



Laikipia

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Public Service Reforms– Laikipia’s Journey, Outcomes



By Ndiritu Muriithi, Karanja Njora and Mumbi Mwago

The discourse on improving the public sector performance, whether in its policy making form (politics), or within the professional public services themselves is often stated as change, reform and stakeholder management.

All words are easy to say, in an MBA class, or journal article, but much harder to accomplish in practice.

For our team at the helm in Laikipia, it has been a tough slog over the last 30 months. During that time, we have exited for non-performance, over 120 staff including directors, CEOs and an entire County Public Service Board. We weeded out 27 ghosts – that is, names that appeared on the payroll but the supposed staff members could not be found physically.

We did so through performance appraisal and staff audits. Naturally we encountered some resistance, including court action to stop the staff audit, as well as against the redundancies including individual staff challenging separation.

During that time, we have instituted eight (8) criminal cases against staff over lack of integrity and corruption. Of these cases, we have ob-



Gov. Ndiritu Muriithi



Mr Karanja Njora



Ms Mumbi Mwago

tained one conviction while the rest are on-going.

As part of the reform, we declared 172 redundancies and sacked 34 staff who absconded duty. We have been taken to court eight times, emerged victorious on three occasions, while the rest are on-going cases.

Partner

In addition, we have promoted 267 staff and re-designated 30. Over 450 have attended training in everything from IT skills, management at both operational and strategic levels, enterprise development skills and project management.

The last two are particularly innovative. First, enterprise development. About 204 staff now

have targets to directly support our small businesses. These staff have previously been trade officers, agricultural extension workers, cooperative development officers, ward administrators and so on. We have enriched their jobs so that they can now see direct impact of their daily work on job and wealth creation.

In the on-going development, the officers are learning how to be better business development officers, capable for providing high quality business advisory services to hundreds of small businesses across the county.

Results Matrix

With our partner Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT), we created a post-graduate diploma for our officers involved in project management. This is intended to provide them with skills to better manage the hundreds of small projects that are in the development budget each financial year. Tailor-made for Laikipia, this unique post graduate diploma now has 136 students.

Continued on Page 2

Laikipia's Reforms: Journey, Outcomes

From page 1

The students and their faculty use live, on-going projects, making learning real-time! We have also introduced the results matrix, to cascade high level developmental goals as stated in the county integrated development plan (CIDP) and annual development plans to sectional work plans, and to individual work plans. We have put it all online so that staff use the iComs system to fill in time sheets and supervisors and managers can use it to track project progress.

In addition, we introduced spot awards for both individuals and teams, to encourage amazing service delivery. Each one of us, from the governor on, proudly wear name tags because we are proud of our service.

For these measures and many more, we have been called every imaginable name, threatened with further court action, appearances before the Senate, as well as the Public Service Commission. But we would gladly do it all again. Here is why: In those 30 months, we have graveled more kilometers of roads than has been done in the previous 50 years combined. We have grown own source revenue by 76 percent from Sh463m to Sh815m. Every dispensary has a delivery bed and every health centre has a maternity facility with three or more beds. We have the highest life expectancy in Kenya at 72 years and the second lowest under five mortality. Second only to Nyeri.

Nanyuki, Nyahururu, Rumuruti, Sipili, Kinamba, and Wiyumiririe are all under-going rapid improvements in urban infrastructure. They now have paved roads, improved drainage and lighting. Underlying the physical improvements is a people-centered urban planning process, where citizens are directly involved in the planning. The civil works are delivered using labour-based methods, creating much needed employment.

These improvements, coupled with efforts by the Innovation and Enterprise Development program are attracting businesses into these centres. Our innovation program is currently supporting over 537 small businesses employing 2,658 people. Spread across all fifteen wards, the majority – 76% - of these SMEs are in manufacturing. This provides one of the most exciting possibilities for the future – the prospect of graduating these SMEs to globally competitive manufacturing enterprises!

The data shows registered businesses have generated an additional 12,000 jobs over the last thirty months. Laikipian products such as the grain drier are being exported to other African countries. Our flower growers are now selling flowers to US markets.

