



Laikipia

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BJ50 Wins in New KRA Policies on Locally-Made Vehicles

By Nderitu Kariuki

Mass production of a Laikipia-made vehicle, BJ50, has entered a critical phase with the planned registration and issuance of number plates of the first six units this week.

The six units of the four-wheeler *tuk tuks* by the Nyahururu-based Sagak Tech Enterprises Ltd have been undergoing tests and inspections by Chief Mechanical Engineer for the last six months.

They passed the CMTE inspection standard and approval by Kebs allowing their use on public roads.

These details emerged after a high-powered inter-agency virtual meeting co-chaired by Principal Secretary state department for infrastructure Prof. Paul Maringa and Governor Ndiritu Muriithi on Wednesday to assess the progress of BJ50.

Others involved in the meeting were chief mechanical and transport engineers, Kenya Bureau of Standards, National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA), directors of Sagak Tech Enterprises and officers of the

county government of Laikipia.

Sagak Tech and other vehicle manufacturers are key beneficiaries of new policies by Kenya Revenue Authority which will facilitate registration of locally manufactured Automobiles.

This is a big break-through for BJ50 as the policies also cover *tuk tuks* and other vehicle manufacturers like Mobius which have been in the industry for over 9 years.

Since independence the systems and structures have focused and supported imports. This has been a major obstacle to registration of locally-manufactured vehicles.

The realization that we have units that have a high component of local works and also imported parts whose duty has already been paid, amounted to double taxation to the manufacturers.

This obstacle has been overcome with the new policies in place. It will encourage other potential manufacturers to venture in the sector.

The Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development Programme has played a great role in ensuring this happens by bringing together government agencies together to focus on unlocking systems and procedures that hinder growth of the nascent local automobile manufacturing industry.

With the new policy now in place, it is expected that the six units will be fully registered and issued with number plates and released to the market, within this week.

In addition, the inter-agency team will be visiting Laikipia on 30th June 2021 to appraise other projects in Laikipia under the Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development Programme.

Seeing Patients Heal, Go Home is the Greatest Joy of Every NTRH Nurse

Nurses are a special lot. They are likely to be around when mothers are bringing forth a new life to the world. And most of the times they are also around when one is departing the world. They are in the hospital 24 hours seven days a week. From its entire workforce, NTRH alone has 159 nurses distributed in all its departments and operating in three shifts. Managing such a large team is definitely not walk in the park. We talked to the head of Nursing Services at NTRH Ms Lucy Njogu about what it takes to coordinate the team.

How would you describe your role as Manager of Nursing Services at NTRH?

My position entails ensuring all nursing services run smoothly and within satisfactory standards. Generally, nursing means holistic care of patients at all stages of treatment. My duties also extend to overall supervision of staff, interns and student nurses. I am the link between the department and hospital administration and other departments. As a department, we play the role of patients' advocate by handling complaint mechanism for internal and external clients. We take over the role of hospital management after the official working hours. Ours is a 24-hour service.

What does your typical day look like?

My day starts with brief meeting at 7.30am where we receive reports from inpatient and outpatient coordinators, as well as the hospital nurse covering for the previous night. Here, I handle overall nursing reports from clinics, wards, inpatient admissions, discharges, cases in need of special care and special incidences. Thereafter, we release the night team as we discuss matters arising from the night reports with the day time shift team. For cases in need of further interventions, I report to the hospital management. These include gaps in supplies of drugs and other supplies. Routine activities also include ensuring services are running smoothly in the outpatient and inpatient departments, where we address client concerns with the management.

How many nurses do you work with?

We have 159 nurses spread across almost all the departments. The maternity wing takes the biggest number of the nurses, with 17 of them working there. It is followed by the male and female wards with 15 nurses each.

What does it take to run such a big department?

Pure teamwork. I work with unit heads who are directly in charge of the staff and affairs of the particular unit. These leaders directly report to the inpatient and outpatient coordinators and ward in charges and second and third in charges. First in charges are senior nurses who take charge over weekends and public holidays when offices are closed.

Are there specialist nurses at NTRH?

Yes, we do have specialist nurses who provide tailored care depending on the patient's need. They include renal, neonatal, pediatrics, critical care, theatre nurses, among others.

What informs the placement of nurses in the different departments?

The workload. The maternity wing, for instance, houses the labour, antenatal and postnatal units, hence taking the big number of nurses. Being a 24-hour service, we have three shifts of 7.30am to 4.30pm, 12.30pm to 6:30 pm and the 6.30pm to 7.30am completes the 24-hour cycle. High daytime workload informs the two overlapping shifts.

It is said nurses are the custodians of health. Why is this so?

