



Pension Fund Boosts Laikipia's Efforts in Affordable Housing



A model of the envisaged affordable housing project in Laikipia

By Muriithi John

County Pensions Fund, CPF, has agreed to finance the construction of affordable houses at Yard 2 Estate in Nanyuki town.

This follows an agreement on the design and alignment of the construction following a feasibility study the fund and the County Government of Laikipia.

The entrance of the Fund into Laikipia's housing sector is a major boost in the efforts towards actualizing one of the Government's Big Four Agenda for Laikipia residents. The County Government targets to provide modern affordable houses to citizens. In the first phase, the government will construct 1,500 houses in the area using modern designs.

"We are constructing using modern designs buildings not less than five story with all the necessary amenities for proper hygiene in the area," said Joseph Shuel, the CECM in charge of Housing and Urban Development.

All the structures will have pathways for easier access and movement of people with disabilities. Enough parking space for all types of cars and fortified walls for security improvement have been planned for. Construction will begin in the unoccupied areas to avoid displacing the residents. Relocation would bring unnecessary delays and which may halt the implementation of the one-of-a-kind investment.

"There will be no displacement of people living in the area as we plan to do the first Phase on the open space near the slaughter house. On completion, we will move to Phase Two having provided houses for people to move in," Mr. Shuel said. The investment is market driven as there is a huge demand for accommodation within Nanyuki. There has been an upsurge of population within Nanyuki town, which celebrated its centenary year in 2020.

The feasibility study conducted by the Coun-

ty Government in the last two years has enabled the department to identify the kind of houses that Laikipians will be able to pay.

"The payment will be affordable for the buyers through a mortgage that will be arranged with the local banks and Saccos," the CECM said.

Other area earmarked for affordable housing are Ngei Estate in Nanyuki, Kiano Estate in Nyahururu, and the government houses in Rumuruti. Laikipia being a land of opportunities has attracted investors who have come to tap business opportunities created by the government. Smart Town Initiative by the government has not only transformed Nanyuki and Nyahururu towns, but also other major urban areas in the county. The conducive business environment has attracted many investors and workers, thereby creating a need for more and better houses in the area.

NTRH, International Cancer Institute Partner to Fight Cancer



Governor ndiritu Muriithi talks to patients who turned up during the first joint clinic ICI and NTRH

By Muriithi John

International Cancer Institute has joined Laikipia's efforts to fight cancer.

Through the Empower Cancer Clinic which was established at NTRH by the County First Ladies' Association, the government has been attracting more partners to eradicate all types of cancer.

On Thursday March 4, 2021, the partnership saw a team from ICI and the NTRH treat 23 cancer patients.

The partnership started during the Cervical Cancer Prevention Week in January when ICI took some samples from those who had presented themselves for screening at Central Park.

Five cases were confirmed positive from the 30 samples taken, and were among the 25 being treated on the 4th of March.

"We have come with six of our specialists to offer treatment, screening and training the health workers," said Ms. Gloria Kitur, the Programme Manager, Shing Tower Project International Cancer Institute based in Eldoret.

ICI is a care and research non-governmental and non-profit making international institution which provides a variety of expertise, especially on cancer and other non-communicable diseases. The new LEEP machine at NTRH has enhanced the learning and treatment, coupled with the colposcope machine. (the LEEP machine is used as part of the diagnosis and treatment for abnormal or cancerous conditions in the cervix, while the colposcopy machine is used to closely examine the women's lower genitalia for signs of disease).

The ICI team worked together with NTRH medics to learn new skills like electronic data collection and storage, the improved ways of detecting cancers at an early stage.

The ICI's logistics officer, programme officer, data manager, oncology nurse and two general practi-

tioners worked with at least one staff from NTRH in the relevant field for on job experience and mentorship.

"We have agreed with the ICI to assist us in technical support that is keeping electronic records" Laikipia County First Lady Maria Mbeneka said.

