



# Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

**WEEKLY  
BULLETIN**

## Solio Water Fees Will Facilitate Production



Top: Deputy Governor John Mwaniki and Water CECM Njenga Kahiro at a meeting between Government and citizens to assess the impact of Solio water project. It agreed to have in place a water fee that will facilitate production

By Everlyne Wanjiru

Residents from the seven Solio villages have a reason to smile following the restructuring of water tariffs to enable them do small irrigation.

The minimum chargeable amount will drop from Ksh350 to a graduated tariff with Kshs200 being the minimum monthly charge. This will accommodate majority of households.

This move will enable many of the households in the seven villages utilize the water to the maximum.

In a meeting last week to assess the impact of the project on the residents, attended Deputy Governor John Mwaniki, Water CECM Njenga Kahiro, Nawasco representatives, among other government officials, the residents expressed their gratitude for the reduction in the cost.

Ms Ann Wangui, a resident of Village 4, said the move will enable parents to keep their young adults busy by giving them portions of land where they can grow their own crops for domestic and commercial purposes.

This, she said, would improve on reduction of drug use among the youths and insecurity issues.

“Now that this water is affordable, our children will be able to make money for themselves and stop indulging in crime,” said Wangui.

Key among the goals of this project is to transform the lives of Solio residents from relying on relief food to become horticultural producers with higher incomes.

Some of the 1,800 households already connected have established drip irrigation plots with tomatoes, onions among other food crops.

This is expected to greatly improve their living standards.

The Deputy Governor said government is committed to provision of clean and affordable water to all citizens of Laikipia.

“we shall continuously improve this model so as to empower the citizens of Solio to make sure they move from relief food dependency to food security as envisioned in the BI \$ Agenda,” he said.

Mr Kahiro said the aim of the Solio Water Project was to transform and improve the quality of lives of the citizens who suffered adverse effects of drought.



Solio water project has transformed the settlement scheme from barren land to one which is production. This will improve the quality of life of the residents

# 'I want NTRH to Have a Public– Private Patients' Model'

**E**ach day Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital (NTRH) handles an average of 800 patients. This a number that baffles health experts since they reflect those of well-resourced higher level health facilities within the region. Leading medical insurance underwriters like Britam, Jubilee, Kenya Alliance, NHIF and Sanlam have also accredited NTRH as their service provider. Our Staff Writer **Nahashon Maina** talked to NTRH CEO **Dr Timothy Panga** on what is driving this customer flow, as well as the strategy in place in the medium term. Here is the interview:

## **How is your typical day as the person at helm of a busy organization like NTRH?**

I am a 24 hours person. My day involves checking the workload of the previous day, revenue issues, checking whether the hospital system is working, whether there are any incidences in the books that need my attention, staff welfare issues and staff requests.

I also liaise with various departments and address stakeholders' issues that may arise during the day.

I am usually at work when called upon by duty manager for any issue at the hospital maybe emergency, supervision that needs my intervention, someone requiring certain care that we might not be able to provide or one we can address but requires a certain member of the staff.

## **NTRH attends to over 50,000 patients every quarter. What does this mean to you?**

It's a vote of confidence on our service delivery. We are serving the largest section of the community. Most of the community members depend on us for services and we provide those services at all times going by large number of satisfied customers. NTRH has goodwill of the people. It's the first point of call for many people and they get good service. That's why they keep coming in big numbers. Few other hospitals in this region have such numbers. It means that NTRH is important to the community regardless of what is said in the public. We continue to improve our services.

## **How many staff do you have and how do you ensure team cohesion?**

We got 350 staff members. These include seven specialists, 24 medical officers, seven pharmacists, four pharmacy technicians, three nutritionists, two dentists, 24 clinical officers, 160 nurses, among other highly qualified health professionals and supportive staff. Each member of the team in the hospital comes already with their specialized skills area. That's the best way to achieve staff harmony. Making sure they have all they need for service delivery and forming functional clinic and hospital governance committees for different areas.



We also make sure team members grows together, so we are very keen on health promotion and making sure that the staff get promoted properly as it is a big component of our pride and being part of NTRH.