Definitely, because if you go to any hospital, you will find nurses heading almost all the departments. You walk into any hospital today, the Nursing Department will be better placed to give you an overview of the status of the hospital. In addition, more than anyone else, nurses are in contact with patients throughout their life in hospital to the point of discharge or death.

Talk about your department's experience with Covid-19

I would say our nursing fraternity has done a commendable job. When everyone else was scared to the point of stepping back, our nurses stepped into the unknown world of managing a pandemic that was new to all of us. I am grateful that our nurses, through great professionalism, managed to shield themselves from the virus and up to this far, none of them has contracted Covid-19 in our isolation unit. We have managed to pull through all the three waves so far yet we have been exposed to some of the most unfamiliar working environment. Continuous on job training has greatly boosted safety and confidence in handling patients.

Can one survive nursing without passion?

It's a demanding profession and those without passion for the job will likely drop off even before completing training. Training involves intense practicals and graduating is more of stamping your confirmation to practice without supervision.

What role does NTRH play as a training center for nurses

As an accredited learning institution by the Nursing Council of Kenya, we are currently engaged with six medical training colleges to provide practical experiences. These include Kenya Medical Training College campuses of Nyahururu, Murang'a and Nyandarua, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Consolata and Outspan Medical Colleges. The hospital convenes an annual master rotation plan that guides the placement to avoid calendar overlap and overcrowding of students. Currently, we have 40 student nurses on our



training program. A nurse mentor oversee the students to make sure they fulfill their training requirements. These are the contacts between the students and their respective institutions on the progress of the trainings.

Are there opportunities for career growth in nursing?

We have renal nurses who are sponsored for further studies. Still, we encourage our nurses to take personal initiatives to further their education. We have a number of them currently advancing their studies to specialization. It is an expensive undertaking and we commend those who have taken the initiative.

Do nurses need psychosocial support, especially in the wake of their experience with Covid-19?

Oh yes, absolutely! And it's not only about Covid-19, nurses go through a lot in their daily line of duty. Seeing a patient you have been treating die is heavy for us, and we take it with us beyond the work place. For a renal nurse, for example, losing a patient who you have been seeing twice a week for three years is more than you can take. So, we need such kind of support.

What is the most satisfying experience for a nurse?

I would say it is when I see a patient recover and go home whole, or when we discharge a mother and her baby healthy after a successful delivery

Does the society appreciate nurses enough?

I would say there is minimal appreciation from the public. Good things from us will pass unnoticed, but wait until something goes wrong, and we are on the receiving end of public fury, sometimes due to lack of understanding. Picture this scenario, when we lose a patient, relatives, desperate for answers, will focus all the why and how questions on the nurse. Blaming nurses for everything that goes wrong is traumatizing experience for nurses.

Makurian Residents Learn from Transformative Solio Water Project



Solio water Project has transformed a rather dry area to one of the most productive parts of Laikipia agriculturally.

As a result, many people from within the county and beyond are eager to learn how the people in the seven villages of Solio have been able to change their lives after the government availed them water.

On 12th June 2021, a group of 40 representatives from Makurian and Osirwa-Chumvi under the facilitation of the Department of Water paid a visit to the region to learn how the people in the area manage the vital commodity and ways of using it to transform their lives to be better. “We took 40 people from the two areas to learn from the success Solio water project. It’s for them now to learn and implement in their areas once the Makurian Water Project is complete,” said Eng. June Kawira-Opot, the chief officer department of Water.

The government is currently rolling out the Makurian-Osirua water project under its water for production initiative. The projects covers Mukogodo East ward with the water intake located on the northern slopes of Mount Kenya.

Makurian project already has an interim committee to manage the water for domestic and irrigation use like in Solio. The project which is almost complete is targeting of 20,000 residents of Mukogodo East Ward. The county government has so far constructed 42 kilometers of pipeline from the intake to Doldol and two masonry tanks with a capacity of 225m³ and constructed a gravity main of 7.6Km.

The visit was one of a series of community engagements that the government has arranged to sensitize the communities on project management and governance.

The Makurian project will take a management model similar to that of Solio where Nanyuki Water and Sewerage Company

(Nawasco) is involved in reticulation and all the technical support for efficiency.

“The community will have a management responsibility, while the technical support will come from Nawasco,” Eng. Kawira-Opot said.

Just like in Solio, residents of Osirwa will have water in their homesteads because of proper settlements. However, people of Makurian will have community water points first awaiting a structured system to connect water to their homes.

The ever-grateful Makurian and Osirwa communities are set to start farming and start feedlots which provides high yields by utilizing a small portion of land with enough water.

With water being an enabler, the transformative project is expected to support economic activities which will increase incomes for the residents. The area is mainly a pastoralism area and the residents are expected to embrace modern systems of cattle rearing such as feedlots and zero-grazing.