Mr Ndiritu Muriithi is the Governor of Laikipia, Mr Karanja Njora the County Secretary and Ms Mumbi Mwago the chair, County Public Service Board



Work on Ol-Jabet Smart Town Finally Begins

By Muriithi John

Ol-Jabet, nestled on the scenic hills of Marmanet, is soon to become one of the most attractive towns in Laikipia after the county government embarks on deliberate efforts to realize the transformation.

When the county government initially announced that the centre has been earmarked as a smart town, prices of land appreciated almost three times their previous value.

Implementation of the project has now kicked off with the government setting up a team to actualize it before the end of the year. The design is already complete and the implementation will take about eight months according to the Chief Officer for Urban Development Duncan Mwangi. The project started on Tuesday April 12, 2021 on a higher note with involvement of all the stakeholders in government and from the locals to ensure what is implemented is what is beneficial to the Marmanet people. The project involves construction of a tarmac carriage way of at least 3.6 kilometres of Asphalt concrete driveways. Cobblestone walkways extending to 1.2 Km. There is also a construction of a drainage system which includes open and closed drainage and culverts. Further, the town will be lit with at least 30 street lights to increase the hours for running business. Street lighting also improves the security of a place. As it stands out now, the town does not have well-structured parking bays. Revenue collection from that sector becomes hard while some drivers see it as a lee-way to park anyhow. Therefore, the government has designed the town to have orderly and modern parks that will hold at least 100 vehicles.

The current bus park, whose condition is

poor, is undergoing rehabilitation befitting a smart town. The outlook will be Asphalt-paved with clearly marked bus park bays to accommodate the many cars from various saccos. Additionally, the town's face will have a new look with modern landscaping. The government is planting approximately 6,500m³ of grass and small tress. The aim is to improve the town's beauty while conserving the environment. A team of 11 members will oversee the actualization of what has already been planned before the year end. During the first public participation that marked the commencement of transforming Ol-Jabet into a smart town, the locals expressed their gratitude to the government to develop their town. "I thank the County Government for this noble initiative of bringing us a smart town. I would request the contractor to ensure he finishes within the stipulated time to avoid disruptions, and ensure that he employs our youth," said Stanley Njomba. Expressing his gratitude, a resident Simon Mulwa said this is a programme the people have been waiting for in a long time. It is something that will benefit them in many days to come. "We have been waiting for this moment and finally we can see our town is to become a smart town. We say thank you," said Mr. Mulwa. Ms. Millicent Wangui was worried that the old structures and that which might be on the line where the sewer line or roads will pass may not have ample time to relocate. "Give us a notice in advance and do not destroy our structures when constructing the roads," she said. The traders have been assured of at least seven days' notice alerting them if their structures fall under the line intended for roads or sewer line. The community agreed to work together with the Wanwan limited contractor for smooth and efficient realization of the smart town.

Clear Facemasks: An Opportunity to Break Barriers

Around the Deaf Community



By Kevin Maina

Covid-19 pandemic has changed the concept of normal the world over. Dissemination of information on ways of containing and stopping the spread has been the main concern. Social interactions are now taking place behind the protection of digital screens and face masks. Many organizations are now engaging more virtually.

Conducting of what were previously regular activities has substantially been modified to consider physical social distancing and wearing of face masks as a requirement to stop the spread of Covid-19.

While for most people, communication whether with their colleagues at work, friends, family, government department and other public agencies is a normal and straightforward thing, it is a constant challenge for people for people with hearing disabilities-the deaf.

With the onset of Covid-19 pandemic, the deaf community have had to struggle to catch up with the protocols of the new normal to be safe from covid-19 infection. Few people are competently capable of expressing themselves clearly in a meaningful conversation with the Deaf. At times some show interest in learning sign language especially just after an encounter with a deaf person.

One may not grasp the gravity or find this situation a problem until you meet a deaf person seeking government services. It is normally

a herculean task for government to serve them satisfactorily due to lack of communication between them. Aware that Covid-19 has become a new barrier hindering the deaf community from participating in many activities, the County Government of Laikipia, has trained Kenyan Sign Language interpreters.

Among those trained sign language interpreters in Ms Jane Kamau, a Senior Administrator in the Office of the Governor. She believes that by improving this communication for the deaf by making clear facemasks will give them a platform to be well informed about government processes, budgets, projects updates and programs.



