchen gardens. It is empowering households to embrace the practice to improve nutrition and health. The expected outcome is food security while ensuring that residents can access clean and safe vegetables directly from their homes.

The department has already engaged over 400 households in starting kitchen gardens in the county.

“Kitchen gardens are reducing daily expenses of households in purchasing vegetables as many of them spend an average of Ksh.50 daily to buy vegetables. Many participants who we engaged during demonstration of kitchen garden in four wards in Laikipia East can now be able to reduce these expenses,” said Laikipia East agricultural officer, Stephen Ondimu

It has offered training to residents through learning demonstrations, designing, and installation. Each household either has conical gardening or a multi-storey gardens where they plant various vegetables such a sukuma wiki, spinach, lettuces, peppers, herbs, and onions. This venture is seen as a breakthrough in ensuring residents get a chance to increase their daily income by selling vegetables and improving their diet.

With Laikipia being a semi-arid area, the govern-



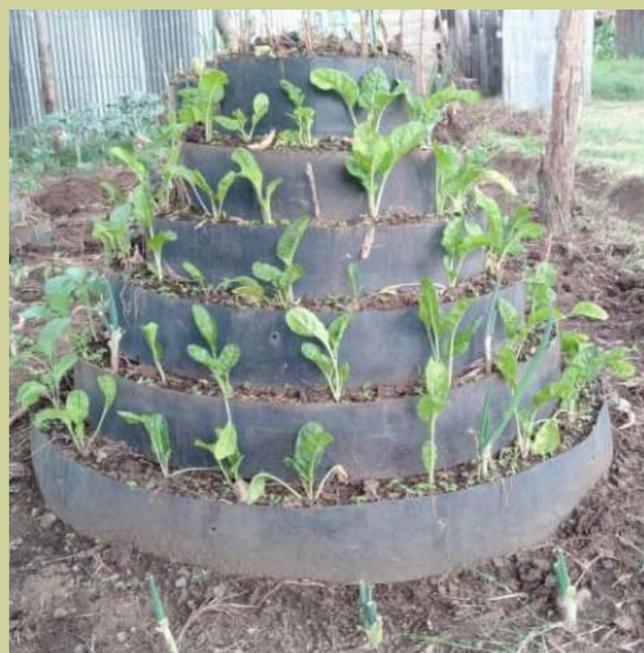
Farmers preparing a vertical garden

ment has improved the capacity of residents to harvest water to irrigate the gardens. It has enabled the utilization of small spaces within the homesteads to be under food production. Depending on the space available in a household, the agriculture officers can recommend the best type of garden that is appropriate. The kitchen gardens have proved to be important in helping households save expenditure on vegetables. It also ensures that there is an effective utilization of wastewater and materials from the kitchen.

“The rate of adaptation of these gardens is very high in the county as they are easy to manage with materials being readily available,” Ondimu added.

According to the officer, a multi storey garden can hold up to 95 plants in a space where ordinarily can hold 6-8 plants. This has en-

sured optimum use of the space in a household. Nanyuki Vocational Training Center, has 11 conical gardens that provide vegetables to the institution. The types of gardens that the department is assisting household to install are vertical, multi storey, mandala, hanging and trough gardens. The types depends on the available space, locally available materials and type of vegetables to be planted. The intervention has also been helpful during this time of pandemic when there has been restrictions on movement. Households have been able to consume vegetables they have grown themselves without over reliance on the market.



Engineering Partnership Introduces Environmental-Friendly Waste Management



Millimeter Construction workers constructing a bio-digester

Millimeter Construction is a company dealing in bio-septic tank treatment system which contributes to environmental conservation.

The firm is a partnership between James Muthee and Timothy Gatu who are graduates in engineering. There are three other directors.

It provides cheap and environmentally-friendly solutions to effluent to many households in Laikipia both residential and commercial installations, bearing in mind that many parts of the country are not connected to sewer lines.

