



Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

WEEKLY
BULLETIN

Dissecting Laikipia's Growth Plan

Governor Ndiritu Muriithi has laid out a major strategy that aims to grow the economy of Laikipia four times its current size.

Details of the plan emerged on 7 January 2020, when the Governor held his first meeting with senior officers of the county government this year. Also attending the meeting were CEOs of all county agencies.

The county's economy has been registering a 1.1 percent growth and early projections indicate that it could have shrugged off effects of Covid-19 pandemic to hit Shs100 billion a year.

The strategy targets to grow the economy to Sh400 billion through enterprise development, tripling agricultural production, mining and electricity reticulation, well-planned urbanization, a five-fold increase in manufacturing and processing and updating the structure of the government to be able to exercise all powers and fulfill all functions bestowed on it by the constitution.

To achieve this, the county government is preparing the environment to achieve the target through a multi-pronged approach.

First is to create a healthy and productive society by rolling-out a UHC model with a bottom-up investment approach. Under this model, a lot of resources are committed to preventive or primary health as opposed to curative. As such the government is directing more resources to Community Health Volunteers.

There is also more investment in bottom level health facilities especially in their diagnostic capabilities. This will ensure access of critical services at the dispensary level. So far, some dispensaries like Wiyumiririe, Kalalu and Likii have laboratory equipment capable of carrying about 30 different blood tests.

Over 64 dispensaries have maternity wards. In addition, Ndindika, Lamuria and Doldol have theatres awaiting equipment.

Another critical plank of the strategy is creating an innovative and entrepreneurial population. The government has not just been holding innovation fairs. It has been hand-



Packaging of Ugali Jamii maize flour brand by Ng'arua Millers. Manufacturing and processing is a key plank of county Government's plan for growth.

holding local SMEs through the Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Programme. So far 500 SMEs are in the programme. The target is 5,000. The government has been disbursing enterprise education to SMEs with emphasis on manufacturing and processing.

It has been re-orienting the public service to focus beyond inputs and outputs to outcomes and impacts. A pool of over 200 business development officers, are handholding local SMEs to move to manufacturing. Enterprise development accounts for significant appraisal for government officers. Generally, it is all about creating conditions necessary for industries to thrive as well as finding industrialists.

"Industries do not necessarily 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 said.

The county is also focusing on mining and growing of cotton in similarly deliberate effort to get raw materials.