Sign Language which uses both manual and non-manual symbols formed using hand, fingers and facial expressions to represent ideas and concepts mostly utilizes mimicry. This is one of the facial expressions and body language used to convey meaning mostly expressing emotions, feelings, and some words with the mouth as the point of articulation, for instance smiling, shouting, colours, taste, among others. Speech or lip reading which is the ability to watch movements of a speaker's mouth and by observing all other visual clues including facial expressions and gestures to decipher contextually what information is being communicated, has all been affected by wearing of opaque facemasks in the new normal.

Opportunity

This has violated basic communication rules with the deaf as one is not allowed to cover mouth while speaking. This has also affected the cued speech style of communicating with the deaf, which involves using a set of hand cues with speech usually near the mouth to overcome lip reading problems where some words are pronounced almost the same and may have similar lip shape and lip movement making identical or difficult to see and decipher meaning.

Without a face mask, it's easier to use both fingers pelt first letter and pronounce the word simultaneously but this increases risk of Covid-19 spread. Presently, this has prompted Jane to encourage Laikipia inno-



vators to see the opportunity in solving this challenge.

This is a business opportunity for anyone who can come up a clear facemask using a material that will not form mist.

Jane has taught the language to colleagues at her workplace with the aim of promoting inclusivity to all stakeholders. She also serves as the sign language interpreter during the Sunday Mass.

She has also been involved in civic education to the deaf on introduction of the new currency, inclusion of the deaf to the Lisha Jamii Food distribution, mobilization for the NHIF Biometric exercise and interpretation services during the Annual International World Disability Day. It is regrettable most people find it difficult to associate with the deaf. Jane has offered solace to this group which now frequents the office of the Governor where she works to obtain more information and with access to government communication. On several occasions, when they fall sick and need to access healthcare services, they seek her services to be able to communicate with medical personnel to proper diagnosis and treatment of their ailment. Jane Wairimu Mathu a deaf person working with the County Government of Laikipia in the Department of Environment, is grateful for being accorded the chance to work. An innovative facemask will solve this communication barrier and help in engaging the deaf productively.

From political promises to action...

Pillar V: Access to Quality and Affordable Healthcare

The County government of Laikipia has consistently maintained a good progress in fulfilling the promises made to the people during the 2017 General Election. Governor Ndiritu Muriithi's election manifesto was anchored on 12 pillars that included (i) Proper Governance and Accountability, (ii) Job Creation: 30,000 Jobs, (iii) Farming Becomes a profitable business, (iv) Access to clean and Reliable water, (v) Access to Quality and Affordable Health Care, (vi) Employable youths and Entrepreneurship, (vii) Opportunities and Talent Development for young people, (viii) Protection of Life and Property, (ix) Light-up of homes and Markets, (x) Upgrade of roads and Building bridges, (xi) Develop Smart and Green Towns, and (xii) Destination Laikipia. In our fourth installment of 'From Political promises to Action' we are focusing on Pillar number Five.

(v) Access to quality and affordable healthcare

Focusing on the next pillar *Access to Quality and Affordable Health Care*, the government has made deliberate efforts towards the realization of access to quality and affordable healthcare to the people of Laikipia.

There have been a observable refocus on preventive and promotive healthcare that aims at preventing diseases and fighting them at the earliest stages rather than waiting to cure what would have been prevented.

Laikipia has the highest number of people enrolled to NHIF. A total of 92,300 households have enrolled to NHIF. This has not happened by chance but through deliberate by the government sensitizing citizens on the need to enroll. Not many public organization have ever demonstrated such a zeal helping their people enroll to the health insurance scheme whose premium is Kshs 500 a month.

The government has supported extremely



Motorcycles for helping in navigating around Laikipia to offer medical services by CHAs

vulnerable households to have a medical cover. So far, 14,611 households have benefited from the NHIF subsidy program. Forty-nine (49) public health facilities in Laikipia are accredited by NHIF which helps their members from making long journeys to access the two main referral hospitals. The process to accredit 39 more health facilities is almost complete. The improvement in healthcare services has seen private health insurance companies like Jubilee, Britam, Kenya Alliance, and Sanlam, accredit the two main hospital as their service providers. To facilitate provision of quality health services to people in remotest places in the county, the government has provided motor bikes to 65 Community

