

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



# Laikipia County

Our Vision: An Inclusive County With Sustainable Quality of Life



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Installation of Theatre Equipment in Nyahururu County Referral Hospital - NCRH



## Enterprise Fund

On 16th and 17th November 2023, H.E Governor Joshua Irungu EGH presided over the issuance of cheques amounting to 11.65 million to 50 self-help groups from nine wards from Laikipia County.

## Enhancing Food Security in Laikipia

### Fruit Trees Distribution

County Department of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries has stepped up efforts toward a food-secure county in line with HE. Governor Joshua Irungu's manifesto.

One of the key intervention is distribution of high-yielding fruit trees. The objective of the program is to one; ensure every household in Laikipia has fruits in their daily diet, and two, boost economic status of Laikipia residents.

Taking advantage of the rains, the department distributed 5,800 high value fruit trees in Nanyuki to farmer groups, Laikipia East.

# Laikipia County Revenue Board



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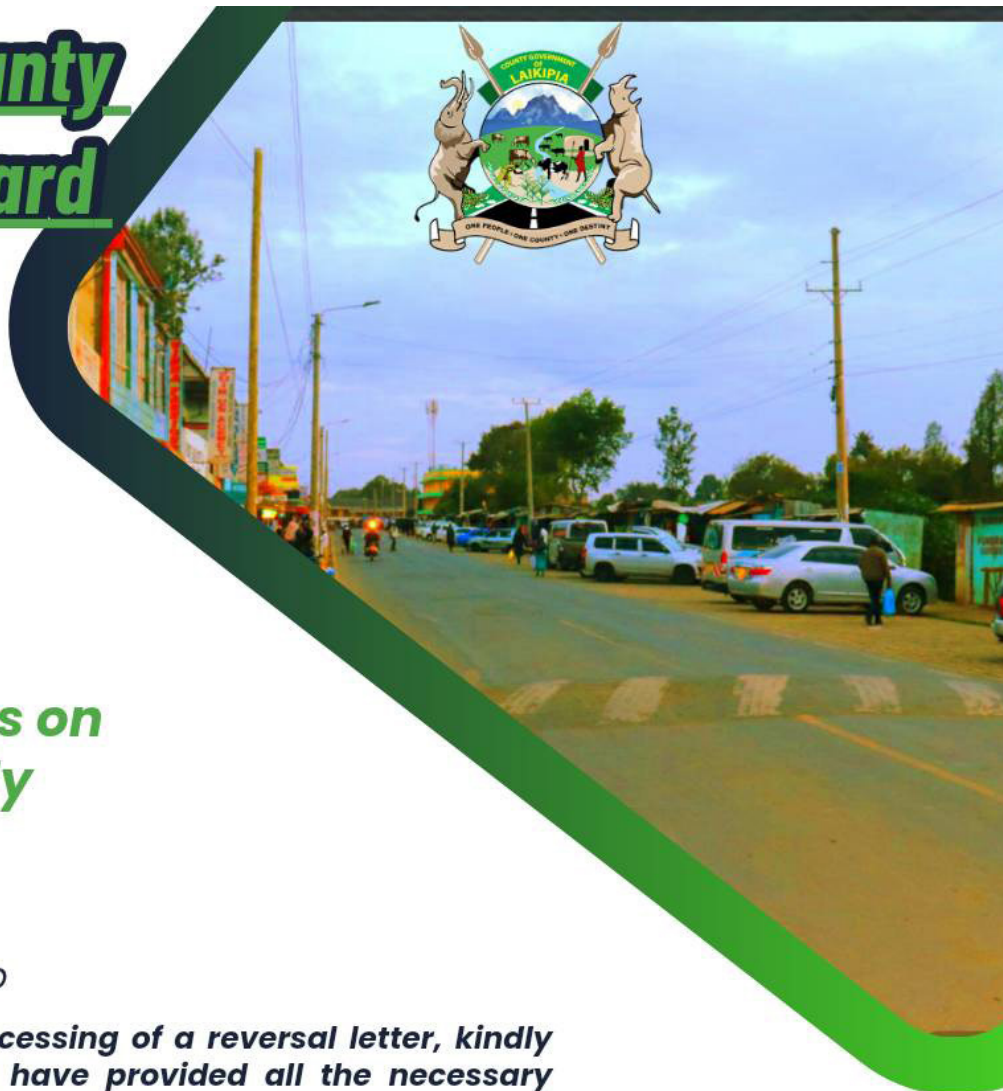


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Tulipe Ushuru Tujenge Laikipia



## Fifty Self Help Groups Receive Millions from Enterprise Fund

On 16th and 17th November 2023, H.E Governor Joshua Irungu EGH presided over the issuance of cheques amounting to 11.65 million to 50 self-help groups from nine wards from Laikipia County Enterprise Fund.