Jane Matimu, the NTRH's Palliative Care Nurse embraced the visitor's expertise which they shared with them, citing it is the way to go to manage the hospital huge data. "Getting the on-job experience was fascinating as we learned new things like electronic data storage. The method ensures that by the end of the day you have all your data in one place." she said. The joint clinic which will be happening after every three weeks

operates at no charges for the patients. It has cancer screening points, and also advice for further better health living. The ICI team will be collecting samples from the hospital every time they visit for advanced screening at their Eldoret facility. The clinic also saves on the patients' long travels in search of cancer screening and treatment services. This partnership between NTRH and ICI will go on for at least two years. Laikipia is among the slightly over 10 county governments and other organizations that ICI is working with. The organization, which provides integrated cancer related services, also provides online training for the doctors and will at some point invite NTRH staff to their Eldoret facility.



Governor Ndiritu Muriithi, County First Lady Maria Mbeneka and Ms Gloria Kitur, the Programme Manager, Shing Tower Project International Cancer Institute, witness the working of the first joint clinic in NTRH

2,000-acre Rumuruti SEZ, the Game Changer in Laikipia's Industrialization Process



Governor Ndiritu Muriithi welcomes Trade and Industrialization CAS Lawrence Karanja (left) to the inaugural Rumuruti Investment Forum held on February 26, 2021 at Rumuruti County Headquarters Grounds

By Nahashon Maina

Establishment of a Special Economic Zone in Rumuruti in progress with the County Government of Laikipia setting aside about 2,000 acres for the purpose.

This is billed as the game changer in the efforts to develop Rumuruti as an industrial town especially in the manufacturing of agricultural equipment and food processing.

Governor Ndiritu Muriithi's leadership has put in place a solid strategy to grow the county's gross domestic product four-fold - from the current Kshs 100 billion to Kshs 400 billion- through production and manufacturing.

The establishment of the SEZ will enable Laikipia to attract investments, expand and diversify production of goods and services for domestic and export markets, promote value addition in the agriculture sector, promote local entrepreneurship through Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

It will also promote rural and regional industrialization by exploiting the available mineral resources in Laikipia.

Trade and Industrialization CAS Lawrence Karanja hailed this project during the recent Rumuruti Investment Forum saying that the idea of the SEZ will make Rumuruti not only a preferred destination to invest, but also to work and live. An SEZ will open up the town to new investments which will help in transforming the town. According to Mr Karanja, most times people may want to work in a place but not live there and same may apply to those wishing to live in that but are hesitant to invest there.

The idea of the SEZ will meet all the three

criteria which will ensure people work, live and invest in Rumuruti as it will incorporate establishment of industries, commercial and residential areas.

The ministry of industrialization is ready to engage Laikipia government to ensure that the products reach the desired markets. It will also engage potential investors and make sure they are directed to come and invest in Laikipia's SEZ. Mr Karanja said that the ministry is in the process of negotiating bilateral, regional, and multinational trade agreements in order to secure improved long-term and predictable markets for Kenyan goods.

"Most of the countries are developed out of SEZ as it plays a major role in encouraging investors to put up huge investment due to incentives being offered," CAS noted.

Special Economic Zones Authority CEO, Meshack Kimeu said to the fact that SEZs spurs development in the area they are located in.

The work of the authority is to develop infrastructure for industries which attracts investors interested in manufacturing and processing for both local and export market. Kimeu notes that Rumuruti SEZ will be very crucial and important as it will meet the objectives of the authority. They include bringing industries at the county level which will create jobs, harness available resources and add value to the agricultural produce in Laikipia.

The SEZ Authority will collaborate with Laikipia to gazette the land as SEZ while working together to attract investors.

The authority could also bring resources to develop the land, set up the necessary infrastructure which will make it ready and available for investors to come in.

"Once the Rumuruti SEZ is developed, we are

going to have industries, commercial centres, recreational facilities and residential areas," Mr. Kimeu noted.

SEZ Authority will work with the county to investors to add value to the minerals found in this area. This create wealth and job opportunities among its residents.