## **Which services does NTRH offer?**

Patients comes for various reasons; specialist clinics that they have booked for, checkups, maternal child services, pregnant mother who requires antenatal care, children coming for child welfare services, some for comprehensive health care clinic, HIV treatment, TB and radiology. It's important to note that we are the hospital with a specific radiology equipment called Orthopantomogram (OPG) which is a panoramic scanning dental X-ray of the upper and lower jaw.

## **How has the high NHIF enrollment rate impacted on NTRH?**

Our NHIF counters are ever busy. Very few of our customers are accessing health care through cash payment. NHIF card is a testimony of what the county government has done at the demand level. We are the supply side of NHIF services but people who are demanding are patients when they register themselves.

## **Jubilee insurance is the latest medical insurance firm to accredit your hospital. What does this mean for NTRH?**

It is a new area we have entered. It was a big step of faith in our services because most privately -insured patients are discerning, they can often see the stage of preparation that you are in. Many insurances firms like Jubilee, Britam, Kenya Alliance and Sanlam have agreed to walk with us as we build ourselves into a proper alternative for affordable health care.

## **You are in the process of leasing medical equipment, how is this going to change service delivery?**

We have a new building that require us to add nearly 120 beds with two functional theatre, maternity, and private wing with adequate patient monitoring and treatment. We have oxygen need that almost double our current capacity and need to accommodate for future growth. Patients will be more and we don't want to keep on referring them for CT scan and MRI. Leasing of medical equipment is just a way to getting all that we need all at once without the need to pay for them at once. It's a big complement of our growth. We are currently working on business plan that affirms leasing is the way to go as it will have immediate benefits in terms of service volumes and even realization of more revenue.

## **Where do you see NTRH in the next five years?**

A more self-sustaining institution meeting most of the costs including a good portion of permanent staff cost because we will grow volume of services. I see a hospital that operate on both public-private patients' model. A hospital with all diagnostic services, modern MRI, CT scan and large oxygen generating plant to meet 10 years need. People first and foremost come to a hospital to be treated but also a very important factor is their comfort. People choose the hospital based on comfort so we have to bring those two together. You can only go so far with effectiveness of health services if you do not have adequate comfort for those patients. This meaning more space, cleanliness, personalized attention and personal amenities in a room or ward.

# Laikipia's Unexploited Minerals

**By Jackline Mariga**

Laikipia County is rich in minerals that investors may take advantage of to trigger local manufacturing. The huge deposits can be used to make quality tools to drive the county's industrialization process to process the raw materials.

Laikipia is making efforts to become a manufacturing county producing final products for local consumption and export as opposed to exporting raw materials. Mining is an important component of industrialization process.



*Granite in Mukogodo area*

Prof. Nick Wanjohi, an expert in the process of industrialization says industrialization begins when a country starts by making tools and machines for mass production.

"No country has ever become developed if it relied on tools and machines from other countries. It is time Laikipia took advantage of the wealth it possesses to produce its own tools and machines," he said.

In 2020, the County Government of Laikipia carried out a Mineral Exploration Survey to locate, map and ascertain the presence of minerals within the County.

The outcome was a preliminary mineral report which was made public at the inaugural Laikipia Mining Conference held in February last year.

The county is endowed with a variety of minerals spread across the different terrain. A di-



*Iron Ore*



*Limestone*

rectorate of mining has been established in the county government coordinate and expedite acquisition of all mining permits and licenses.

The directorate is performing a geophysical survey and coring with the aim of establishing an artisanal mining register.

It is also mapping and quantifying iron and limestone deposits to come up with a mineral map. Iron ore of igneous origin was found at Naibor/Mugwooni area where a sample taken from one location had 75 percent iron.

The mining sector approximates at least 1.5



*Graphite - Carbon*

tonnes of iron core. The survey showed that iron ore outcrop was traced for a width of 100 meters while the north-south strike direction

was traced a similar distance.

Sample tests conducted shows that limestone found in Kimanju area is about 81% pure. This is a proof that the mineral is of high quality and worthwhile. Al Arjiju possesses 44% of Aluminum.