The Enterprise Fund is implementing a multifaceted approach that not only stimulates economic activities by injecting working capital into groups but also fosters social cohesion, reducing poverty and promotes sustainable development at the grassroots level.

Some of the groups that benefited includes; By Grace Dominion Women Group, Go Down Self-Help Group (SHG), Munyaka Women SHG, Survey Success SHG, Vision Developer Youth Group and Solar Namaiyana Women Group.

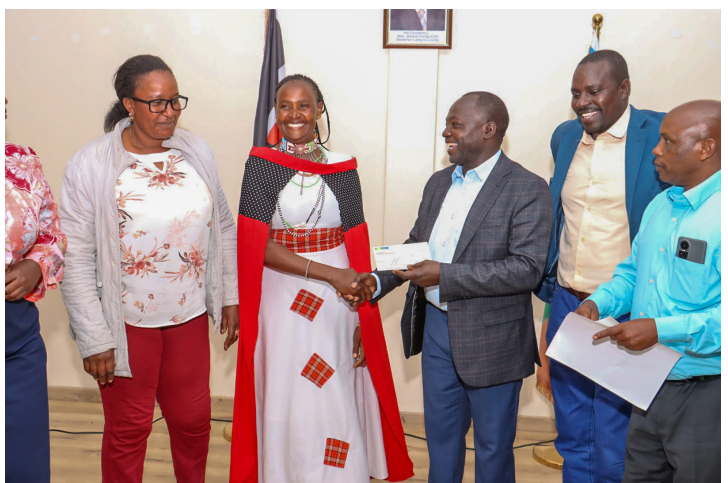
Groups access loan funding in terms of Local Purchase Order (LPOs/LSOs) financing, group loans, agribusiness financing, and 80% asset financing at six percent per annum with up to 24-month repayment period.

The kitty offers loans in the range of 50,000 to 300,000 shillings, enabling members to undertake various economic activities. This, in turn, leads to increased income, job creation, and a more vibrant economy.

The Governor emphasized that the County Government is committed to fostering entrepreneurship and community development in realization of economic growth.

Issuance of groups with loans serves as an achievement towards the realization of the of the Governor's manifesto pledge to increase access to affordable loans options for entrepreneurs as they catalyze socio-economic transformation.

By Nahashon Maina



IMAGES: Nahashon MAINA

## Mother-Child Theatre Units and Equipment Program at NCRH Commences



**L**aikipia Health Service has commenced the equipping of theatres across the county in readiness for the launch early next year. This step is set to double the theatre capacity from the current seven to 15.

The first phase of the equipping of Mother and Child Hospital Blocks at NCRH - Nyahururu County Referral Hospital is underway. On

November 14 2023, H.E. Governor Joshua Irungu EGH inspected the equipping of the facility.

It will provide amenities including Kangaroo mother care room, conference room, antenatal wards, Modern New Born Unit (NBU), consultation services-Obstetric, Gynecological and Neonatal services, Post -surgical wards, and a PET room -for mothers with

pregnancy related hypertension complications.

The first component of the program involves theatre services expansion. It comprises the equipping of eight new theatres across the County; two new ones at NCRH and other two at Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital – NTRH. Ndindika Sub county Hospital will for the first time have a theatre, another at Rumuruti

## Theatre Equiping at both major referrals

Sub-County Hospital, one at Lamuria Sub-County Hospital, and one at Doldol Sub-County Hospital.

Currently, Laikipia has seven fully equipped theatres spread as follows: three (3) at NCRH; three at NTRH; and one at Kimanjo Sub-County Hospital.

The second component of the program is designed to equip Mother and Child Hospital Blocks at the two County Referral Hospitals with 120 modern maternity beds in each referral and 24-bed New Born Units for each facility.

The total bed capacity at the County Referral Hospital level will now stand at 667. The two hospitals now have more than 300 beds each, the threshold required for a Level 5 hospital.