The SEZs usually have nine sectors of interest for various investors. They include: Free Trade Zones (FTZ), Industrial Parks, Free Ports, Information Communication and Technology Parks (ICT Parks), Science and Technology Parks, Agricultural Zones, Tourist and Recreational Zones, Business Service Parks and Livestock Zones. The SEZ Act 2015 offers both general and specific incentives to the SEZ Developers, operators and Enterprises. These incentives include among others:

- Procedural/Administrative-transparency in licensing processes, quick acquisition of permits (OSS)and continual facilitation through the project stages of operation
- Fiscal Incentives-reduced operating costs, encourage new investments and reinvestments (machinery& Technology)
- World Class Infrastructure and Customized Facilities
- Land

The SEZ Programme is a purpose-built vehicle for the implementation and realization of the wider economic reform strategy i.e. vision 2030 and the Big "4" Agenda pillars i.e. Manufacturing, Affordable housing, Food Security and Affordable healthcare. The SEZ programme will transform the County into an industrial hub while stimulating the economy from the slow growth currently occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic.

NTRH Numbers that Baffle Critics



An average 700 patients attend Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital in a day.

In addition a total of 50,000 patients are attended to in this hospital every quarter. This is just slightly below the workload of Nyeri Level Five hospital which is bigger in terms of resources and facilities.

Despite its importance to patients, NTRH has over the years borne the brunt of politics and politicians. It has been a victim of bashing and a playfield for 'wannabe' politicians and any other Dick and Harry who have been peddling baseless propaganda.

But patients have defied all the social media noise to seek various healthcare service at NTRH and the daily numbers have continued to rise. In 2019 the average patient visit in a day was 600.

Indeed, over 40,000 NHIF members have chosen the hospital as their treatment centre for them and their families.

They would not do so if the facility was not providing services as alluded by the budding politicians.

Despite being surrounded by other health facilities like Kiirua Mission, Huruma, Cottage, Nyeri County Referral Hospital many citizens find NTRH the best hospital for simply because they will be served well.

The government has been making deliberate efforts to improve service delivery and is driving the process to have become a Level Five facility.

On top of having three consultation rooms, the facility also has several specialized clinics, most of which open from Monday to Friday to target as many people.

The dental clinic, which usually caters for big number of patients. About 50 per cent of the patients,



that is from other counties, are usually referred to NTRH. It also has a nutritionist to offer guidance on the best eating habits that lower chances of attracting kidney diseases. The Clinic runs on every workday.

Two dentists take care of patients at the dental clinic in the hospital. People with different problems with their teeth, jaws and gums converge at the facility every Monday to Friday for treatment.

Issuance of medical certificates for the food handlers has been eased for all the processes to take place in one place. Today, a person requiring a medical certificate starts the process and within a few hours the card is out.

NTRH hosts a POC machine to cater for the HIV positive mothers to determine the status

of the infant and the mother. The machine now takes at most two hours to produce the results. Elsewhere, getting such results goes up to 30 days.

A cancer clinic has been set up at the hospital to encourage early cancer detection and treatment. A new project dealing with Haemophilia and Sickle Cell is soon coming up.

Due to the increasing number of gender-based violence a centre to specifically deal with such cases was set-up. Many people visit the centre for various kinds of advice. Something that stands out at NTRH is the Comprehensive Care Unit that houses HDU and ICU. The ICU has a capacity of five, while the HDU can have 15 beds.

Kijabe and Il Motiok Water Pans Undergoing Desilting

By Felix Doho, Mukogodo West

Last week, together with the Laikipia county director water and Natural resources and the Laikipia north-sub county water officer, we inspected the progress on desilting of Kijabe Dam in Mukogodo

West ward following signing of Memorandum of understanding between County Government of Laikipia and National Water Harvesting & Storage Authority in July 2020. The other dams being done through this partnership at the ward is Ilmotiok dam whose progress is at the advance stage and they are both expected to be complete in June this year.