The county government of Laikipia has a strategy of rehabilitating the quarries and



*Kaolin - "China Clay"*



*Bauxite - Aluminium Ore*

| Minerals      | Percentage % | Area                       |
|---------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Iron ore      | 73.4         | Naibor/Mugwooni            |
|               | 34.4         | Luonyeki                   |
|               | 33.8         | Muyuarak                   |
|               | 33.9         | Tinga Mara                 |
|               | 34.4         | Suguta Ranch               |
| Limestone     |              | Laibor Soit Hill (Kimanju) |
| Clay minerals | 23.2%        | Impala Ranch               |
| Kaolinite     |              | Loldaiga Ranch             |
| Bentonite     |              |                            |
| Bauxite       | 42%          | Olarjiju                   |

# Road Designs a Key Agenda of Governor's Road Sector Roundtable

By Muriithi John

**R**oad safety is highly dependent on road designs that include the main roads coupled with pathways for non-motorists. It is in this regard that the county government brings together all the stakeholders in the road sector to establish the best ways to design and implement various roads in the county. The team usually meet twice a year. The recent one was on February 24, 2020.

The group comprise of the Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development, Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA), Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA), Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology (KIHBT), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA).

The Kenya Roads Board (KRB) provides financial support to these stakeholders for implementation of various projects in the county. KIHBT comes in to provide the necessary training to contactors and other stakeholders to ensure construction of modern and durable roads.

KWS have constructed and maintained most of the roads within their jurisdiction in Laikipia county.

The Class C roads done by KeRRA in the county totals to 481.3 kilometres; 155.9Km of Paved roads, 171.6Km of Gravel roads, and Earth Roads extending to 153.8Km

The coming together of these players ensure an agreement of the workplans on who should do what in a given area and report on individual achievements in a given financial year.

It also helps to avoid duplication of roles as each party knows what the other is doing, and also in ensuring there are no overlaps.

"There is synergy in efforts when different stakeholders come together. We are able to follow the right processes in road contractions right from design up to their implementation," said Joseph Shuel, the CECM in charge of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development.

The modern design ensures proper drainage in towns and also rural places. Flooding is one of the factors destroying tarmac and murram and thereby giving the roads short lifespan.

| TYPE OF ROAD | ROAD NAME                   | 2016/17 |        | 2017/18 |               | ROAD NAME                | 2018/19 |               | 2019/20 |            | TOTAL         |
|--------------|-----------------------------|---------|--------|---------|---------------|--------------------------|---------|---------------|---------|------------|---------------|
|              |                             | Kms     | Budget | Kms     | Budget        |                          | Kms     | Budget        | Kms     | Budget     |               |
| GRAVEL       | Gwa Kung'u - Doldol Turnoff | 70      |        | 70      | 16,753,371.00 | Gwa Kung'u - Mutara      | 25      | 16,222,020    | 25      | 8,316,567  | 41,291,958.00 |
| BITUMEN      | Doldol Turnoff - Nanyuki    | 9       |        | 9       | 13,311,399.00 | Mutara - Doldol Turnoff  | 45      | 31,819,343    | 45      | 17,633,416 | 62,764,158.00 |
|              |                             |         |        |         |               | Doldol Turnoff - Nanyuki | 9       | 10,487,995    | 9       | 487,995    | 10,975,990.00 |
| BITUMEN      | Nyahururu - Rumuruti        | 43      |        | 43      | 0             | Nyahururu - Rumuruti     | 43      |               | 43      | 15,000,000 | 15,000,000.00 |
| BITUMEN      | Rumuruti - Naibor           | 45      |        | 45      | 0             | Rumuruti - Naibor        | 45      | 14,203,995.84 | 45      | 34,000,159 | 48,204,154.84 |
| BITUMEN      | Naibor - Kisima             | 45      |        | 45      | 8,330,622     | Naibor - Kisima          | 45      |               | 45      |            |               |