The facility currently has staff capacity to carry out general, orthopedic, ENT and Ophthalmology surgeries. In the next year, both hospitals will have neurosurgery capacities, with an ICU support.

By Esther Muthoni



IMAGES: Kipkimei Rutto/David Serem

## Distribution of High Value Fruit Trees

The Chief Officer Agriculture and irrigation Elizabeth Mwangi on November 13, 2023, spearheaded the distribution of over 5,800 high value fruit trees in Nanyuki to farmer groups, Laikipia East.

This is part of the continuous efforts by the County Government of Laikipia geared towards promoting high value fruit and industrial trees. The fruit trees included avocados, mangoes and macadamia

The distribution was strategic and timely and coincided with the arrival of the long-awaited rainy season and the nationwide tree planting day.

The high value fruit trees are not only adaptable to the local economy but also known for their commercial potential.

The chief officer termed the initiative as a long-term investment for farmers that will provide an alternative source of income and nutrition for years to come.

Ms. Susan Mwangi a beneficiary from Kamangura in Tigithi ward, said: "I will plant and care for the trees because I now appreciate the importance of proper food nutrition and different ways of ensuring that I am food secured, not to mention the profits I will get when I sell the excess produce."

Geoffrey Irungu while receiving his share of the fruit trees at his farm in



Igwamiti Ward, Laikipia West had this to say:

"Fruit trees will be a good future plan and an investment that does not require a lot of time and resources from me. As a bodaboda rider, I will have ample time to do my daily business and also care for the trees because I know the nutritional benefits of these fruits."

Farmers are urged to continue planting fruit trees as they play a multifaceted role in promoting health, supporting the environment

and contributing to economic growth. Their cultivation and conservation is crucial for a sustainable and balanced ecosystem.

The distribution exercise is being conducted by the ward agricultural officers across the 15 wards targeting farmer groups that have been equipped with the knowledge and training as part of the program to maximize the trees' growth and yield.

By Mollin Wanjiru

## Laikipia County Explores Promising Partnerships for Development

**H**.E Governor Joshua Irungu Mwangi on November 3 2023, hosted a delegation from Kenyatta University, KENDEX, and Two4one group on a mission to explore areas of collaboration.

The delegation was led by Professor Maina Mwangi, Director of Chandaria Center at Kenyatta University, and CEO of KENDEX, Stanley Njenga.

Areas of collaboration will encompass coffee production, education and skills development, food security, value addition, maize aggregation, health, fruit farming (avocado and macadamia), pig and dairy farming, feedlot farming, plans for the county-aggregated industrial park and special economic zone, water conservation, and the household economic empowerment program.

The county boss in his remarks, emphasized the critical need for such partnerships, sharing insights into Laikipia's agricultural challenges.

“In the next ten years, Laikipia aspires to become Kenya's main food basket, leading in the production of various cash crops such as soya beans, coffee, maize, avocado and macadamia. To achieve these goals and more, we recognize the need to seek alternative sources of funding,” the Governor said.



IMAGES: Nahashon Muhia

The Governor acknowledged the ongoing budget constraints faced by county governments in Kenya, emphasizing that grants and partnerships can provide a lifeline to execute development projects effectively.

Professor Maina expressed the institution's eagerness to partner with Laikipia County in various areas, including research, knowledge transfer, and skill development in agriculture, health, technology incubation, and natural resource management.

“Our major goal is to provide quality education, improve and enhance research, and change lives for the better, and we hope to achieve this in Laikipia through our partnership,” he affirmed.

Laikipia County Development Authority (LCDA) have been entrusted with the responsibility of crafting an action plan for collaboration based on the highlighted areas during this crucial meeting.

By Pauline Mwiyeria

## Empowering Likii: Strengthening Land Rights & Community Development

Over 1000 residents from Likii, Nanyuki on 16th November 2023 actively participated in the plot verification exercise conducted by the Department of Infrastructure, Housing, and Urban Development under the Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Programme (KISIP).

The KISIP Programme seeks to improve land use planning, strengthen tenure security in informal settlements, and enhance living conditions for residents through infrastructure development.

Through this initiative, the County Government aims at streamlining and facilitating the formalization of Secure Land Tenure for selected informal settlements on uncontested public lands through Planning, Land Surveying, Preparation, and the issuance of leases/titles.