Health Assistants to ease their movement. More than 645 Community Health Volunteers have received special training to equip them with necessary skills to handle various medical conditions on the locals and also education citizens on preventing diseases. The government is constructing 120- bed capacity Mother and Child Units in each in Nanyuki and Nyahururu referral hospitals. The buildings will be equipped soon. Sixteen health centres have been renovated to raise the quality of services for the citizens. The government is increasing the capacity of the facilities to help people from making unnecessary journeys to seek for services which can be availed at their local dispensaries and health centres. Laikipia health sector has quality resources- in terms of equipment and personnel. The oxygen plant at NTRH has a capacity to refill four oxygen cylinders each of 9.2



Goat program to Traditional Birth attendants, Skilled birth deliveries rising from 69% to 82%.

kgs in six hours. The Point of care machine for catering for the children born of HIV-positive mothers installed in Nanyuki has increased efficiency in result production from three months to two hours. The cancer centre in NTRH has helped in early detection of various cancers and also in treatment. Patients are coming from various counties in search of these services in Laikipia. The county has one of the most modern renal units that attracts referrals from the surrounding counties because of the quality of services. To enable and encourage deliveries in clean health facilities as opposed to the traditional way, the goat-for-hospital delivery program has greatly reduced maternal mortality rate. Construction of a theatre in Dol-Dol Sub-County Hospital which will see mothers from the surrounding region deliver safely without much travelling is ongoing. Most of the health facilities in areas with water problems have been equipped with solar boreholes. That Laikipia has the highest life expectancy in Kenya at 72 years which is above the national average of 67, is a testimony of the government efforts towards quality healthcare. Various counties have benchmarked with the county.



Role of Nyahururu Hospital Kitchen in the Healing Process of Patients



By Frank Kibaki, Chef

Nutritious food is an integral component of the healing process of inward patients. At NCRH we believe that food facilitates quick recovery and improves patient's satisfaction regarding the overall treatment experience. All hospital meals are prepared in our modern kitchen which has undergone total transformation with the employment of trained staff who prepare healthy and quality meals for our patients.

We have deliberately invested in more nutritious menu and ensure the use of proper food preparation methods. The kitchen has a team of 10 mem-

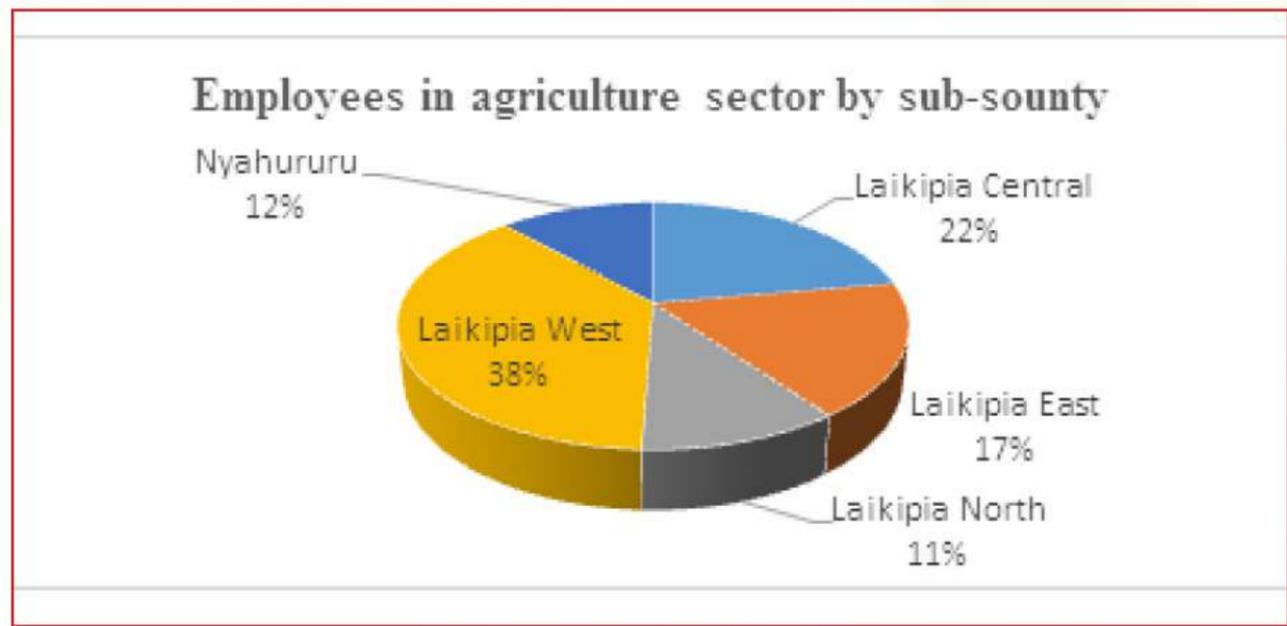
bers who range from a trained chef to cooks. Providing nutritionally appropriate and microbiologically safe food that satisfies the patient's appetite should be the aim of every hospital. Our kitchen has been transforming in a very dynamic way, as the food produced in our kitchen is highly nutritious and appetizing. This has brought evident change in the way the meals are prepared production and presented. The lower side of the hospital lies the kitchen where food is prepared by a well-groomed, clean, decent and respectful team. Patients have been complementing our food and most of them are very happy to see any of the food service team. The kitchen also is