Kenha road network in Laikipia county

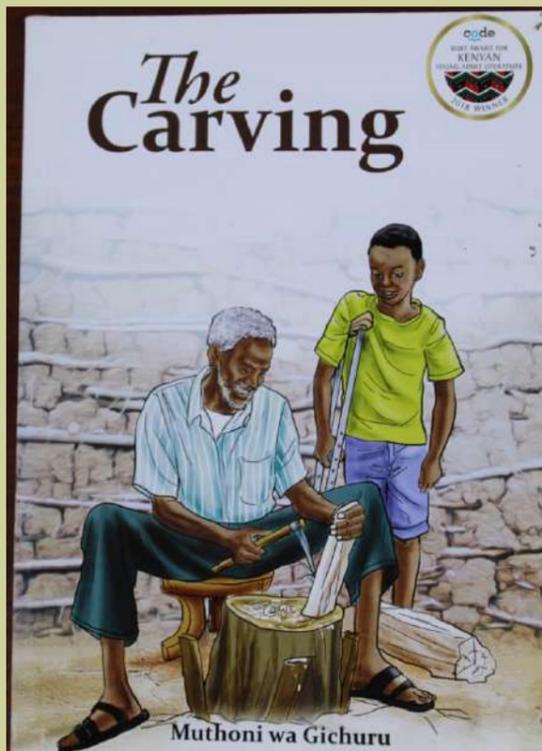
| Road Class/Name   | Bitumen (Km) | Gravel (Km) | Earth (Km) | Total (km) |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| C501<br>Maili Saba- Ol Ngarua- Rumuruti- Mutara- Lamuria- Naro Moru | 96.7         | 47.8        |            | 144.5      |
| C481<br>Babito (Kieni Dairy)- Naro Moru                             | 14           | 4.3         |            | 18.3       |
| C357<br>Naibor- Dol Dol- Lekusero- Eth- Ngare Ndare                 |              | 61.5        | 30         | 91.5       |
| C610<br>Sosian - Kilimun (Db Samburu)                               |              | 10          | 44.8       | 54.8       |
| C697<br>Jua- Kali- Akorin0- Maili Sita                              | 15           | 5           |            | 20         |
| C696<br>Sosian- Impala- Mukima                                      | 14           | 15          | 33         | 62         |
| C77<br>Maundu Meri- Kinamba- Mouwarak                               |              | 28          | 46         | 74         |
| C506 Nairutia- Karai  | 16.2         |             |            | 16.2       |

KeRRA roads in Laikipia County

| Municipality | Name of the road classified /proposed for classification as National Trunk Road | Gazetted/Proposed Class ID | Proposed Name for Gazettement  | Road Length (m) |
|--------------|---|----------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Nanyuki      | Neema School-Nanyuki Barracks- A2   | UCB1- Nanyuki              | A2 - Nanyuki Golf/Members Club - Sportman Arms   | 0.80            |
| Nanyuki      | Neema School-Nanyuki Barracks- A2   | UCB2 - Nanyuki             | Sportman Arms - Nanyuki Barracks - Neema School - A2   | 7.60            |
| Nanyuki      | Sweet Water- Nanyuki  | UCB3 - Nanyuki             | Nanyuki A2-sweet waters  | 12.20           |
| Nanyuki      | Ngoro Theru-Nanyuki   | UCB4 - Nanyuki             | Nanyuki A2-Ngoro Theru   | 8.40            |
| Nanyuki      | Lenana Road   | UCB5 - Nanyuki             | Lenana Road (Jnct A2 - Mt. Kenya Road)   | 0.80            |
| Nanyuki      | Upper Muthaiga Road   | UCB6 - Nanyuki             | Lenana Road - Muthaiga Estate - Pope John Paul II Huruma Health Centre - UCB1 - Nanyuki (Neema - Baracks Road) | 2.20            |
|              |   |                            | Total  | 32 km           |

Kura roads in Nanyuki Municipality

# Through Books, Laikipia's Muthoni wa Gichuru Promotes Social Justice and Equity for Young Generation



Muthoni wa Gichuru, first prize Burt award for African writers 2018 and her book, 'The Carving'

By Nahashon Maina

Can writing change the world? For Muthoni wa Gichuru the answer is yes.

A Laikipian born and raised in Matanya, Muthoni is an award-winning prolific writer with over ten titles to her name. She writes fiction for children and young adults themed on social justice and equity.

The mother of three who attended Tigithi Primary School and Gatero Secondary school holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Sciences from Moi University.

Her writing nurtures growth and development of young adults' personalities and social skills.

It provides a pleasurable reading experience for young people, emphasizing real life experience and problems in easier-to-grasp ways and depicts societal functions.

Her book, *The Carving* was the winner of the 2018 CODE Burt Prize for African Young Adult Literature Kenya.

It is a story of a disabled boy with a talent for art who is forced to leave school and take up manual work when his mother falls ill. His father had abandoned the family years before, but a concerned teacher intervenes and gets the boy back to school.

Despite frequent bullying by other students, he wins an art competition that marks a turning point in his life.

"The story is personal to me because I have a brother who has physical disability," Muthoni says.