This proactive approach aims to validate land ownership through government records, thereby preventing disputes and strengthening property rights. It seeks to instill confidence among residents by emphasizing transparency and accountability in resolving land disputes.

The Likii community have long grappled with challenges tied to land tenure systems. This initiative



IMAGES: June YATTOR

stands as a beacon of hope, seeking to uplift the livelihoods of those residing in these informal settlements.

"I am grateful to the County Government of Laikipia for finally addressing the land question in Likii. Any efforts geared toward us obtaining our title deeds and resolving the land disputes that have been a significant issue in Likii for years is so much welcome," expressed Jackson Maina, a Likii resident.

This approach also involves enhancing infrastructure by upgrading roads, pedestrian

walkways, street lighting, vending platforms, solid waste collection and sorting, water and sanitation systems, public parks, and making investments to combat crime and violence in the area.

Collaborative efforts between the community and the county government reflects H. E. Governor Joshua Irungu's dedication to fostering a fair and just resolution of the broader land issues affecting Likii. This is a component of the Land Tenure regularization process aimed at informal settlements across Laikipia County.

By June Yator



## County Responds to Cry of Baraka Fire Victims



The County Government of Laikipia, has provided the victims of the fire incidence that gutted houses in Baraka Estate, Nanyuki on November 9, 2023 with assorted household goods.

The exercise was led by CECM in charge Administration, ICT, Coordination and Public Service Madam Purity Gitonga.

“I commend the first responders who assisted the fire department officials in managing the situation. The government will continue supporting victims of such disasters and also constant training of fire marshals on disaster management, the CECM said.



IMAGES- John MURIITHI

Luckily, there were no casualty or injuries during the incidence.

By John Muriithi

## Creation of Africa’s First Small Business Development Centre (SBDC)

Kenya is poised to become the first African nation to implement Small Business Development Centre (SBDC) model following the creation of Strategic Taskforce for the establishment of Small Business Development Centres.

Small Business Development Centre (SBDC) is model whose design is fashioned to tailor-make solutions and advice to SMEs on various business operation dynamics that gives small enterprises a competitive and comparative advantages not only national, but regionally and globally.

Once created, the SBDC centres shall give SMEs high quality technical assistance in problem-solving, in capital sourcing, adoption and technology integration in to their enterprises, financial management, marketing training, and regional best practices - even export assistance.

The Kenya’s SBDC Strategic Taskforce met in Nakuru on November 25, 2023 chaired by Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Cooperatives Mr. Simon Chelugui to begin on the process of installing the SBDC Centres in Kenya.

The Cooperative CS affirmed that the Kenya government is keen on providing interventions for small businesses such as creating mar-



IMAGES: COURTESY

kets for MSME, creating financial inclusion through ease and access of affordable credit, business development services, and enhanced formalization.

Laikipia County’s Deputy Governor HE. Reuben Kamuri attended the meeting with keen interest of understanding the SBDC model and its creation owing to Laikipia County’s massive and vibrant SMEs community.

“This program once successfully installed will be a game changer for small and medium enterprises especially in technical training. At county level we may not fully understand the regional business playfield, but with such a body that stands at a regional and global vantage point,

imparting skills and knowledge to our entrepreneurs, our enterprises will stealthily compete at regional and global market,” DG Kamuri encouraged.

Present were Cabinet Secretary Cooperatives, Simon Kiprono Chelugui, H.E. Benjamin Cheboi Governor Baringo County, H.E Mathaara Mwangi Deputy Governor Nyanjiru County, Hon. Kimani Kuria, Molo MP and other governor officials from National government and Nakuru County.