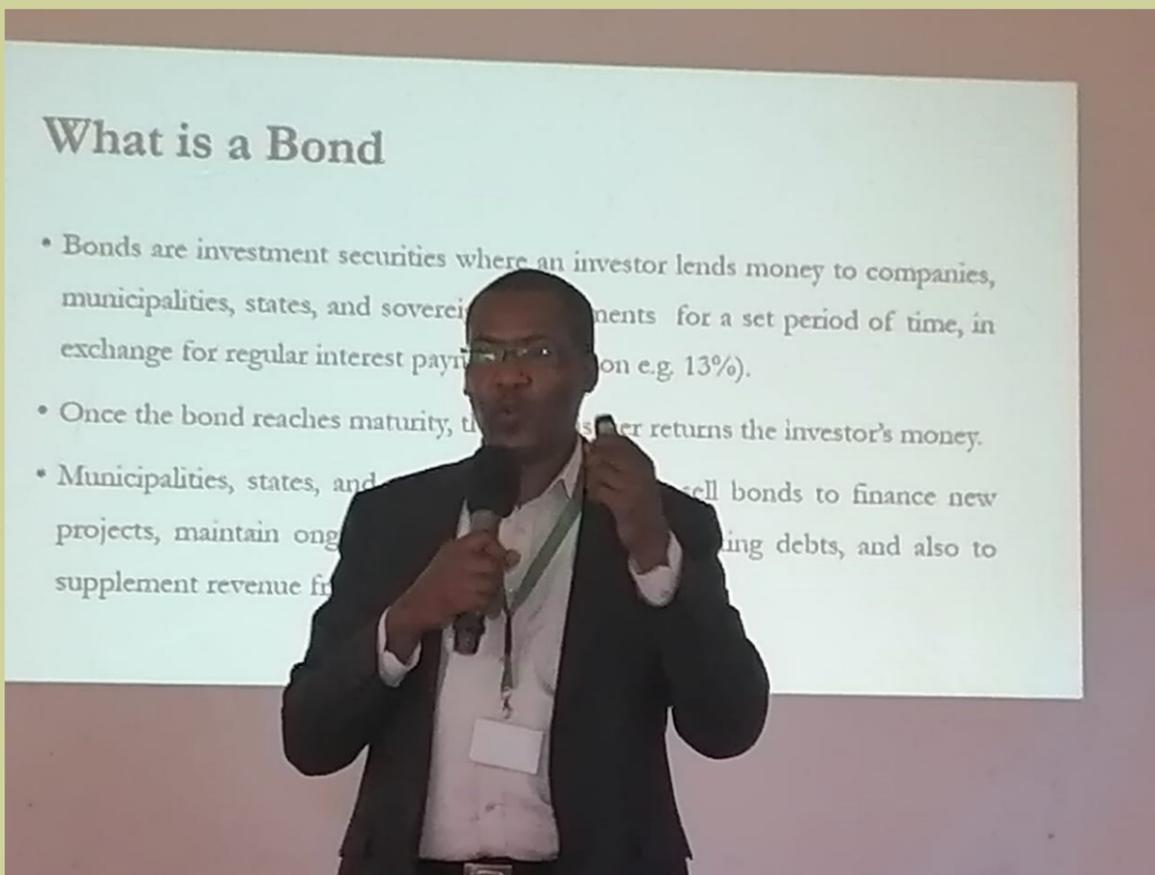
Another important pillars in creating the right environment is to build high quality infrastructure like roads, airports and railway to enable efficient flow of logistics within and outside the county.

Lastly, is intensive training throughout the government and at all levels to be able to drive the strategy to its ultimate goal.

The process involves cascading the five-year county Integrated Development Plan to individual work plans which are linked to time-sheets and payroll. To align the project life cycles to budgeting by ensuring that bills of quantities are prepared and inform the budgeting process.

To materialize, the strategy requires a flexible structure that can boldly venture in such unexplored spheres like mining and energy. It also needs to be innovative by finding out new ways of doing things, driven by technology such as tele-medicine, responsive to the strategy as well as being cost-effective to maintain fiscal balance.

Laikipia Preparing to Float a Bond to Finance Flagship Projects



Deputy Governor John Mwaniki taking senior county officials through the process of floating a development bond at County Hall

By Nahashon Maina

The county government of Laikipia is preparing to borrow Kshs3 billion from the private sector by floating a bond to finance flagship projects.

It is the first time for a county government to venture in the security market in Kenya. The development bond will be traded in Nairobi Security Exchange.

A critical step will be the enactment of Debt Securities Issuance Act by the county assembly.

Bonds are investment securities where an investor lends money to companies, municipalities, states and sovereign governments for a set period of time, in exchange for regular interest payments.

The county is in the process of preparing required financial documents including revenue and expenditure projections for five years.

It will prepare Bond Trustee Deed and identify Trustees of the bond.

“With necessary approval from the County Assembly, Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Council (IBEC) and other relevant agencies, the county will be able to issue the bond in the market this year,” Deputy Governor John Mwaniki said.

Mr. Mwaniki, who is a financial markets specialist with an experience spanning over 20 years, is steering the process.

The process of credit worthiness of the county government is currently going on.

According to the DG once the process which is at the tail end is complete the results will be made public.

Why invest in a Bond

A bondholder is able to make an income as a result of returns on the investment and earn much more interest than money deposited in the fixed account.

“Lending to the government is a highly secure investment and it encourages, cultivates a culture of investing and saving,” the DG said.