This writing with power about personal and social issues can help create awareness about disability as it shows that there is no limitation to what one can achieve.

In another of her titles, *Breaking the Silence* (2012),

Muthoni writes about sexual abuse. It is a story of a girl who was gang-raped and tells of her experience.

This book was from her first manuscript that she wrote in 2003 and it was not until 2010 when it was finally published by East African Education Publishers (EAEP). It went on to be the 1st runners up for the Jomo Kenyatta Literature Prize, 2011.

She has also won Burt Award for African Writing second prize 2016 and Africalia's Creativity-Is-Life-Grants Scholar 2020. She has been shortlisted for Africa Book Club Short Story Prize 2018, Queen Mary Wasafiri Writing Prize (2019), life-writing category among others.

Her inspiration in writing is the need to tell a story, to see or know that her readers are enjoying the story she has written. She says that her late mother was a great story teller and she tries to follow in her footsteps.

In writing, she keeps it simple and write stories that are relatable.

Another of her book, *Kefa's Quest* is the coming-of-age story of Kefa, who faces overwhelming challenges at the onset of adulthood. The characters grow and experience fundamental changes in their lives.

As Kefa matures, his perspective changes and he gradually loses his innocence. The other character, Zuri, also undergoes a remarkable change, from a self-centered teenager to a person who is willing to help others.

The issues in the story touch on what many young adults go through both societal and age-bound.

Through her writing she is able to cultivate and develop a love and passion for reading.

"There's one rule I write by. Don't be boring. Don't capture the mundane and the ordinary but what is exciting and thought provoking. I also use a lot of humor," she adds.

Having 12 published books, her advice to young and upcoming writers is not to worry whether what they have written is good or bad.

They should share it with their family and friends and after that, share with people who will be objective in their appraisal. Muthoni adds that writing is a labor of love and as Kenyans, we should tell our stories or someone else will.

Muthoni has also published seven anthologies- *Fresh Paint* volume 2 (2015), *Moonscapes* (2016), *The wrong Patient and Other Stories* (2018), *Kweli Journal*, 2019, *Wasafiri Journal*, 2020, *Africalia, Creativity is life*, 2020, *International Women Writers Guild: Our Stories, Ourselves* (2021).



Muthoni wa Gichuru donating books to pupils at Weruini Primary school, Nanyuki in 2019

# Chief, Police Officer Imparting Knowledge to Luoniek Community

**A** chief and police officer are among volunteers going beyond their duty to teach students at Luoniek secondary school where Ministry of Education has posted only one teacher.

Senior chief Daniel Eshikon and Constable James Saris are assisting the principal of the school who is the only teacher employed by Teacher Service Commission (TSC).

It has never been an easy journey in search of knowledge for

the Luoniek community. Parents wishing educate their children beyond primary school could rent rooms for them in Rumuruti town some 70 kilometres where they could access secondary school education.

This is the first secondary school in the expansive location of Sosian ward. Its first classroom was built in 2018 with the help of Governor Ndiritu Muriithi's administration before MP Sarah Korere through NG-CDF added a second one.

But the Ministry of Education provided provisional registration to the school only last year and deployed a principal teacher there after the intervention of Governor Muriithi again.

Aware that education is a key enabler in the



*Chief Daniel Eshikon during a class lesson*

transformation of his society, Chief Eskon his police officer are going an extra mile beyond their administrative duties to fill the void of several teachers needed in the school.

The two officers are playing a direct role in improving the community through access to education.

Constable James Saris is a graduate in financial management from MKU. He is helping in creating a supportive and welcoming environment at the school and facilitate improvement in students' performance.

Other two volunteers are Susan Cherop a graduate teaching mathematics and James Ondoga, a first-year student at Mount Kenya University. They have demonstrated commit-

ment and passion by dedicating their time to the students.

These individuals underline the determination and relentless pursuit of knowledge by the Luoniek community to prosper through education.

The school which is the first institution of that level in the whole location was mooted during the inaugural Nanyuki-Luoniek Amateur Fun Race in November 2017.

It has only two classrooms. Today, the school has a total of 30 students, form one 17 and Form

two 13.

In 2017, the school had 45 students before the COVID-19 break. The community has values this school.

The only other school, Survey Secondary in the ward is some 25 kms away. The first class in Luoniek was constructed by the county government in 2017 with the second one being done by Laikipia North NG-CDF in 2020.

