



## Nanyuki Children Daycare Centres Contributing to Rising Malnutrition



By David Serem

Lately, daycare centres are all the clamor for the young urban parents, in search of a balance between parenting and the workplace. The trend has seen a sharp rise in the children's care facilities in the urban areas in response to the growing demand of parents seeking the convenience of having the children taken care of as they engage in the day's income-generating activities.

The much-sought convenience is, however, breeding new challenges on many children's nutrition welfare, as quality is sacrificed in the face of affordability. And the impact, for instance, is being felt at LHS Nanyuki's Nutrition Department, as the number of children being presented for nutrition interventions due to low-quality care continues to rise. This and other factors such as food insecurity and overnutrition are responsible for extreme nutrition anomalies currently at play- a sharp rise in undernutrition on one hand, and increasing overnutrition cases on the other.

"We have seen a growing number of children who are under the care of the centres being brought to us for nutritive interventions," Jacinta Njoroge, Nutritionist Technologist, and Dietician explains. "The results are costly interventions sometimes when the child falls sick due to weakened immunity, and nullifies the intended wishes of the parents"

In August, the department saw 37 cases of children with undernutrition, with three being diagnosed with overnutrition. Of these, 27 were found to be at risk of immunity compromise, that is, prone to fall sick due to weakened im-

munity. This category of clients needs close follow-ups to save them from the risk of sickness, and are provided with nutritional supplements, therapeutic feeds, and counselling.

While the facility's nutritionists work round the clock to address these health issues, limited understanding of the drivers of malnutrition is pushing the prevalence up. The notion that only a sick person should be seen by a nutritionist limits the chances of early, impactful interventions. Consequently, avoidable cases landing at the hospital with costly financial implications in treatment are still the norm.

For instance, the belief that balanced nutrition can only be achieved through expensive foods is a hindrance to stable nourishment. This leads to alternative sources of affordable sources of nutrition being overlooked. For example, beans will offer proteins at less cost compared to meat, but few people appreciate this.

While food insecurity is the main contributor to undernutrition, especially due to the prevailing drought situation, inadequate care among working parents is a growing cause of undernutrition for children.

The medic explains that scarce information leads to caregivers giving their children enough of the wrong food, which does little to guarantee ideal nutrition status. By hiring the services of a nutritionist, caregivers will be better placed to make the right dietary adjustments that are beneficial for healthy child development.

Drivers of malnutrition include food insecurity,

ty, insufficient care, harmful social norms, such as the notion that an overgrown baby being perceived as healthy.

The nutritionist advocates for frequent visits to the hospital for nutrition assessment, seeing that most cases are referrals from the facilities around. She laments that the practice is costly in the long run should one develop nutrition-related ailments.

According to a UNICEF report, Kenya has more than a quarter of children under the age of five, or two million children, with stunted growth. Stunting is the most frequent form of under-nutrition among young children. If not addressed, it has devastating long-term effects, including diminished mental and physical development. In addition, 11 percent of children are underweight, with four percent wasted. Wasting and severe wasting are linked to increased and preventable deaths among young children. There are immense benefits that come with regular visits to the nutritionist. Healthy living aside, the financial savings that come with warding off nutrition-related ailments are immense, as some of the diseases are costly to treat.

Spread across almost all the departments, nutritionists at LHS Nanyuki offer support to 416 HIV/TB patients, 21 in the diabetes clinic, and 264 children under five at the Maternal and Child Health Department.



LHS Nanyuki Nutritionist Technologist and Dietician Jacinta Njoroge

# Extracting Quality Cleaning Agents from Local Materials



## By Muriithi John

Water alone does not clean substances, but requires quality detergents as complements to bring out a sparkle in any surface/substances. Some materials are sensitive that to preserve their quality they require cleaning without water.

It is for this reason that Rebeccah J. Kariuki came up with a solution to the troubling ways of cleaning objects and other surfaces without compromising their quality. She formed On-Point Business Solutions and registered it on March 10.

Her education background in Research Management and IT helped her in conducting research for the products and the materials needed to come up with quality products to fill the existing gap in the market. She identified the right aloe vera plant.