The company has partnered with Eco-save Africa which is approved by NEMA in production of bio-enzymes used in waste water treatment.

It has made a breakthrough in waste management with bio-septic tank treatment systems and on-site sewage disposal systems that use aeration (natural air flow) to treat wastewater and surface application to dispose of the treated wastewater.

"We rely on subsurface absorption, but in cases where there is impermeable type of soil the water maybe taken through filtration process to make it suitable to be reused in gardening and landscaping," said Muthee.

The unique technology has several ad-

vantages which makes it more economical. It is cheaper than conventional septic tanks, occupies less space, does not fill up, and does not need emptying by exhausters.

Further, water can be recycled to flush toilets or for irrigation, takes less time to construct and install, and biogas can be harnessed and used for cooking or lighting.

The organization offers general consultation regarding bio-digesters and waste management systems. It surveys the appropriate site where the digester will be installed or constructed for the clients provide the necessary recommendations.

They also supply anaerobic bacteria culture for septic tanks, pit latrines and bio-digesters which reduces formation of scum.

Millimeter Construction also delivers and installs digesters on site as complete units together with active bacteria substrate and accessories.

"We design, construct and effective bio-digester systems using the latest technology and materials to the satisfaction of our clients. We also offer technical support, repair and maintenance for our bio-digester systems, said Timothy Gatu, one of the founders.

How It Works

Bio-septic tank uses bacteria to break down organic waste from WC into water and carbon IV oxide.

The activated sludge process is an aerobic suspended-growth process that maintains a relatively high population of micro-organisms (biomass). The biomass converts soluble and colloidal biodegradable organic matter and some inorganic compounds into cell mass and metabolic end products.

Preliminary treatment to remove settle-able solids and floatable materials is usually provided by a septic tank or other primary treatment device. Most onsite designs are capable of providing significant ammonia oxidation and effective removal of organic matter.

The combined fixed-film/suspended growth process is sometimes referred to as a class of treatment processes called coupled contact aeration, enhanced, or high biomass systems. To enhance performance and increase the capacity of the aeration tank, an inert support medium is added to the aeration tank. This allows a fixed film of biomass to attach and grow on the medium to augment the suspended microbial population, providing more biomass to feed on wastewater constituents.

These systems are usually preceded by infiltration system (soak pit). These systems should be applied only where onsite system management services are available. For surface water discharge, the system must be followed by disinfection at a minimum to consistently meet discharge standards. However, some subsurface (non-human-contact) reuse may be implemented. High biomass systems can be a low-cost.

Bio digester septic tanks are designed for rural dwellings, permanent and seasonal which are not connected to main sewer line.

Millimeter Construction is in the Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development programme and has also featured in Arts corner for safeguarding the environment with the strategic Vision2030 of Reducing, Recycling and Reusing most materials which would be termed as wastes.

Facility Clusters to Improve Healthcare Delivery

By Wanjiku Wanjiru and Muriithi John

Delivery of health services in Laikipia is set to move a notch higher with creation of referral clusters under a new health strategy by the county government.

The Department of Health and Medical Services is in the process of pooling all the 84 health facilities into 15 clusters.

Each cluster will have all the services a patient needs which will solve the hustles of long journeys to the two main referral hospitals.

Under these clusters, facilities are classified according to their proximity to each other.

The focus is the strength of each facility that can be used to the advantage of the other health facilities under that particular cluster

They are; Nanyuki, Kalalu, Chumvi, Doldol, Lamuria, Wiyumiririe, Kimanjo, Rumuruti, OIMoran, Salama, Nyahururu, Oljabet, Ng'arua, Ndindika, and Sipili.

The clusters are meant to make health service delivery seamless and efficient in that if a patient visits their nearest facility, and require laboratory services which are not offered, their specimen is taken and sent to the nearest facility that has laboratory services.

The sample referrals make the patient to have their lab results in any facility that they visit, even if the



facility does not provide such services. It does not only save on the patient's time but also the cost of transport to the other facility.