By Kariuki Stevejackson

## Construction and Equipping of Withare, Olmoran Primary Schools



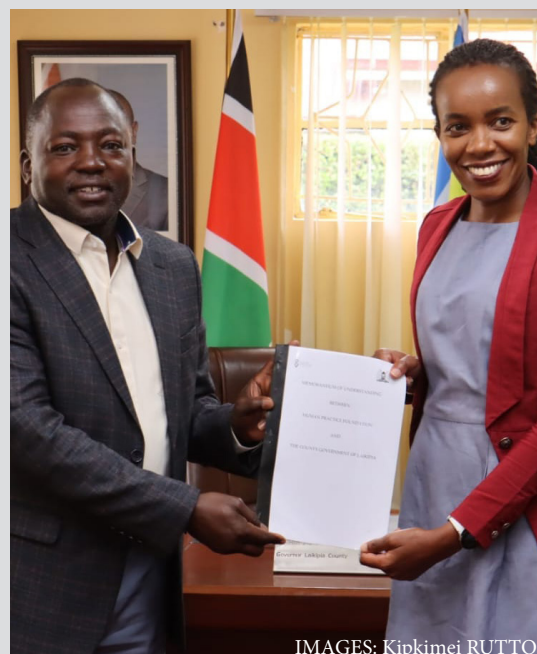
**W**ithare and Olmoran Primary schools are set to benefit with 26 million and 36.4 million shillings respectively to aid in their construction and equipping following a Memorandum of Understanding between the County Government of Laikipia and the Human Practice Foundation on November 15, 2023.

The MoU was signed by H.E Governor Joshua Irungu EGH and Patricia Muigai, the Human Practice Foundation country director.

These resources are set to facilitate the construction and equipping of classrooms, libraries, science laboratories, digital labs, ECDE classrooms and lavatories.

Fencing of the schools, construction of boreholes and demonstration farm for social entrepreneurship will also be done using these funds.

The Governor has termed the MoU as transformational and development-oriented, thanking the Human Practice Foundation for joining Laikipia County's effort of developing the education sector.



IMAGES: Kipkimei RUTTO

## County Climate Change Technical Working Group Gathers for Quarterly Meeting

On 2nd November, 2023, the climate change unit under the Department of Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change held a two-day workshop that brought together partners under the umbrella of the County Climate Change Technical Working Group.

The primary objective of the workshop was to collect valuable feedback and progressive reports from the partners' ongoing initiatives geared towards mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Additionally, the meeting provided an opportunity for partners to share deliberations and insights drawn from the Africa Climate Summit 2023, a platform whose invaluable discussions impacts on climate-related policies at county level.

With this, the workshop served as a knowledge-sharing hub, enabling the participants to actively engage on pertinent climate change issues, including innovative solutions and best practices that communities can adapt to enhance their resilience to climate change.

Mr. John Letai, County Director Climate Change Unit, emphasized the importance of enriching partners' collaboration to enhance awareness and mainstream climate-related interventions at the grass-roots level, as advocated for by the



IMAGES: Ann NGUNJIRI

Financing Locally-Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) program.

"One of the key highlight of the climate change workshop was to identify areas of collaboration, with a focus on leveraging our capacity to forge more sustainable actions towards combating the impacts of climate change within Laikipia," said Mr. Letai.

The quarterly meeting was supported by the LISTEN Project, and it serves as a testament to the commitment of the Climate Change Unit, towards a shared goal of addressing climate change challenges.

The partners in the workshop included representatives from the directorates of Water, Environment, Agriculture, Livestock, Public Participation, Economic Planning, the LISTEN Project, Laikipia Permaculture, Laikipia Wildlife Forum, IMPACT-Kenya, NDMA, NEMA, WRA, the Metrological Department, Probation Department, ILMAMUSI CFA, Hand in Hand, Narropil Honey Enterprises, Borana Conservancy, Naibunga Conservancy, and Laikipia Conservation Network.

By Ann Ngunjiri

## Cooperatives Commended For Contribution in Achieving Equitability

Cooperatives in Laikipia have been assured of County Government's support in their contribution to the growth and resilience of county economy, social cohesion and sustainable solutions to community.

The assurance was given by H.E. Governor Joshua Irungu EGH during a two-day consultative meeting organized by the Department of Trade, Tourism, Cooperatives, and Enterprise Development on 16th and 17th November at Governor's compound, Nanyuki and Kinamba Catholic Hall respectively.

Cooperatives play a critical role in fostering inclusive economic growth by promoting collective ownership, empowering individuals and establishing democratically controlled enterprises hence the need for continuous engagement with them.

They also encourage active participation and collaboration among members which not only strengthens social bonds, but also fosters a culture of mutual support and solidarity.

While addressing officials of 210 registered cooperatives, the Governor noted that over the last 10 years, cooperatives in the county have steadily grown in to a movement to be emulated.

"Cooperatives can help better our economy, this meeting is so



IMAGES: Kipkimei RUTTO

important as it will help us charter a way forward where each one of us will work towards improving the livelihood of people of Laikipia," Governor Joshua Irungu said.