"I visited the Northern Part of Laikipia County while conducting my research. Aloe vera does well in that area and helped in making the first shampoo products," said Ms. Kariuki, adding that she used local labour to come up with the commodity.

According to Kariuki, she trained the locals

use the plant and other nitty-gritty for improved products. The agreement saw the locals' plant two acres of land with the plant to provide the raw materials for the various cleaning agents.

Other raw materials include Muringa, stinging nettle, and two-weeks old wheat grass. Thus, the products are healthy and do not affect one's skin. Kariuki is the UNESCO Patron for Laikipia and Kiini East sub county, thus the insistent on producing environmentally friendly products.

The business which has four workers majors in other products like multipurpose detergents, sanitizer, hand wash, disinfectant, ceramic stain remover, bleach, fabric softener, air freshener, bathing soap, stationery and office equipment.

"We focus on providing the best quality cleaning products and ensure timely supply of our products, stationery and office equipment with our clients' requirements in mind. This is the mission of our business and which guides us to always be professional in our work," said Kariuki.

The organization's vision statement reads; To

meet the growing demand of cleaning agents, stationery and office equipment while using the latest technology in our production and exceed clients' expectation.

On top of training the local groups on planting and managing aloe vera, OnPoint Business Solution also works towards improving the quality of lives of the locals.

"We train the women groups and other groups on record keeping and entrepreneurship for them to also have valid business plans," said Kariuki.

OnPoint Business Solution closely works with the locals who supply them with raw materials and others form part of their market.

Some of the leading customers of the business are; Equity Bank Nanyuki branch, ABSA bank, Kenya Farmers Association (KFA), Kimara Hotel, Joskaki Hotel, Peak Hotel, Full Gospel Church Nanyuki, Anglican Church of Kenya Nanyuki (ACK), and Home Consumers.

The organization would appreciate a getting a machine to make the production work easier as they have been doing the tedious work using their hands only.

To order, or enquire on OnPoint Business Solution products, contact 073394908

# Uasin Gishu County Revenue Board Taskforce Benchmarks with Laikipia County Revenue Board

By Keziah Kirera

Uasin Gishu County Revenue Board Taskforce on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2021, held a benchmarking session with the Laikipia County Revenue

Board (LCRB), on how the Board is set-up and how it has managed to be the leading Revenue Board in the country.

Benchmarking involves learning about best practices from others, not merely for adoption, but for adaptation, in order to accelerate the rate of progress and continuous quality improvement. It also promotes fresh and innovative thinking not only focused on what is achieved but also, on how it is achieved. Benchmarking also provides for hard data on performance which results to setting of specific targets.

The taskforce enquired from the board on how we have managed to be the leading board in the country and how the citizens have encompassed the board. To this end, the LCRB through the Chairperson articulated on how good management of facilities, results to an increase in the number of people who are willing to use them. She explained that for example, the devolved function of Health and Medical Services in Laikipia has seen a growth in the numbers due to good management of the hospital facilities, well-equipped facilities, quality of health services provided and the ever hard-working staff who put all efforts in ensuring the citizens get the best services.

The embracing of technology by using cashless mode of payment in major facilities like the hospital pay points in the county, street parking and barriers has ensured that services are rendered efficiently.

The Uasin Gishu taskforce appreciated the efforts made by the LCRB noting that, although they also employ the cashless system, there is need for more empowerment of their residents to take up on the cash-less system and more awareness need to be created to the residents on the services they offer.

Both teams indicated that although the cashless system is very efficient, there are areas that still present some challenges, like collections in the markets.

## Target

While elaborating to the taskforce on how the revenue board sets up with its target, the board explained that, the Board, together with the Executive, perform a potential analysis on all revenue streams. Through thorough analysis of data and consultations, each department is then given a target accordingly. The targets per department are then done accumulatively to get the main target. The current target that the board has set for the 2021/2022 financial year is Kshs. 1,010,000,000.