Laikipia Dryer Offering Hope to Cereal Farmers in Africa



Mr David Burii demonstrates how his Easy Dry M500 Dryer works

By Jackline Mariga

The 2018 Economic Survey by KNBS revealed that farmers lost Sh 26.9 billion worth of maize produce the previous season to post harvest losses.

This was blamed on maize that was not properly dried as many farmers still depended on natural sun to dry their produce which may be affected by seasons.

To address this, a Laikipia innovator David Burii has manufactured a machine to dry maize produce all the year round. The name of the machine is Easy Dry M500 Dryer, the number 500 denotes the total kilos of maize that the machine can dry at a go for about 2-3 hours. This is much faster than the traditional method of sun drying for almost two weeks and can be affected if it happens to rain.

The machine is a good relief to farmers as it can ensure that they are able to prevent the loss of their harvest and attract high price for maize. For a long time, Kenya has been experiencing post-harvest losses which affect food security and food situation. This contributes to rise in maize flour price due to scarcity of the produce.

Mr. Burii has modelled the M500 in such a way that it is easy to transport by collapsing it and assembling later. Farmers have the

option of buying the machine or can hire it due the harvesting season. The cost of one unit goes for KSh90,000 while hiring cost a farmer Sh200 per bag.

How it works

The dryer operates on a small petrol engine which uses 2 litres of petrol for about 3 hours to power two fans which direct heat produced by burning maize cobs to the maize bed. The heat goes under maize bed which is covered underneath to direct it upward into the maize grains.

As the hot air tries to escape, it comes into contact with the grains on the suspended rectangular table thereby removing the moisture. The M500 is able to reduce the moisture content from as high as 20 to about 13%.

Properly drying of maize is essential as it help to reduce the chance of aflatoxin contamination which can have health issues to consumers.

Mr. Burii, a beneficiary of Laikipia Innovation and Enterprises Development Program (LIEDP) attest to the assistance rendered to him which propelled his business to success after many struggles.

"I had the machine in my house for about two years without selling any or even meeting an interested person until 2017 when the county government held an innovation forum to support innovators in the county and

my idea came to light and attracted interest," Burii recalls.

He adds that for a machine which he started to make back in 2014 and completed in 2015, it was discouraging to have such an innovative machine and not attract buyer or users while post-harvest losses in maize farming continued.

After joining the LIEDP, Burii was able to receive training and there after able to access financial help through the Enterprise Fund.

Mr. Burii is based at Mwireri, Timau in Laikipia county and has been able to sell at least 23 units of the dryer both locally and international. The machine has sold outside the country to places such as Togo, Nigeria, Congo, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania through the assistance of the county which has been hand holding innovators in the LIEDP and finding market for their products.

The LIEDP has been in the forefront in advancing the mantle for production and manufacturing in the county and Mr. Burii is a testimony of such talents that the programme wishes to incubate and nurture them to success.

It offers product design and development, marketing and exposure, an enabling environment, training and certification, mentorship for entrepreneurs, financial access and strategic partnership.

The success stories such as Mr. Burii will push Laikipia to emerge as a manufacturing hub and create much needed jobs to Laikipians.

NTRH to Establish Haemophilia and Sickle Cell Wing



Governor Ndiritu Muriithi with Professor Karanja Njoroge the chairman of the Kenya Hemophilia Association, during the assessment of the grounds for setting up a Haemophilia clinic at NTRH

By StellaAnne Wanyoro

Haemophilia and Sickle cell patients in Nanyuki residents and surrounding regions will be saved from long travels in search for treatment following a new partnership between NTRH and Kenya Haemophilia Association and Novo Nordisk Haemophilia Foundation.

The partners are setting up a facility at NTRH after an assessment was done by the group's representative, Governor Ndiritu Muriithi

and the hospital management team on February 4, 2020.

The aim of bringing such a facility at NTRH is to accelerating access to Blood Disorder Care. The clinic will deal with blood-related diseases, that is, hemophilia sickle cell, that majorly involves loss or lack of blood.