To date, cooperatives have a membership exceeding 98,000, a member deposit of Ksh. 5.9 billion and Ksh7.4 billion asset base.

Governor Irungu hands-on approach seeks to pave way for a more robust and supportive environment for cooperatives that ultimately benefit the broader community.

The meetings also sought to address various challenges that cooperative societies experience and device

ways of overcoming them.

"With well governed cooperatives, everyone gets to reap big and such collective endeavors exemplifies the spirit of unity and shared responsibility," said Deputy Governor, H. E Reuben Kamuri.

CECM Trade, Tourism, Cooperatives and Enterprise Development, Stephen Kisorio stated that the department will support cooperatives to deliver on the county government's agenda on food security and nutrition, financial inclusion, and production.

By Nahashon Maina

## Health CS Applauds Governor's Commitment to Healthcare Transformation, Pledges Deeper Ties

**H**ealth CS Dr. Nakhumicha Wafula pledges far-reaching technical, financial and human resource support that will boost Laikipia's strive to radically boost health outcomes.

Health Cabinet Secretary has pledged support on an array of projects that are set to boost the health provision in the county, saying Laikipia has demonstrated enough commitment to transform healthcare.

Speaking during the launch and kitting of Community Health Promoters in Nyahururu on November 7th 2023, Dr. Nakhumicha Wafula said Laikipia's efforts to strengthen healthcare deserves all the support from the her ministry.

The Cabinet Secretary said the dedication of close to half of the county budget to health is a gesture worth every support.

Part of the multimillion shillings support from the national kitty will go into equipping of county and sub county hospitals across Laikipia, with NTRH expected to particularly benefit from the full equipping of the ICU.

Dr. Nakhumicha also promised her ministry's commitment for additional staffing support to bridge



IMAGES: David SEREM

existing gaps in human resource. A further support will extend to strengthen primary healthcare to accelerate the attainment of UHC.

The Ministry of Health will also step to aid the assessment of hospitals to ensure they meet criteria of their levels, with support to bridge the shortfalls for those facilities yet to attain the levels technically.

In his briefing, CEC Health Albert

Taiti shared the county's vision to establish a Non-Communicable Disease Centre in Rumuruti, a hub that is set to host the internationally sought skills locally. He invited the national government to partner in the ambitious 15 billion shillings project, which has seen the county set aside 200 acres of land for the same.

By David Serem

## Fighting African, Fall Army worms in Laikipia



IMAGES: Mollin WANJIRU

The County Department of Agriculture has collaborated with the National Government in the fight against pests that has been a threat to the production of maize and wheat in Laikipia.

Specifically, the institutions have focused efforts towards eliminating the Fall Army worm and the African Army worm menace.

On 23 November 2023 the Chief Officer in charge of Agriculture and Irrigation Madam Elizabeth Mwangi led in the distribution of pesticides and equipment to aid in the pest fight.

They included: pumps, personal protective

equipment (PPEs), hermetic bags and aflasafe to farmers in all the 15 wards. This initiative will aid in mitigating the economic losses and food security risks associated with fall armyworm infestations.

Aflasafe is a biocontrol product designed to combat aflatoxin contamination in crops, particularly in staple foods like maize. The product plays a crucial role in addressing food safety, protecting human and animal health, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

The hermetic storage bags will ensure the safe and long-term storage of agricultural commodities, particularly grains and legumes.

The ward agricultural officers have been training and equipping farmers with the necessary tools to combat the pests while promoting sustainable and responsible pesticide use.

By Mollin Wanjiru

## NTRH Celebrates Big Gains from the ‘Small Actions’ in Infant Preterm Care



**N**anyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital on the 17th of November marked the World Prematurity Day with celebration of the NBU (Newborn Unit) staff and the mothers who have had prematurely born babies at the Newborn facility.

This year's theme is 'Small actions, big impact: Immediate skin-to-skin care for every baby everywhere'.

During the commemorations, Health CECM Albert Taiti applauded the staff working in the unit for the exemplary work.

"Skin-to-skin care, immediately after birth, within the first hour significantly reduced mortality among pre-term babies", Dr.

Kendi Nyaga, NTRH pediatrician specialist, explained. "Even if the baby is unwell, so long as they are preterm, they are better off, unless they are completely respiratory compromised," she added.