The LCRB also noted to the Taskforce that it achieved 84% of its target for the last financial year, which was also set at Kshs. 1 Billion.

On the quarterly collection, the taskforce noted and applauded the LCRB, for achieving the highest ever collection on the first quarter of any financial year, for the current financial year 2021/2022. The collection of Kshs. 220, 818,921 is Kshs. 70,789,736 more than that for the first quarter of the last financial year 2020/2021, which stood at Kshs. 150,029,185 and Kshs. 80,906,965 more than the Kshs. 139,911,956 collected for the first quarter of the 2019/2020 financial year.

The LCRB C.E.O explained to the taskforce on the measures that the board has employed in order to achieve the remarkable growth in revenue collection over the past years. With the revenue collection having improved exponentially from a collection of Kshs. 482,152,082 for the financial year 2015/2016 to Kshs. 840,396,632 for the financial year 2020/2021. She noted to the taskforce that, through citizen engagement in forums like the “sema na sisi kikao”, which is a forum that discusses issues as pertains to land rates, the taxpayers are educated and enlightened on the laws and regulation that are specific to land.

## Waivers

These forums provide for a great interaction with the citizens, which leads to better understanding and embracing of laws by taxpayers. This ultimately leads to improved growth of revenue.

The County Government of Laikipia through the revenue board also offered waivers on Land Rates and extended the periods on waivers, in order to afford the taxpayers the time and opportunities to acquire resources. This was done

to cushion the taxpayers due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. To add to this, the County Government of Laikipia in a partnership program with Kenya Commercial Bank also set up a stimulus program on which businesses have to benefit from.

## System

The taskforce stated that they still face a myriad of challenges in their collection and hoped that through the benchmarking of our system of collection, they would be able to overcome and see a spur in the collection and eventual development of the County Government of Uasin Gishu.

The County Revenue Board of Uasin Gishu operates as a taskforce and is on course to become a substantive board.

The Taskforce thanked and appreciated the LCRB for receiving and hosting them even after receiving their invite on a short notice. The LCRB also thanked the taskforce for trusting and choosing them as a worthy board for benchmarking and wished them all the best in their future.

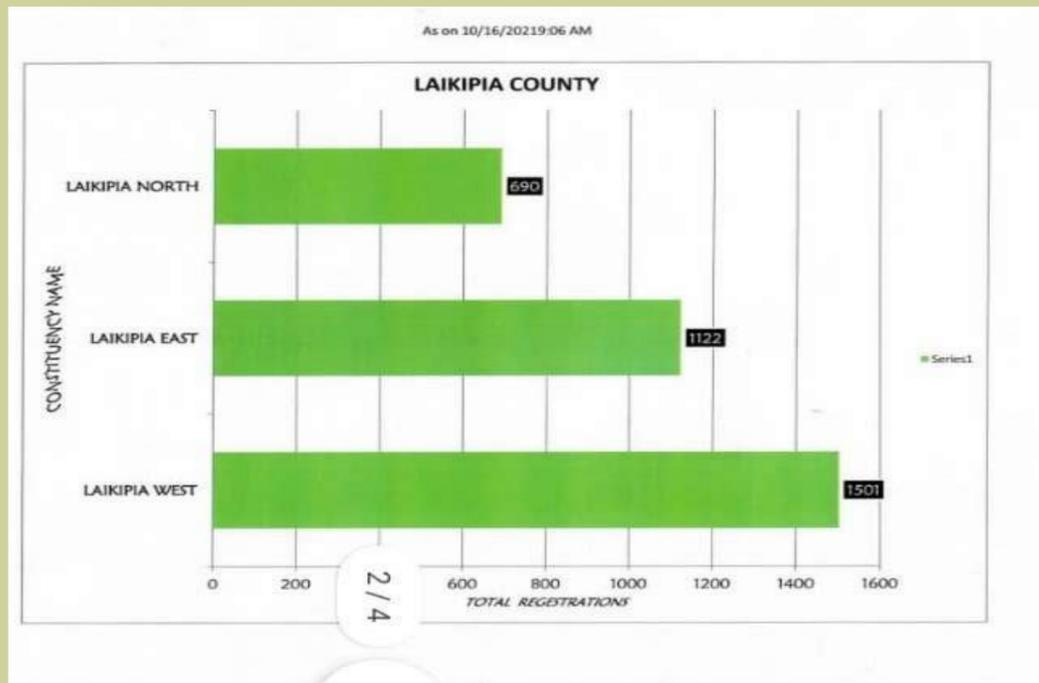
The team later on paid a courtesy call to the County Secretary, Mr. Karanja Njora at his offices.