Luoniek School lies in the western side of Laikipia and border Baringo and Samburu counties. The major communities in the area practice nomadic pastoralism. The school was constructed to access education without move long distances.

## Amaya Envisions Sustainable Regional Peace, Economic Development

By Jackline Mariga

**A**MAYA Triangle Initiative (ATI) is a cooperation for peace and development which brings together the four counties of Baringo, Laikipia, Samburu and Isiolo. It aims at adopting sustainable policy approach towards addressing the common development challenges particularly on insecurity, resource conflicts, food insecurity, environmental issues, drought emergencies,

natural resource management and livelihoods.

The initiative has been adoption of modern technology as a sustainable and economically viable way livestock keeping which also addresses prevent pasture-related conflicts.

After the 2017 General Election, Laikipia Governor Ndiritu Muriithi mobilized the region governors, senators and MCAs to form the bloc as a response to the insecurity that characterized the region which slowed down its economic development.

This was to be achieved by having the four counties implement targeted projects such as water, infrastructure and education sectors simultaneously to minimize resource-based conflicts. The initiative seeks to transform the region economically by unlocking the potential of beef, leather and tourism sectors by carrying out simultaneous projects across the four counties to eliminate conflicts that are often triggered by pastoralists in search of water and pasture.

To reduce water related conflict, the four devolved governments have made tremendous efforts in doing water pans along the common boundaries. Laikipia has done Kiambogo borehole. It has also engaged the National Youth Service to open up new transport corridors in its expansive northern frontage, as it explores viable alternatives to open up the vast unexploited commercial spaces. The NYS has been working on the Timau-Mia Moja Arjijo Road, a key link road that connects Laikipia East to the northern side of the county. The government targets to upgrade 42 Kms of roads to all weather standards under this programme. They include a 19 kilometres stretch from Chumvi Bridge to Arjijo Junction, linking the area to an existing main transport route done by the national government. Another 23 Kms will link Doldol to Seki in Isiolo County, with the rest linking parts of Laikipia North to the West.



*A technical meeting of Amaya Triangle Initiative*

# Proposed Doldol Fence to Reduce Human-Wildlife Conflict

By Nahashon Maina

A 10-km electric fence to be constructed around Doldol township will reduce the persistent human-wildlife conflict in the area.

On Thursday, the County Government of Laikipia held a consultative meeting with stakeholders to enhance the project sustainability and safeguard the environment.

Collection various stakeholder views is part of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirements.

“As government, we are ready to support the project and whatever effort is required of us we will be there,” Deputy Governor John Mwaniki said.

During the construction of the fence, the local community is expected to benefit from employment and business opportunities.

The EIA will help in assessing negative environmental and social impacts. It will form the process of project implementation and the inputs of stakeholders will help to inform the decision by NEMA for approval.

“Participation of the community in mapping and alignment of the fence is important because they are the ones affected and will eventually benefit from the project,” Water, Environment and natural resources CECM Njenga Kahiro said.

KWS will ensure that there are small gates for



*A consultative meeting for proposed Doldol fence at County Hall*

livestock and people to pass across designated to prevent small animals from passing through.

The KWS will also partner with Northern Rangeland Trust (NRT) which is implementing another fence project for Naibunga Conservancy.

Doldol town has experienced disruption of business operations once the elephants invade forcing the residents to flee. The fence

will enable the residents to go on with the business activities and help in the improvement of town infrastructure.

Deputy Speaker Daniel Nyausi, noted that the fence will secure the town in many years to come from the invasion of wildlife.

He said that there is need to secure the town from the wildlife for the purpose of development.

## Environment Directorate's Contribution to a Laikipia with Best Quality of Life



By Lewis Mutuku

Government efforts to make Laikipia a prosperous county with the best quality of life through the Smart Towns Initiative has seen an increase in urban population

The directorate of Environment has an instrumental role in ensuring the county has clean and safe environment through town clean ups, solid waste collection and disposal in all major towns, urban centers and markets.

It is impossible to achieve good quality life without a clean environment. Last year, more than 81,000 tons of waste was collected and disposed in county-owned dumpsites.

This was achieved through a well-organized team of operators who work harmoniously to ensure that every citizen has access to clean environments.