According to professor Karanja Njoroge, the chairman of the Kenya Hemophilia Association, the will better the deliberate efforts as the international company manufactures and dis-

tributes hemophilia medication worldwide. This project further seeks to bring equipment to diagnose the sickle cell disease in the hospital. The project will be funded by Novo Nordisk Hemophilia Foundation and Novo Nordisk Foundation.

"With help from NHF we will put up a clinic at the NTRH, equip the clinic and laboratory with physiotherapist, train doctors, nurses and lab technicians who will help our vision of healthy citizens," Edwin Adol project manager at Kenya Hemophilia Association confirmed. All this project is set to ensure that NTRH delivers quality long-term services to Laikipians at their reach. The project will ensure renovation and establishment of the Haemophilia and Sickle cell clinic on the space provided and furnish the clinic. Further it aims at providing haemophilia and sickle cell training to selected doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and lab technicians in Laikipia and the neighbouring counties. The project will also provide lab and physiotherapy equipment for the facility.

"We are targeting to get all the people suffering from these diseases as they exist without a patient's consent. In many cases, a person does not know that they have this condition until when blood start coming out," said Prof. Njoroge adding that most of the times the condition presents itself during boys' circumcision. There will be machine for detecting the sickle cell for early detection and relevant treatment.

Laikipia Media Practitioners Trained on Business Development

By Nahashon Maina

The County Government of Laikipia organized a business development training for media enterprises in the county.

Media plays a critical role of shaping the opinion of their listeners either in TV program or radio stations.

A better economy would also impact on local media enterprises whose revenue is supported by advertising.

The county has been engaging various stakeholders to promote Laikipia a frontier in the utilization of its natural resources to achieve total transformation of its economy and citizens.

The training focused on the opportunities that are unexploited by the media within Laikipia such as limited marketing and coverage of successful innovative ideas happening.

The Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development Programme is supporting over 500 SMEs in product development and linkage with financiers.

"Media should be in forefront in supporting local innovations so long as they meet health and safety standards," Professor Nick Wanjohi one of the facilitators said..

He noted that every innovation must start somewhere and the most important thing is that the idea is nurtured. Consumption of locally manufactured goods

will reduce over reliance on imported ones and help Laikipians create more wealth among themselves.

Media practitioners can be able to embracing the change inside by creating awareness of the change, gauge desire to change, enhance knowledge on what is currently happening in Laikipia, ensure that they have ability to change and reinforce the positive things that innovators in the county are doing.



Professor Wanjohi said that industries must be the backbone of Laikipia and government to ensure that there is establishment of at least five industries in every sub location in the county.

The infrastructure undertaken by the government must be geared towards increasing production. Laikipia government must then mobilise, organise, guide and support enterprises to embark on various industrial activities.

Revival of Mt. Kenya Women League Underway

By Nahashon Maina

The resumption of Mt. Kenya Women League is slated to commence at the end of this month after final details are agreed upon by various stakeholders.

The league will comprise women teams from Laikipia, Nyeri and Kirinyaga counties. According to Laikipia FKF Chairman Abdul Kaka, in order to form a league, there must exist more than six teams to participate in the competition

He says that Laikipia have women teams in Nyahururu and Nanyuki town which will be involved in the league. Already he has met with Nyeri county counterpart FKF Chairman and Kirinyaga FKF vice chairman to charter the way forward for the commencement of the league.

Mr. Abdul says that they will be meeting on 14th March 2021 to finalize on the remaining issues and confirm the exact teams that will be in the league. The prospective teams targeted by the FKF includes six in Laikipia, 4 in Nyeri and 3 from Kirinyaga.

“The aim is to relive women teams in the region which will ensure we have more ladies participating in football activities and grow their talent,” Abdul notes.

The teams that will be confirmed for the



Express Soccer Ladies Nanyuki

league will be required to assemble in one stadium in the selected county among the three and play their matches in one day on a weekend. This is due to financial constraints that may make it difficult for the league to be played on every weekend on different venues.