well organized in terms of food service times. Food is served exactly on the recommended time. Food is served using buckets on clean trolleys by the kitchen staff who move from ward to ward ensuring that all patients are served. Respect to the patients is a core value that the kitchen team has embraced. Patients too, recognize the commitment of the kitchen team who wake even those who are asleep to have their meals. Though the team is exposed to different kinds of diseases considering the nature of their work, the passion to contribute to a healthy nation overrides the risk factors involved. It's more of a calling. That is the reason they have gone out of their way to provide highly nutritious and easily digestible meals for all the inpatients suffering from any diseases. The kitchen duties that were being carried before have also changed to ensure a clean and well running kitchen. The main aim being to produce the best. The aroma from the food is appetizing and this is brought about by the ingredients used for the production of each specific food menu. This is how we have managed to stop relatives or those visiting the inpatients from bringing food from outside. Food wastage that was a problem before is now no more. Patients are able to eat the well cooked food with no wastage. Indeed most of them ask for an extra serving. Cooking is fun, but kitchen safety is a priority. There are many pieces of equipment and environmental hazards that can be extremely dangerous. Sharp objects like knives, electrical appliances and even bacteria around the kitchen. Observing basic rules of kitchen safety is a good habit to develop and this is what the team does. It always observes the safety of patients' food as well as its own safety. Through the support of the hospital's management, the kitchen has undergone total transformation in terms of food production, preparation and handling with the help of a team of professionals in the kitchen and the stores. We say thank you to the management.



Agricultural Sector the Main Employer, Labour Report 2021 Shows

Figure 2: Distribution of employees in the Agriculture Sector by Sub-County, 2019



By Nahashon Maina

Laikipia County Labor Report 2021 has identified agriculture sector as the leading employer in the county representing 66% of the labor force and also contributing 44.2 per cent of the County's Gross Product.

The report, the first by the Department of Finance and Economic Planning, provides summary information on the number of employees, main employers and proportions per economic activities within the county during the year 2019.

It will facilitate informed policy formulation and implementation by highlighting sectors that are crucial in achieving more jobs creation and employment opportunities in Laikipia.

Agriculture sector according to the report is a significant area in employment creation as most Laikipians in the rural areas are engaged in small-scale farming.

Water for Production

The revelation has come as the government is directing more resources to water for production to make farming profitable.

Through the leasing program, the government is opening up roads in agricultural areas to enable farmers to easily access markets.

Service activities are second at 14%, wholesale and retail trade come third at 3.2%, Construction sector accounts for 2.4% of the workforce with rest distributed across other sectors.

In the rural areas, majority of Laikipians at 80% are in the agriculture sector with most of them in small-scale agriculture. Thirty eight percent of those working in the agricultural

centre are in Laikipia West while 22% are in Laikipia Central at 22%. Laikipia North has the least at 11% of the sector related activities total workforce.

Laikipia has a labor force of 250,297 persons, representing 48.3 per cent of the total population. Of this, 237,772 persons are engaged in various economic activities such as agriculture.

Nyahururu has the highest proportion of employees engaged in actual work representing 29% followed by Laikipia West at 24.47% while Laikipia North represents the least at 6.67%.