Drug shortages will be a thing of the past as under every cluster, facilities can pool together drugs that are available and needed within the locality.

Use of clusters has also made it possible to identify the common morbidities- common diseases that affect a given area. The information is crucial as it guides an investment of

required resources to respond to the disease burden in an area.

The 15 clusters formed from all the 84 public health facilities within the county form the basic referral units for the facilities under them.

The clusters formation is part of an extensive journey that the Health Department in Laikipia county has embarked on and is taking shape every day.

Laikipia, Banks Partner to Facilitate SMEs Access to Affordable Credit



Small and medium enterprises in Laikipia continue to apply for Economic Stimulus Fund. So far 109 SMEs have had their loans successfully approved by KCB Bank and Cooperative Bank. Enterprises have been able to access loans in form of working capital, assets finance, invoice discounting, local purchase orders (LPOs), group loans and agribusiness loans. The economic stimulus fund is a partnership of the County Government of Laikipia and several financial institutions which

offer loans at affordable interest rates to enterprises in the county to cushion them from the adverse effects of Covid-19.

The county government is eager to ensure that there is enough cash flow to keep businesses afloat amidst the pandemic.

Through the partnership, 14 invoices discounting have been completed to the tune of Ksh 30 million and one local purchasing order (LPO) financing amounting to Ksh 1.8 million.

The county has also signed an MOU with Family bank, the latest entry to the partnership.

With the county assisting enterprises in repaying 5 percent of the interest on the loan while the entrepreneurs will only meet the rest 7.5%.

"Our business development officers have been crucial in linking SMEs with banks; one applicant who had applied for the loans has already been repaid. He then applied for the second one, which was also approved," Economic Stimulus Fund Manager Edward Njuguna said.

The business development officers have been sensitizing SMEs and cooperatives on the partnership that exist. They also perform pre-approval visits with bank officials to enterprises.

County Government of Laikipia

Laikipia Economic Stimulus Programme

Affordable loans for your small business

up to **Ks 3 Million**

from as **7.5%** per annum

Loan Facilities

- Working Capital
- Invoice discounting and Local Purchase Orders (LPOs)
- Asset Finance
- Group Loans
- Agribusiness Loan

Interest Subsidy Model

for Micro, Small & Medium Scale Businesses (MSMEs)

from **7.5%** per annum

interest paid by **Business Owner**

5% paid by County Government

from **6%** per annum

interest paid by **Cooperative Societies**

6.5% paid by County Government

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Rise Her Initiative Dedicated to Empowering Girls



Watching a news story aired on TV about a man who preyed on a girl to trade sex for sanitary pads struck a chord on a team of six individuals who came up with an initiative to help raise the girl child in Laikipia County. Rise Her Initiative was born to help address challenges girls in informal settlements face. They realized that not every parent in these settlements could afford to buy sanitary towels for their daughters. “We thought of how we could make it easier in our own little way to facilitate girls to have the essential items they need during their menstruation period. We challenged ourselves to support at least two girls as we started, but eventually, the initiative grew to be quite a success,” says Grace Kariuki, Rise Her Initiative Liaison Officer. This is a community-based organization focusing on vulnerable girls in various slums in Nanyuki to empower them socially and economically. Their target are girls aged between 9 and 21. The organization started with 10 girls but it is currently supporting a

total of 250 girls. In Laikipia, the initiative has recruited 150 girls from the slums of Likii, Kanyoni, Kabiru, and parts of Sportsman’s Arms. They have also taken a great step to support 100 girls in Machakos County. They can reach out to their target audience by setting aside days for fieldwork to interact with girls in their locality. The organization has three thematic areas; education, economic empowerment, and environmental conservation. On the education front, the focuses on mentoring girls and promoting hygiene through girl hygiene kits. The kit has six items given to girls, including; two packets of sanitary towels, tissue, petroleum jelly, soap, innerwear,

and a lesa. The items help to ensure the girls maintain hygiene during their menstruation period.