It is also a sign of patriotism and an element that demonstrates one’s faith in the government. It supports government development agenda and hence one participates in improving the livelihood of others.

Bondholders will enjoy a high coupon rate also known as the interest rate which will be paid twice per year.

This will be determined by the prevailing market condition in the country. The current indicative rate the county calculated is about 13%.

“The minimum amount one can invest is Ksh 50,000 per unit with no maximum limit and interest rate paid is always higher than the fixed deposit with all incomes being paid every six months,” Mr Mwaniki said.

The Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) 2012 provides legal framework for borrowing powers to the county governments. The PFMA section 140. (1) states that a County Executive Committee member for finance may, on behalf of the county government, raise a

loan for that Government’s purposes, only if the loan and the terms and conditions for the loan are set out in writing.

Bill of Quantities

All county departments have been instructed to prepare bill of quantities (BQs) for projects to be funded through the proceeds.

In 2019, IBEC allowed county governments to borrow up to 20 percent of their total revenue to finance development.

For Laikipia, this will be supported further by the Laikipia County Debt Securities Issuance Act (LCDSI) which establishes Debt Management Office (DMO). It will give the county the authority to borrow and issue guarantees; specifies borrowing purposes and limits the issuance of debt securities to capital expenditure and refinancing.

“The LCDSI Act is an important legislation which will define how the bond will be issued in the market, its purpose, utilization and ensure that the bond investment amount is secure in order to repay the bond and coupons,” the DG added.

Debt Management office will comprise experts from the finance department and representatives of bondholders.

Projects

Projects earmarked for financing through the bond issue include water for production, road network, bus parks, sewer expansion, smart towns, tomato processing, dairies and feedlot.

The county intends to develop five large water pans with capacity of 200,000 m³ with complete irrigation reticulation system.

Road network will involve upgrading of 1,000 kms of agricultural roads linking farms to the market. It will also establish a tomato processing factory in Rumuruti for value addition. To complement smart town initiative, the county seeks to upgrade 10 trading centers with proper roads, drainage, green spaces and street lighting. These towns are Oljabet, Karuga, Ol Moran, Pesi, Doldol, Naibor, Kimanju, Wiyumiririe, Matanya and Kalalu.

The bond will finance the expansion of sewer services in three major urban centers and also establish feedlots in Laikipia North occupying 5,000 acres of land at a cost of Ksh 120 million. The dairy industry will also benefit from a processing factory in Laikipia East.

The DG is optimistic of the success of this undertaking by the county government and see it as the best innovative way of financing development projects.

Mr Mwaniki served as the pioneer chairman to the Bond Market Association of Kenya between 2012 to 2014.

20,000 Laikipia North Residents to Access Clean, Reliable Water

The first phase of Makurian Water project is near completion.

This, project jointly funded by Kenya Devolution Support Program (KDSP) and the County Government of Laikipia will improve the quality of life in Mukogodo East ward of Laikipia North. The first phase will cost Kshs 67 million with ksh6 million and 61million coming from the county government and KDSP respectively.

The project was handed over to Mbiwa Construction Company Limited on 5th August 2020.

Makurian Water Project is set to have in excess of 20,000 beneficiaries once complete.

So far, the contractors have managed to excavate a trench and pipe laying for 7.65 km from the water intake site on the northern slopes of Mt Kenya to the storage tanks, and halfway constructed two 225 m³ masonry water tanks for water storage.

Site mapping for construction of three 225m³ masonry tanks has been done awaiting commencement of the construction works. Also, mapping and designing of 14km of distribution to beneficiaries has been done.

Surveying of the 28 km of Main Pipeline is complete together with its environmental



Ongoing construction of two 225 m³ masonry water tanks for water storage

screening and public participation for a consensus.

Site mapping for two-183 m³ masonry tanks for distribution is complete. Already, there are three tanks for distribution and construction of one 225m³ is ongoing.

Various beneficiaries have been mapped out and relevant bodies notified like Water Resources Authority (WRA), KFS and NEMA.