The release of the report is one of the government initiatives to address employment creation in Laikipia by identifying areas that will accelerates the growth of the county. It

notes that labor is an important factor of production to achieve envisioned positive social transformation among the residents.

The residents will also be able to have access to the actual status of employment in the county and for other industry players to make informed decision on where they key areas of investment opportunities in Laikipia can be found.

It also identify the key employers in the county which comprises public and private enterprises as well as NGOs.

Statistical Abstract 2021

Laikipia county government is also in the process of releasing the 4th issue of Statistical Abstract 2021 which is currently under production.

The reaffirmation was made during a virtual meeting on the review of the progress by the department of Finance and Economic planning. The meeting sought to establish what data has already been compiled and the ones still pending.

Laikipia County Statistical Abstract was initiated by Governor Ndiritu Muriithi and contains collected data in all sectors of Laikipia economy. It helps in ensuring residents, investors and researchers have up to date database of the performance of the every sector in Laikipia to help in making informed and evidence-based decisions.

Statistical abstracts provide reliable information and have been a single data source for those seeking specific data. It contains indicators of the economy which is useful for planning, monitoring and evaluation.

Some of the sector that will be covered in the abstract are: Labour, Trade and Commerce, Tourism, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Education, Public Health and Livestock.

Table 2: Number and percentage distribution of employees by economic activity, 2019

Economic Activity	County Total	Percentage %
Agriculture	158,361	66.6
Mining and Quarrying	448	0.2
Manufacturing	1,305	0.5
Electricity gas steam and air conditioning supply	851	0.4
Water supply sewerage waste management and remediation activities	480	0.2
Construction	5,728	2.4
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	7,627	3.2
Transportation and Storage	4,845	2.0
Accommodation and food service activities	4,180	1.8
Information and construction	477	0.2
Financial and insurance activities	1,356	0.6
Real estate activities	356	0.1
Professional scientific and Technical activities	1,762	0.7
Administrative and support service activities	2,884	1.2
Public administration and defence: compulsory social security	4,806	2.0
Education	4,102	1.7
Human health and social work activities	1,745	0.7
Arts entertainment and recreation	1,216	0.5
Other service activities	33,341	14.0
Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services producing activities of households for own use	1,453	0.6
Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies	449	0.2
Total	237,772	100.0

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics- 2019 KPHC

The Best Time For a Laikipia Safari



By Paul Ole Kimiri

Although Laikipia is an excellent safari destination throughout the year, the following information will help you decide what time of year may suit your personal desires for your wilderness travel. You should note that like other locations in Kenya, Laikipia experiences two dry seasons and two rainy seasons that greatly affect the ease with which you may view wildlife.

The long, cool-dry season occurs from July to October, and the short, hot-dry season occurs in January and February. During these times, water sources are quite limited, so wildlife are easily found gathered near or around the water sources.

The conservancies in Laikipia have many wetlands that attract yet disperse an abundance of animals during the short rains in November and December, as well as the long rains from April to June.

The individual conservancies within Laikipia ecology are exclusive, so you will most certainly interact with fewer guests than other destinations in Kenya, but there are times when guest levels are higher.

The limited accommodations may also be fully booked as a result. The long dry season is the best time to visit Laikipia and other game viewing destinations in Kenya. The reason for this is not only the ease and accessibility of wildlife viewing or due to wildebeest migration in Masai Mara from August to October, but this time of year also coincides with summer vacations to East Africa for European and American families.

Festive holidays, including Christmas, New Year's and Easter are also popular times when Laikipia has increased family visitors on a bonding retreat in Kenya.

The long rainy season not only has fewer guests, but the landscape is transformed by the increased moisture.

Lush grasslands and the arrival of newborn an-

imals, especially antelopes, make this time of the year perfect for an intimate and riveting bush holiday at Laikipia. Because this is considered the low or green tourist season, room rates are lower, although other costs do not change throughout the year, such as guided activities, park fees and logistics.

Bird lovers may prefer to plan their travel from October to April when migratory species arrive at Laikipia from as far as Europe and Russia.

Weather patterns also affect the logistics of your wildlife viewing. When there is little rainfall, the moisture evaporates quickly because Laikipia is located near the equator where it is normally warmer.

More significant rainfall, though, make the roads muddy and somewhat difficult to navigate. Additionally, the trails used for walking safaris may be slippery.