The celebration at Nanyuki Teaching and Referral also saw visiting researcher Dr. David Hill, donating two CPAP machines (continuous

positive airway pressure) to NTRH. These machines aid breathing to neonate infants admitted to the NBU.

The event at Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital was also attended by Laikipia County MCAs, Honorable Amina Leila Hussein who also testified to having a pre-term baby who has survived to become a healthy and active child; Honorable Catherine Umija, and Honorable Mary Gathoni

NTRH CEO Dr. Samuel Kilonzo led the NTRH community in marking the World Prematurity Day.

By **Kimemia Maina**  
IMAGES: Andrew MAINA





### Caution to Sand Harvesters during El Nino Period

H.E. Governor Joshua Irungu EGH has announced that his administration has activated emergency response systems including relief food supplies and other provisions for families affected by El Nino related flooding that has marooned several villages and disrupted road transport especially in Laikipia North.

After touring affected areas on September 24, 2023, the governor cautioned sand harvesters to watch out for sudden storm floods and exercise extreme caution before setting out on their sand scooping businesses in Laikipia North.

“I urge you to refrain from vis-



IMAGES: COURTESY/KNA

iting such areas until the El Nino rains subsides as the place is now too risky for you and the vehicles you are using,” Governor Irungu advised.

Three sand harvesting crew have been reported drowned in the area.

By Mathenge Gakuu

### Maize & Bean Seeds Distribution in East and North



In collaboration with the Kenya Red Cross, the department of Agriculture has distributed maize seeds and Nyota beans to farmers in 8 wards which include Tigithi, Mukogodo East, Umande, Nanyuki, Marmanet, Salama, Ngobit and Segera.

The three tonnes of maize seeds and three tonnes of Nyota beans seed variety will benefit more than 3,000 vulnerable households in the eight wards.

The region is experiencing heavy rains that will see the farmers have a good harvest that will support their households with enough food for consumption during the dry season next year and also sell the surplus.

# Policy-Drafting Training for Senior Executives



County Government in its effort to capacity-build managers of various sectors across the service towards an effect service conducted a 4-day high level training on legal and regulatory drafting.

Rolling out of the training was done by County Government of Laikipia in partnership with the Kenya Law Reform Commission (KLRC), Hand in Hand Eastern Africa, UN women and pathways to give sound policy legal backing to government policies and priority manifesto agenda.

During the workshop, HE. Governor Joshua Irungu EGH noted that the training was long overdue as there were several critical laws enacted to boost service delivery, but whose implementation was hampered for lack of regulations, thus slowing down the service delivery momentum.

“My administration is intentional in grounding the county development priorities



- Should county law legislative law guided by national law
- Should a primary provide pre-legislation
- Cost-benefit analysis (undertake)
- Schedule for function-Part II
- Role of the county assembly in the legislative process
- Need for review or amendment of the laws
- How to deal with this

IMAGES: Kiplimet RUTTO

# CAPACITY BUILDING FOR AN EFFICIENT SERVICE

in sound legal foundations to ensure sustainability,” the Governor reaffirmed.

At the inaugural cycle of rolling out of the devolved system of governance (2013-2017) Laikipia County distinguished itself as leader in robust enactment of devolution laws that provided the templates for other countries to follow and emulate to date.

"With the wisdom of hindsight, many things are clearer now and we are in a position to use lessons learnt to review and audit laws and regulations enacted 12 years ago to make them more efficient,” Governor Irungu added.

Among outputs expected from the legal drafting training conference is an accelerated schedule to make new laws to accelerate manifesto priorities implementation under the Bottom-Up Development Approach.

His Excellency said he expects more legislative Bills to find their way into the County Assembly between now and June 2024 to plug regulatory gaps in existing laws.

The training was conducted in partnership with Kenya Law Reform Commission (KLRC), the Public Service Commission (PSC) and State Department of Devolution focused on bringing County policy making cadres up to speed on National Development Priorities under the Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda, their nexus with Sustainable Development Goals, Vision 2030 and requisite policy and legal reforms needed to align County programs with the same.

By Mathenge Gakuu



IMAGES: Kipkime RUTTO



# Governor's Golf Tournament to Support CEDC



**T**he County Government of Laikipia, on 4th November, 2023 hosted the Governor's Golf Tournament at Nanyuki Sports Club to raise funds in support of the Laikipia County Rehabilitation and Rescue Centre (CEDC).