Once complete, the project will have great

benefits for the residents like putting arid areas under irrigation, improved livelihood through kitchen gardens, expansion of livestock and milk production.

Other benefits include; reduced water bone diseases, improved water quality, availability and access at household level, and reduction of livestock diseases that has been witnessed due to overcrowding water points.

Reliable Water Source Will Spur Processing in Kinamba Town



Kinamba Water project was initiated under the Kenya Devolution Support Program (KDSP) funded activity being carried out in Githiga Ward.

The handing over of the project to contractors took place on mid-July 2020 and the progress is promising, demonstrating that the water problems that have been witnessed in the area is soon becoming a thing of the past.

The progress of the construction so far is that the projects' BQ and design are already out, site mapping of construction of one 225m³ masonry tank is complete and public participation has been conducted for the 25 km of Main Pipeline and distribution. Surveying and environmental screening on the same has also been conducted.

Once complete, the project will benefit more than 5,000 people and enhance their lives.

Improved water quality, availability and access at household level are the direct benefits that the Ksh 60 million project will yield.

The project will be managed under scheme membership with Laikipia County Government support with technical support of Nyahuwasco.

Residents in the area have a lesson to learn from the people in Solio villages who have turned the rather dry area into an irrigation place. the availability of enough water has seen residents use the drip irrigation method to grow their own food crops and cash crops.

In Kinamba, the citizens are eager to grow more potatoes for domestic use and for trading to improve their livelihood.

One of Governor Ndiritu Muriithi's promise to Laikipians during the campaign period was provision of adequate and clean water to the areas that faces shortage of rain water. Realization of Kinamba water project demonstrates that the promises are kept, one after the other.

Nanyuki Old Market Phase II Near Completion



A section of Phase II of Nanyuki Open air market awaiting to be marked

The Nanyuki Old open air market's Phase II is near completion having been done more than 50 % complete. More than 2,000 traders are set to occupy the section which will have been complete before end of the month. The construction work is already complete with the only thing remaining being marking of the stalls for the occupants.

The floor has been covered with cabros to improve hygiene in the market. Enough taps and ablution blocks have also been set to ensure hygiene-related diseases never see the light in the modern market. Proper drainage system has been set up to carry away the rain water and

other waste away from the traders and the customers.

Security within the business premises has been enhanced through a fenced wall and secured gates which ensures no unauthorized personnel access the area at night when the traders are not around.

The facelift will see the number of customers drastically rise as movement and the business environment has been enhanced. Parking space near the market has been improved to encourage even more customers.

All roads within the market are being rehabili-

tated for easy access of the facility which provides all sorts of fresh produce.

Occupants had been relocated to allow for the facelift to take shape and modernize the facility to the current status. The refurbishment of the market is going on a three-phase method having been funded by KDSP. Traders occupy and start their business in the relevant complete phase while contractors move to begin construction works in the next phase.

Construction of the first phase came to completion late last year and dedication and prayers took effect to usher the over 2,000 traders on November 02 2020 to commence their daily activities in a better environment.

The project is being funded by KDSP Level 2 Grant. The rehabilitation of the market is part of the agenda of Laikipia County Government to improve business environment to spur commercial activities.

Already customers are coming from all the surrounding counties to get the various market products. Other traders from neighboring counties also converge in the market on the two market days to offer customers a wide range of products to choose from. The special market days are Tuesdays and Fridays.



The before and after photos of Phase II of Nanyuki Open Air market

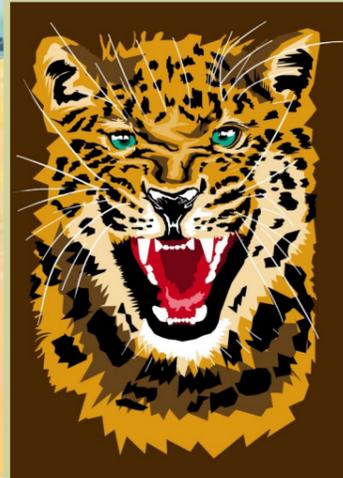


It's Sheer Determination that Fuels Artist Martin's Success



Martin Ngugi demonstrating his skills on artwork.