Activities, such as helicopter safaris, camel rides and horseback safaris, may only be offered when the weather cooperates with such outdoor excursions.

Temperatures vary during the year from the daytime highs of 71 F (22 C) in the cooler months to 90 (32 C) in the hotter humid months to nighttime lows of 50 F (10 C) to 57 (14 C) degrees with variability depending on the season of visit and where you are staying in Laikipia, but temperatures tend to be cooler in the highlands, especially in the evenings through early mornings.

Southern Laikipia is much cooler being closer to Nanyuki compared to Northern Laikipia where you are bordering the Northern Frontier District.

We recommend that you bring a warm fleece or sweater for your comfort as you will need it, especially during early morning and evening game drives.

Mr. Kimiri is the Director Tourism and Film, County Government of Laikipia

Nyahururu Residents Happy With Development Pace

By Julia Wachira

Residents of Igwamiti are happy with the transformation being witnessed across the ward.

Nyahururu town are currently experiencing major upgrade of its roads and streets. Those undergoing remake are Hospital Road and Jimrock - Nyahururu Law courts road. One resident of Nyahururu Town, Mr Maina said he was happy with the development stating: "There will be Increased flow of customers for goods and services because ofdecongestion... There is a class of clients who don't visit certain areas because they lack ample parking."

The walkways, additional parking spaces and upgraded roads will benefit traders and increase the revenue collected in the town.

Ms Wachira is the Ward Administrator, Igwamiti Ward



Why Laikipia Investing More in Preventive and Promotive Healthcare



Mother presents her baby for Postnatal care at Mugumo Dispensary, Umande Ward

By Nahashon Maina

Laikipia health strategy focuses on the preventive and promotive health as well as strengthening of primary level facilities to achieve universal healthcare.

Community health Volunteers (CHVs) are critical components of this strategy as they are deeply involved in promotive and preventive health activities within their respective communities.

The community health volunteers have also been critical in sensitization activities, food hygiene and management among the community members. They also enroll households to NHIF and also collect data.

The enrolment will ensure that Laikipians have financial protection when seeking medical services, improve visitation to hospitals, increased household income as they spend less in health facilities and improved quality of life.

“That ensures when sickness strikes, they don’t have to financially struggle to pay medical bills or sell their assets,” health chief officer Dr. Donald Mogoi notes.

He adds that NHIF will help to reduce out of pocket payment by pooling together the resources of contributors.

There are 77 primary healthcare facilities

spread out across the county. The two levels are on the government’s radar as strengthening their diagnostic capacities with lead to realization of UHC as they lie four to five kilometres from furthest homestead they serve.

The health system operates on a referral system. CHVs act as the link between the facilities and community. This has enabled the facilities to handle many residents seeking medical care with quick response to the treatment.

“To prevent most illnesses at community level, we are utilizing community health volunteers who move house to house offering medical advices to avoid diseases,” Dr Mogoi said.

They also take care of incidences such as deworming, temperature checks-if high fever they can treat, passing health message such as personal hygiene and guiding community members on where they can seek certain medical care.

The focus on the preventive and promotive health is to avoid the cost of curative healthcare which is higher. Treatment at Level 5 health facilities costs five times more compared to level 2 and 3 facilities.

The government is therefore increasing the diagnostic capacity of the dispensaries. The dispensaries and health centres conduct curative activities such as management of common ill-

nesses, case management of chronic illness such as TB and AIDS, dressing wounds, simple stitching and normal delivery services.

The preventive activities at the facilities are antenatal care, immunization, administration of vitamin A, family planning and under-5 growth development follow-up.

At health centres they conduct additional outpatient care but limited to minor surgery and emergency inpatient services. Out of a sample of 10 dispensaries in the county, the most common treated cases as Upper Respiratory Tract Infections UTRIs, Pneumonia, injuries, Skin diseases and non-communicable diseases such as hypertension and diabetes.

“Our disease profile revealed that these are the most common ailment that we are dealing with. They don’t need high end facilities or admissions as they can be managed by our medical officers or clinical officers at level 2 and 3, they only need laboratory diagnosis,” Dr. Mogoi said.

The notes that the investment by government on primary health facilities is to ensure that they carry out comprehensive diagnosis and be able to treat these diseases. The government has also provided requisite nurses to provide that care.