Consumers Supporting 'Buy Laikipia, Build Laikipia'



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Efforts by the county government to promote the consumption of local products has borne fruits with 74 Laikipia-made products in local and international markets.

The products are by SMEs nurtured by the government under the Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development Programme propagating the idea of buy Laikipia, build Laikipia.

It is anchored in the believe that the government has a mandate to create enabling environment to ensure businesses smoothly operate.

“Industries do not occur spontaneously! Government has to create the conditions necessary, as well as find the industrialists. Laikipia Innovation & Enterprise Program is a deliberate effort to find industrialists,” the Governor says.

The innovation program identifies unique ideas and hand-holds possible entrepreneurs to raise their status into income generating activities. So far, the program has 504 Laikipia SMEs and encouraging others to join. The program has linked eight enterprises to incubation opportunities.

Sixteen products have been filed for utility models, trademarks and Patents while eight ongoing. The programme has facilitated certification of 37 Products by KEBS and is in the process of adding 12 more products, all produced within the county boundaries.

Under the programme 38 MSMEs have been linked to various source of funding to facilitate in their development and sustainability. It is the role of the government to ensure that the business thrive no matter the economic hardships the society encounters.

In 2019, ten Laikipia enterprises showcased their products at the 20th East Africa Community MSMEs trade fair in Rwanda, giving them an international exposure.

Many experts hail Laikipia county for coming up with such a creative and idea that aims at facilitating economic growth through promoting small and medium enterprises.

The government has been promoting the local manufacturers through encouraging consumption of locally produced goods.

According to Professor Nick Wanjohi, the government can encourage local industries through coming up with appropriate policies that favour such creations.

“You must develop policies that encourage promotion of local products as an indication of patriotism, sophistication and civilization, which will in turn present consumers of imported (yet available in the county) as unworthy traitors of the newly found development course for the county and country,” said Prof Wanjohi.

Others who have been operating their businesses from their homes have been provided with adequate working spaces that are easily accessible by more customers. Fifteen innovators provided working space to allow them expand their businesses.

The government has dedicated 200 county staff workers from across the departments to work hand-in-hand with enterprises and innovators to facilitate promotion of locally produced products. The 200 act as Business Development Officers (BDOs) and walk guide entrepreneurs into acquiring all the necessary documents for legality.

It is efforts by the dedicated staff of the county government that have enabled facilitation of 74 products to local and international markets.



Products available in local supermarkets	Products in other market outlets and internal markets
Ugali Jamii	Juliani Wood Toys
Tessy Farm Limited Bottled Water	Electric Wheelchair
Challenger T-M-T Notebook	Improvised Bicycles
Angaza Crafts	Wind Turbines
Nina Yoghurts	Laikipia Nyati Leather Shoe Products
Naishamu Honey	Dudu Bio Pesticide
Naishamu Yoghurts	Cinta Foods
New Dawn Products	Powerdraw Products & Services
Gracier's Bread	Laikipia Gold
White Gold Camel Milk	Laikipia Afya
Likii Millers	Glasses & Flowers Vases
Ugali Maishani	Asili Fertilizer
Pure Maru & Marts Honey	Equator Glaciers
E&M Naturals	BJ-50[4Wheeler]
Daiga Millers	Agricultural Drones
	API Skin Care Products
	Kinla Toys
	Laikipia Leather Products
	Repurposed Paper Bead Work
	Laikipia Skin Care Organic Soap

Extension Officers Trained on Dairy Cattle Husbandry



By Nahashon Maian

Thirty-three agricultural extension officers in Laikipia East underwent a two-day training on Livestock production, agro-processing, marketing, and feed formulation.

This has equipped with necessary skills to help dairy farmers in the county increase their production in dairy farming.

African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Kenya partnered with the County Government of Laikipia to support the training.

Productivity of Laikipia's vibrant livestock industry can be increased by embracing modern livestock-rearing methods such as feedlots.

Yields

The training mainly focused on better feeding methods to increase the milk yields. The officers were taken through the nutritive value of feeds, nutrient requirements and ration formulation.

The idea is to help farmers reduce the cost of feed production, maximize the quality of feed and milk

yields to increase the profitability of dairy farming. Extension officers are critical disseminators of information that will help in the adoption of farming methods.

"It is a very important training as it entails the principles of rearing livestock which can be cascaded down to our farmers," said Mr Eliud Too, the sub county agricultural officer.

Farmers are going to benefit a lot from such kind of training by improving the productivity and profitability of their enterprises.

Innovative Solutions

The impact of the training is expected to translate to an increase in income from the sale of more milk and a reduced cost of buying commercial feeds.