The mentorship program touches on character development, teenage pregnancy, self-esteem, performance excellence, peer pressure, and drug abuse. The conversation on mentorship has proven to be a productive plan through follow-up by the organization, as the girls have shown improvement in behavior and school performance. They have also become bold enough to express themselves in public. On the economic empowerment, Rise Her has an enterprise support program, also known as Inua Mama, that focuses on empowering mothers to the girls daily by lending them affordable microloans to support the girls after one year of mentorship. Rise Her Initiative walks with the girls for one year and after which they believe to have economically empowered guardians to provide necessities needed by the girls financially. It also intends to instil a saving culture among guardians to improve their livelihood and sustain themselves. Since 2020, the Rise Her Initiative has been able to plant 500 trees in their environment conservation program. This is in partnership with other organizations and the Department of Environment in the County Government of Laikipia. They are looking for ways in which they can partner with schools through the Ministry of Education to operate tree nurseries in schools for school kids to maintain them.

“We are hopeful that by the end of this year, we shall have planted 10,000 trees,” said Grace Kariuki.



Makurian-Osirua Water Project on Course to Becoming a Reality



Trenching of the project underway. Over 2,000 people in Laikipia North Sub-County

Makurian-Osirua Water Project is another critical milestone towards actualization of Governor Ndiritu Muriithi's pledge of providing access to clean and reliable water for domestic consumption and for production.

The project that will provide water to more than 20,000 people in the North part of the county is near completion. The transformative project will mainly positively change the lives of residents from Chumvi, Arjijo, Katonga,

Olkinyei and Makurian areas.

Digging of trenches for laying pipes to bring reliable water to scores of families in Mukogodo East, Laikipia North Sub-County has begun.

So far, the project has provisions of 28 kilometres of gravity mainline, 14 kilometres of distribution mains, three- 225M3 masonry tanks, and two-150 cubic metre masonry tanks.

Water is an economic enabler and thus the residents will have an opportunity to start small

irrigation and have enough water for their livestock. Consequently, the economic status will improve from increased milk production and healthy animals as well as human beings. Hygiene levels will also shoot and thus bring down cases of water related diseases in the region.

Kitchen gardens, time taken to walk for long distances will be saved, and utilized elsewhere by the people from the areas.

Makurian project already has an interim committee to manage the water for domestic and irrigation use like in Solio Water Project.

NAWASCO is playing a key role in the implementation of the project having successfully implemented the Solio Water Project and overseen its operationalization.

The County Government in its quest to make Laikipia the greatest county with the best quality of life, values provision of clean and reliable water.



County Executive to Engage County Assembly over Radical Changes in the Budget

The County Executive Committee held a meeting on 21 July 2021 under the chairmanship of HE. Governor Ndiritu Murithi and considered departmental memoranda on various management issues.

The Committee was appraised on the ongoing process of budget-making. Deliberating on the same, the following issues were noted:

- All the due process was followed in making the 2021/2022 budget.
- The CECM Finance reported that all budget-making instruments were forwarded to the assembly and their receipt acknowledged as required by the law.
- The budget received from the County Assembly had radical alterations from what the Executive had presented.

Given the above, citizens should note the following:

- ◆ Budget-making is a consultative process involving the Executive, the Assembly and citizens through public participation and other stakeholders' forums.
- ◆ The Executive made every effort to ensure



MCA's and citizens were not only involved in the budget making process but also understood the content.

- ◆ The executive will continue engaging members of the county assembly, citizens, among other stakeholders on items of the budget that are of public interest which includes but not limited

to the infrastructure bond issuance.

- ◆ The law is expressly clear that the assembly cannot originate the County Fiscal Strategy Paper and the financial estimates. The law allows the County Assembly to consider the estimates and make amendments whose extent is dictated by the law.