The tournament, led by H.E Governor Joshua Irungu EGH, aimed at supporting the 128 severely underprivileged children that CEDC caters for by providing a secure environment, education, medical care, emotional counselling and other fundamental necessities.

“We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the sponsors and participants who contributed to the success of this day and event. Your unwavering dedication and compassion ignite a shared vision of change makers,” Governor Irungu said.

A total of 140 golfers participated in the friendly tournament



IMAGES: Kiplimei RUTTO

## Beyond Zero, Medical3T Launch Partnership with Medical Camps

More than 600 Laikipians in both Laikipia East and West have benefitted from a medical camp done by Laikipia's Beyond Zero mobile clinic in conjunction with Medical3t (a Health advocacy group).

The clinics, carried out at the Benedictine Monastery in Kanyoni on Monday 13th November and at Maji Mingi on Wednesday the 15th, saw hundreds of Laikipia receive free medical care nearer to their homes.

The Medical3t team (12 Doctors and Nurses from the Netherlands) worked hand in hand with medical practitioners drawn from various Laikipia Health Service facilities in Laikipia East and West to offer a range of diagnostic and curative services. These included family planning, HIV testing and counselling, general and paediatric consultations, screening from cervical and breast cancer, hypertension and abnormal blood sugar as well as vaccinations for HPV and Covid-19.

The Medical3T team began operating in Laikipia in 2018. This year the team carried out two medical camps (at the Benedictine Monastery in Kanyoni and at Maji Mingi in Rumuruti), as well as an engagement with Community Health Promoters in Laikipia West.

Kenya chapter leader Wangui Ndung'u, expressed optimism that the camps will become a regularly organized annual event, expressing gratitude for the exceptional levels of cooperation she received from County leadership.

By Kimemia Maina



IMAGES: Andrew MAINA

## National Tree Growing Day Unfolds a Re-Greening Revolution in Laikipia



**L**aikipia County, on November 13, 2023, marked the National Tree Growing Day with extensive tree planting efforts aimed at achieving the national goal of 15 billion trees by 2032 and the county target of 11 million trees during the ongoing rainy season.

The event brought together national and county government officials, environmental and development partners, and communities, all collectively heeding the national call for environmental restoration in the effort to reverse the diverse impacts of climate change.

Hon. Alice Wahome, Cabinet Secretary for Lands, Public Works, Housing, and Urban Development, and Laikipia County Governor H.E. Joshua Irungu EGH spearheaded a major tree planting exercise at Rumuruti Forest in Laikipia West, resulting in the planting of 13,000 trees and the distribution of 5,000 tree seedlings to communities.

"We are the cause of climate change, and thus,



IMAGES: Ann NGUNJIRI

## National Tree Planting Day

we bear the responsibility to reverse its effects by restoring forests through planting and growing trees," the CS Alice Wahome said.

Governor Irungu reiterated the call for increased tree planting, framing it as a security for a sustainable future.

"Planting a tree today is an investment in the well-being of future generations. Let our collective efforts nurture a greener legacy for Laikipia and safeguard our environment against the impacts of climate change," Governor Irungu noted.

At Laikipia East, the Deputy Governor H.E. Reuben Kamuri led the planting of 3,000 tree seedlings at Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital (NTRH) and Mary Immaculate Primary School in Nanyuki. At NTRH, trees were planted along the River Nanyuki, aiming to restore the riparian land that serves as a buffer zone for the water streams.

Over 500 bamboo tree seedlings were planted at Manguo Wetland in Nyahururu, Laikipia West. The planting of bamboo tree seedlings was not merely a gesture but a strategic solution to maintain ecological balance that will enhance water quality and promote a conducive environment for a myriad of aquatic species.

To sustain the tree-growing momentum beyond National Tree-Growing Day, Laikipia County plans to distribute tree seedlings to communities across the county, supported by partners. The intervention seeks to boost the county's forest and tree cover, not



only to achieve the targets but also to foster healthier and more productive environments.

By Ann Ngunjiri

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## **Our Vision**

**An Inclusive County with Sustainable Quality of Life**

## **Our Mission**

**Facilitate Integrated Development for Socio-economic Prosperity of People of Laikipia**

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**For contribution or feedback, write to the Publication Supervisor,  
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