Award Kenya seeks inclusive, agriculture-driven prosperity for Africa by strengthening the production and dissemination of more gender-responsive agricultural research and innovation.

"We are expert in agricultural sciences, the team will make sure that extension officers working directly with farmers gain the relevant and right skills to support farmers to improve their produc-

tivity and good return," Award Kenya vice-chair Esther Kanduma said.

The organization has been supporting farming communities, and wants to enhance production to achieve food security and also improve the livelihood of dairy farmers. Its strategy is to partner with county governments to find innovative solutions to challenges affecting the sector. Their goal is to onboard more women who pursue careers in agricultural sciences and research.

"We will be happy to see the officers going out there and translating what we have taught them to support farmers improve their production," she added.

Thingithu ward agricultural officer Stephen Ondimu noted that training on modern ways of farming is important in Laikipia as it helps to mitigate the effects of the dry season that is witnessed in this area. It helps to create an educated farming base on the best ways to rear dairy cattle and how to increase their productivity.

Enterprise Development Sensitization in Muwarak, Sossian Ward



By Luke Murage, Sossian Ward administrator

A sensitization meeting on Enterprise Development and need to pay county revenue was held. In attendance were Laikipia West (L.W) sub county administrator Mr Charles Ndegwa, deputy sub county administrator Madam Veronichah Wambugu, Rumuruti Ward Administrator Ms Damaris Wanjiku, Sosian Ward area as-

sistant chief Mr. Lemuruni, community chairperson Mr. Julius Lesuada, Mr John Bosco, Nyumba Kumi elders among others. The leaders also highlighted on the need to coexist in harmony within the community. As Muwarak emerges a fast developing centre, there is need to open new roads within the centre for ease of mobility, provision of electricity in the new centre after relocation from Laikipia North TVC land as well as provision of clean water in the centre.

Kandutura Has Water after Three Days of Drilling



Laikipia West Sub County administrator, Mr. Charles Ndegwa, commissioned the sinking of borehole at Kandutura, Sosian Ward on 7th June 2021.

Three days later residents of Kandutura had water. This was a transformative project. For a long time, had to walk long miles to fetch water from a seasonal river. Habitat for Humanity organization supported this initiative to save humanity. There is close coordination from Habitat for Humanity, national government and county government officers in improving lives of the citizens. Residents are now happy since the borehole has now produced plenty water which will be used for domestic and production purposes.



County Managers Trained on Prudent Financial Management



Public Finance management is one of the key things that keeps an institution running.

To improve quality of financial management in the County Government of Laikipia, the County Treasury organized a special training for CECMs, the Chief Officers and directors on public finance management.

The day-long session took place on 10th June 2021, and saw representatives from various departments and institutions take the managers through certain requirement that will realize proper procedures. IFMIS and procurement processes dominated the training as they are

the main places where some workers may make mistakes without their consent.

According to the Chief officer Finance department Paul Njenga the training was to help streamline all the processes and procedures for any financial transaction within the county without breaking the law.

“The training is necessary to help the staff members improve on effective and efficient utilization of county budget, financial reporting and documentation. It also helps on improving financial, procurement, and payment processes,” said Njenga.

Public Participation Key to Inclusive Land Use Planning

By Nic Nguru

The Department of Lands and Physical planning is simultaneously developing the County Spatial Plan and the Rumuruti Municipality Integrated Development plan.

Although the plans are different in scope and scale, a participatory planning approach has been adopted. Unlike in the past, where planning was undertaken by professionals, development of both plans has involved intensive stakeholder consultations. The participatory approach aims to ensure citizens and other stakeholders are actively involved in identifying issues and appropriate courses of action.

Visioning

The County Spatial Plan visioning workshops involved ward level discussions amongst stakeholders representing different sectors and areas of interest. At least fifteen (15) thematic areas or sectors e.g. agriculture, tourism, transport, health, sports and culture, and cooperatives among others were represented in each ward. Priority strategies or projects were identified for each ward taking into consideration their unique settings (resource base and needs).

The same approach has been employed in the Rumuruti Municipality Integrated Development Plan process. Three levels of meetings namely, sensi-



Rumuruti Municipality Integrated Plan stakeholders' meeting

zation, visioning, and feed-back workshops have been held. This has enhanced inclusivity, accountability, and transparency in the planning process.

The main technique used was focused group discussions to allow for intensive deliberations as well as observing of COVID-19 protocols. This approach anchored on meaningful stakeholder involvement and consensus building is expected

to deliver implementable plans with medium and long-term impacts on the socio-economic sphere of Laikipia County. The planning processes have also provided a platform to strengthen citizens' understanding on various issues regarding land ownership and land use.

Government Gets Citizens' Nod to Issue Infrastructure Bond