To the same end, the league will be played once every fortnight or after 3 weeks break. This will give the ladies enough time to prepare and make the necessary adjustments before the next

match fixture.

“The matches will be played on the same day and will be rotated between the 3 counties, if the first match happens in Nanyuki stadium, the next one will may be in Nyeri and then move to Kirinyaga,” Abdul says.

Mr. Abdul is also calling on more ladies to avail themselves for referees training in order to be able to officiate football matches.

He says that many ladies are shying away from football activities. The county has 3 women referees from Prisons who are certified to officiate by FKF. He hopes that more will be willing to take up the course and learn various rules in the game.

He adds that referees in the ale category have passed this year physical endurance test carried out at Kasarani stadium and they will be able to officiate matches in division 2 for Nairobi west and east branches and central branch; Laikipia, Kiambu, Nyeri, Kirinyaga and Murang’a.

This will improve their stamina during matches and ensure they are fit to officiate the game.

Super Sunday Results

Laikipia Odibets League	Teams	Venue
1	Whitehawks 2-Vs Might Warriors 2	Nyariginu Ground
2	Laikipia Lions Vs Segera-	Timau Grounds
3	Mbarakira 1 Vs Ghetto 1	
4	Blue Tigers 1 Vs Home-boyz 1	Muthegera Grounds
REGIONAL LEAGUE		
1	Thunderbirds 1 Vs Enkacity 0	Thunderbirds Ground
2	Yanga 3 Vs Limuru 0	Nyahururu Stadium
DIVISION 2		
1	LYSA 1 Vs Water Works	Nanyuki Stadium

Enabling Environment Driving Investor Appetite in Laikipia

By Nahashon Maina

The creation of conducive and enabling environment by government is resulting in investment flow in Laikipia.

Governor Ndiritu Muriithi has been instrumental in supporting prospective investors set up shops in the county by ensuring business – friendly infrastructural and regulatory environment.

As the county races towards growing its economy four times from the current Ksh 100 billion to Ksh 400 billion it recognizes that much input will be accelerated by private sector.

Kenergy Renewable Ltd has invested in a 40MW solar power plant plant in Rumuruti. The investor applauded the county government for unwavering support by facilitating the project's engagement with other agencies.

The county government ensured any engagement with Kenergy and various county offices is professional and highly efficient, mitigating delays by provision of permits and approvals on time.

"County government has been strong in pushing forward to have a strong, reliable and high-quality power in order to implement great projects in the county," director Kenergy Ms Kilna Dodhia said. The firm's choice of Rumuruti was informed by the excellent solar resource as it is one of the best in the country. The growth of Rumuruti town also attracted the company. The recent investment forum in



Laikipia SMEs Exhibiting their products at the Rumuruti investment Forum

Rumuruti showcased transformational projects that the county will be embarking on implementing. One of them is the establishment of a Special Economic Zone where industries will be set up for production and manufacturing. The demand for reliable and cheaper power is there and Kenergy Renewable Ltd is seeking to bridge an existing gap. Currently, there are no power plants serving the national grid within 80km of Rumuruti. The power firm will provide reliability energy source and reduce losses in the grid.

The project is being built under Kenya's Feed-In-Tariff regime. It entails the development, construction and operation of power plant. Kenergy Renewables Limited, a Kenyan firm, is developing the Project in partnership with Elsewedy Electric (Egypt). Once completed, the power plant will connect to the national grid via the Rumuruti substation 4.5 km southwest of the town of Rumuruti. The firm has a signed power purchase agreement with KPLC which will lower the price of electricity in Laikipia to 8 USDc/kWh.

Government Distributes Hand-Washing Points to 442 ECDE Centres



The Department of Education is distributing handwashing systems to all the 442 ECDE centres across the county as it strives to ensure hygiene among the young learners especially with the advent of Covid-19 pandemic.