Below: Some of his paintings



By Nahashon Maina

Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something, and that this thing, at whatever cost must be attained. These are words of Marie Curie who was a French Physicist.

These words can relate well to Martin Ngugi, an artist who paints African contemporary art. Martin was born with symbrachydactyly—a condition of underdevelopment of the hands.

Now at 35, he has surmounted experience of stigmatization at an early age, disdain and prejudice from people he met in the streets. He says that growing up, he experienced a lot of stigmatization which was hard on him as a teenager as his self-esteem was low.

"It was really hard. One has many triggers at that age due to how other people treats you," Martin recalls.

That now is behind him as his self-esteem has greatly improved and learnt to accept himself. His determination to succeed has seen him become a renown visual artist working with major authors in the country for books cover illustrations.

He has done posters work for Mt. Kenya Trust, Ol Pejeta and Moran Nanyuki and illustration work for leading publishers in the country such as Oxford University Press, EA Education Publishers and Longhorn Publishers.

"To me determination is the key. In my line of work, the option is going forward and do my best in art. This is the only way for me, doing artwork," Martin affirms.

Martin is talented in what he does. From an early age he picked an interest in art. With mentorship, he succeeded but not without

some ups and downs. He got encouragement even if his work at the time was not the best. He later enrolled at Buru Buru Institute of Fine Art where he graduated with a diploma in graphic design.

Give him a brush, paint and observe the magic that he creates out of a canvas.

When you ask him what his best artwork has been, the answer is simple, "I give my best to every artwork I do, it always has an individual touch that make it so unique and special."

Martin founded PowerDraw Design, a company in 2017 to market his artwork. He intends to improve his earning by selling his artwork.

He says the challenges he has experienced has taught him on how to be patient in this line of work. His view, "art is not for fainthearted, you need to be patient until you succeed."

Martin laments that lack of a professional body representing artists in the country is denying them much needed royalties from their work.

"When selling art, one is entitled to five percent of the sale price. Currently many artists are not benefiting from their artwork," Martin adds.

He is of the opinion that efforts need to be

made to enlighten the artists of their rights and on how and where to sell their art. This he says will attract many of them in the industry propelling the growth of their businesses. To him, there is still a big opportunity in art industry. It still not thriving in Africa as the rest of world.

But all his hard work was almost undone by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. What kept him afloat was Laikipia Innovation Development Program which he is a member. He was tasked to advocate on COVID-19 mitigation measuring that the county government was undertaking.

He is also a supervisor for youths working under the Kazi Mtaani. These engagements have enabled him to sustain himself during the pandemic.

"COVID-19 disrupted my marketing plans; one thing is that art is a luxury. When people have a priority in health, they would rather focus on dealing with that issue than buying art at that time," Martin observes.

He says that the program has also benefited him professionally since he joined.

"The LIDP is a good platform where they are nurturing innovation ideas in the county, I have benefited immensely from this program," Martin states.

Through the program, he has been taught on marketing strategies and copyright protection which are essential to the success of his business.

"We are being connected with professional accountants, lawyers and relevant bodies that will help us in growing our businesses," he adds.

Martin says that Laikipia is conducive for startup businesses since the county government is in forefront of supporting innovation ideas and SMEs.

He says that there is much innovation in the county hence the need for the county government to establish a business hub. It can act as a place to connect with likeminded people and market one's ideas.

"Youths needs a co-working spaces where they can come and brainstorm, they can actualize their ideas and become productive," Martin adds. Martin can be found on social media platforms like, Facebook as artist mchoraji art or phone: 0726032503.



CBEF Linking Citizens to County Budgets



Members of the public take part in a recent public participation forum organized by the County Government of Laikipia

By Muriithi John

County Budget and Economic Forum (CBEF) is formed in line with section 137 of the Public Finance Management Act 2012.