Covid-19 pandemic provided a chance to further improve on efficiency of waste collection and disposal through the *Kazi Mtaani initiative* that has seen bushy areas and illegal dumpsite cleared.

Most of this waste is recycled and sold back to the manufacturing industry, the organic type of waste is also used in making compost which improves soil fertility.

As part of promoting innovations, products are being developed from recovered waste at the Nanyuki dumpsite. In addition, the County Government is putting in place robust solid waste management policies and systems, including information technology, that lead to clean, smart and livable towns and market centers across the County.

## Laikipia Rolls Covid-19 Vaccination

**L**aikipia County has received 3,000 doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

Last week, 60 of the targeted front-line staff received the first injection of the vaccine. A number of medical personnel had undergone a training administration of the vaccine. These senior managers, ICT officer and two vaccinators from the two level V hospitals (Nyahururu County Referral Hospital and Nanyuki teaching and Referral Hospital) were trained as Trainers of Trainers on how to administer the vaccine.

In the first phase, a total 4,178 staff in all

health facilities (public and other facilities) will be vaccinated and the distribution is as shown in the table below. The vaccination commenced on 9th March 2021 in the two sites. NCRH is expected to vaccinate a total of 2,246 health workers from Laikipia West and Sosian ward while NTRH is expected to vaccinate 1,932 health workers from Laikipia East and Laikipia North. The activity will commence for three months for phase 1. By 9th March 2021, the two sites had vaccinated 60 health workers without any report of adverse event following immunization. The government encourages all health workers to avail themselves in the two

sites for vaccination for the first dose and return for the second dose in eight weeks' time after the first one. The trainers of trainers are continuing with sensitization of the staff on the vaccine and also training more vaccinators at the two sites.

The government is grateful to the health workers in Laikipia County for the great job they have been doing to lower the transmission of COVID-19. Since the pandemic started, the positive cases in Laikipia are 1,062 (as at 8th March 2021). Vaccination will lead to herd immunity and hence the beginning of the reversal of the pandemic.

|                             | County/<br>sub-<br>county<br>health<br>offices | Public<br>HFs | Private<br>HFs | FBO<br>HFs | CHVs | NGO<br>HFs | Totals |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------|----------------|------------|------|------------|--------|
| Laikipia East Subcounty     | 17   | 168           | 217            | 174        | 322  | 0          | 898    |
| Laikipia North subcounty    | 12   | 145           | 15             | 10         | 220  | 6          | 408    |
| Laikipia West Subcounty     | 19   | 381           | 220            | 239        | 540  | 0          | 1399   |
| Nyahururu CRH               | 0  | 407           | 0              | 0          | 0    | 0          | 407    |
| NTRH                        | 0  | 575           | 0              | 0          | 0    | 0          | 575    |
| County Department of Health | 51   | 0             | 0              | 0          | 0    | 0          | 51     |
| KMTC                        | 0  | 440           | 0              | 0          | 0    | 0          | 440    |
| Totals                      | 99   | 2116          | 452            | 423        | 1082 | 6          | 4178   |

## New Leadership in Iingwesi1 Maiyanat Community Land Management Committee

By Dennis Lomany, Mukogodo East Ward

Iingwesi 1 Maiyanat Community Land Assembly held their meeting on 25/02/2021 at Olgenei, Makurian Location - Mukogodo East Ward

A smooth transition took place. New community land management committees took over in the presence of Community Land Registrar, Ms Pamela Mutegi.

In attendance were the CGL, ACC, Group ranch partners, NRT, FAO, KWS, Amaya Triangle, Impact group, Borana, Oldaiga and Ole Naishu Ranch and Members of the group ranch.

Community land management is of great importance:

1. It promotes conservation of forest and grazing land
2. By partnering with other organizations like NRT, FAO, Amaya triangle, KWS, white ranches like Borana, Olenaishu, Daiga and the County Government in control and eradication of Opuntia cactus that has consumed large tracts of grazing land by using environmental friend-



Members of Iingwesi 1 Maiyanat Community during the transition of the management committee

- ly biocontrol
3. Proper land use can be achieved with the current partners like FAO who can train members on how to use their land for beneficial activities.
4. Enhancement of security will be realized

through collaboration with the relevant bodies and security agencies.

5. Through community land management, development funds and donation for building dams, boreholes, schools and hospitals will be enabled through the partners and local government.