Laikipia is among the few counties which have so far managed to form this committee that focuses on the right discussions on overall estimates of revenue, spending and deficit of each economic sector of the economy. The committee also bases its discussions on county priorities to inform major plans.

CBEF ensures proper public engagements in matters budgeting in the county.

Composition

As a requirement of the law, the Forum comprises eight members drawn from outside the county government staffs owing to the requirement for the equal number of CECs in the county. The eight members come from different groups that make up the population of Laikipia citizenry- youth, people living with disability, business people, the elderly, and the clergy.

The non-county staff members of CBEF in Laikipia are; Ms Doris Gatwiri Mworira, Mr Johnson Kipkosgei Cheruiyot, Ms Elizabeth Wanjiru Kiondo, Ms Emma Kaburo

Kirima, Mr Henry Machira Muguongo, Mr Patrick Leresi Karmushu, Mr David Gathuka Ndiritu, and Mr Lemarieni James Ntungulo.

On the government side, the committee comprises all the CECMs, the County Secretary, the Deputy Governor and the Governor who sits as the chairperson.

The formation of such a committee helps in all budgetary matters of the devolved unit, while at the same time bringing together the views of the public in equal measures as the government. The equal number of the non-state actors to the number of state actors ensure that there is equal representation. All committee members have equal voting rights.

The formation of the Forum also ensures that not only the devolved unit make accurate and achievable budgets, but also make the right priorities when it comes to implementation.

A County Budget and Economic Forum (CBEF) is an important tool for facilitating public participation at the county level.

The major function of the County Budget and Economic Forum (CBEF) is to facilitate public participation in the budget process at the county level.

In Laikipia County, the special Forum serves as the major mechanism for the public to participate in the budget process and public finances. The eight members act as the first people in various economic representations to drive and shape how the county budget should be, owing to the large groups they represent.

Through the formation of the Forum in Laikip-

ia there has been a facilitation in improvement of the coordination between the citizens and government and also improvement in the harmonization of project implementation and funding.

Public participation is a requirement by the Kenyan constitution before any government embarks on any activity that has impacts on the citizens. Holding of public participation helps the government in doing what the citizens need and feel is their priority. This saves tax payers money which would otherwise have been lost if the government heavily invested in a project that is of no value to the public.

As a demonstration of taking the views of Laikipia residents seriously, the county government has a directorate exclusively dealing with public participation. There also exist an Act in Laikipia government on Public participation- something that makes the county to stand out among the 47 devolved units.

Transparency

In a survey carried out towards the end of last year by International Budget Partnership (IBP) counties transparency on budget transparency, only Laikipia and another county had offered the right transparency on all budget matters. the survey found out that Laikipia county displays all the required documents on the county website which shows the utmost level of transparency.

Access to Safe, Clean Water Changing Mukogodo West Ward



Losheki water pan in Mukogodo West (Complete)

By Felix Domo,
Mukogodo West ward

Access to clean and reliable water remains an enabler in improving livelihoods and general wellbeing. Majority of residents of Mukogodo westward Laikipia County were leaving a miserable life without clean domestic water, most of the residents fetched the commodity from far and a 20-

litre can would be sold for Kshs 10-30. Being a pastoralist area most the conflict was because of water for their livestock. This situation has since changed for the better. This was as a result of public participation, prioritization of the water projects by the residents of Mukogodo west, (people driven projects) to change the situation. Majority of the residents can now quench their thirst at their comfort without walking long distances, water for livestock is now available

from the construction of several water pans across the ward and this has so far eliminated water conflict among the pastoralist. Laikipia county government is and has so far implemented a number of projects based on the community prioritization. It is an inspiring story for many other areas facing similar challenges. For the financial year 2019/2020 highlighted, are a few of the so many completed projects at the department of water environment and natural resources, this includes:

- ◆ Losheki water pan in Mukogodo West (Complete)
- ◆ Kurum Borehole, Mukogodo West. Laikipia North. The borehole has been drilled fitted with solar pumping system. (Complete)
- ◆ Desilted Tiemamut dam in Mukogodo West(Complete)
- ◆ Equipping of Kurum borehole (Complete)
- ◆ Drilling and Equipping of Olmunichoi (Complete)
- ◆ Repair and servicing of Ilpolei borehole (Complete)
- ◆ Musul water pans(Complete)
- ◆ Repair and rehabilitation of Losheki Dam (15,000 M³)(Complete)
- ◆ Losheki water pan in Mukogodo West (Complete)

Traders Appreciate Sipili Market Stalls

By Priscillah Chumo, Ol Moran Ward



Sipili market stalls already completed awaiting inspection and handing over. The traders are happy that their products will be protected from the scorching sun, rain and unpredictable fires. In addition, the improved business environment will bring in more business which translates to higher income. They are thankful and are calling upon the government to continue with the development momentum .



Laikipia Benefits From a WB-Funded Project to Enhance Skills



Laikipia County Top managers led by H.E Governor Ndiritu Muriithi and officers KIHBT officials during the official Launch of KIHBT Laikipia Training base last year

Laikipia county is among counties that will benefit from a World Bank project that seeks to enhance a broad range of technical skills.

The project known as East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP) is being implemented by the Kenya Institute of Highway Building and Technology (KIBHT), among other institutions.

In November last year, KIHBT opened a training center at Gachuiro, Umande ward after the county Government offered land.

EASTRIP is geared towards supporting the development and delivery of demand driven TVET programs for technician training in Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania in transport, energy, manufacturing and ICT sectors. It will offer support to industry recognized short term training.

The overall goal of EASTRIP is to support countries in developing sufficient national skills that can catalyze economic development, regional trade and integration.

EASTRIP received a grant of \$293 million from the World Bank to improve the technical training in East Africa. In Kenya, KIBHT will benefit from Kshs 9 billion.

The Umande center will offer much needed technical training in areas of highways technology to the youths in the Laikipia and the surrounding counties.

The regional approach by EASTRIP aims at developing the specialized TVET skills by creating a small cluster of regional TVET centers. These centers will specialize in specific sectors offering short term courses recognized in the industry.

These efforts were necessitated by the 2015 World Bank Enterprise Surveys that covered 25% of formal firms and established that the major constraint the firms faced was an inadequately educated workforce.

The training center will offer the same technical courses as TVET which is geared in promoting social inclusiveness and poverty alleviation as it tends to attract students from lower social economic background who have lower probabilities of reaching higher education.

The Umande center will offer course touching on the transport sector which has been identified as having shortage of specialized TVET skills. The shortage has been blamed for slowing down industrialization agenda.

The county government of Laikipia will take advantage of these skilled workforce to undertake major renovations in the towns and assist the county to bridge the gap that currently exist.

The training will help the county government to implement smart town initiative which is geared towards making towns in Laikipia people friendly, more habitable and attractive for investment.

"The idea of smart towns is necessitated by

need for them to be paved, have proper design, street lights and necessary utilities", Governor Ndiritu Muriithi said.

He says that the training center will offer technology such as use of cobble stones to improve the towns. Cobble stones are long lasting, this will enable the county government to build better roads and that are more durable. The training will also create jobs for the among the youths.

Governor Muriithi also notes that Laikipia have over slightly 7000 km of classified roads of which only about 2500 kms with murram. This creates the need to improve the road network within the county.

EASTRIP in partnership with KIBHT will help Laikipia to develop, implement and monitor the process of skill transfer to youths and contractors working with the county government to fill the skills gap in the infrastructure sector.

"In near future we will be asking, how many people have been trained in cobble stone technology? And of those, how many kilometres of road have they built?", Governor proposes.

The next thing he says is that there is need to go beyond just building roads to outcomes and impacts.

There must be impact or transformation that have been achieved by the residents after work is complete.

"We will need to know how those roads built are assisting and serving the residents of Nyahururu or Marmanet," he said.