The taskforce delegation team was led by Jane Murrey (Chairperson-CRB Taskforce), CPA Millicent Okonjo (Chief Officer, Economic Planning), and Silas K Ronoh (Director of Finance) and hosted by the LCRB Chairperson Alice Kimemia, the LCRB C.E.O Prudence Waithera, board member Francis Mathenge and members of staff of LCRB.

*“Learning from the best is the first step towards becoming the best”*

# Register as a Voter to Elect Good Leaders

.....disappointing Laikipia numbers from IEBC



LAIKIPIA WEST	CUMILITIVE REGISTERED VOTERS	PERCENTAGE ACHIEVEMENT
Ol-Moran	144	7%
Rumuruti Township	335	13%
Githiga	185	5%
Marmanet	240	4%
Igwamiti	317	3%
Salama	138	7%
CONSTITUENCY OFFICE KIT	142	
<b>LAIKIPIA EAST</b>		
Ngobit	157	4%
Tigithi	136	3%
Thingithu	183	5%
Nanyuki	225	4%
Umande	217	8%
CONSTITUENCY OFFICE KIT	99	
HUDUMA KIT	105	
<b>LAIKIPIA NORTH</b>		
Sosian	152	4%
Segera	149	6%
Mugogodo West	234	18%
Mugogodo East	118	5%
CONSTITUENCY OFFICE KIT	37	

CONST. CODE	CONSTITUENCY NAME	TARGET 2021	CUMULITIVE TOTAL	PERCENTAGE ACHIEVED
163	LAIKIPIA WEST	25,498	1501	6%
164	LAIKIPIA EAST	20,440	1122	5%
165	LAIKIPIA NORTH	10,711	690	6%
31	LAIKIPIA COUNTY TOTALS	56,649	3313	6%

## Kiambu County Comforts, Ol Moran Residents



DG John Mwaniki receives donations from Laikipia delegation

By Steve Jackson Kariuki

Kiambu County joined Nyandarua County and Nakuru County in support for our people in Ol Moran who have in the re-

cent past been attacked by bandits.

In spirit of brotherhood, on Monday 27<sup>th</sup>, Kiambu Deputy Governor, HE. Dr. Joyce Wanjiku Ngugi visited Laikipia with gifts in kind of 1220 bundle of iron sheets, to assist the people of Ol Moran whose houses had been destroyed

by lawless bandits.

The Kiambu County DG was welcomed by Laikipia County DG John Mwaniki at County Headquarters, Rumuruti. DG Mwaniki expressed his gratitude on behalf of County Government of Laikipia.

The Ol Moran residents' representatives also sent the Kiambu County DG Dr. Joyce Wanjiku Ngugi with greetings and blessings for the great people of Kiambu for lending them a hand at their time of distress.

Ol Moran, now a District and a Sub County is bouncing back stronger. Counties from the ten CEREB region have been trickling in to help, well-wishers, all complementing the National and County Government's efforts of rebuilding back, Ol Moran. Laikipia remains, unbowed.

# Promoting Tourism in Laikipia County



By Vivian Wachira

The long-term existence and effectiveness of tourism service in a fiercely competitive global environment depends not only on the ability to satisfy the customer's needs but also to strategically respond to current challenges. Therefore, strategic marketing becomes a necessary practice of contemporary tourism service.

To support the tourism, the county government of Laikipia has in the last three years has been supporting cultural base tourism run by organized communities group dominated by women and youth especially in the pastoral communities where the potential is immense.

Several community-based organisations were identified like the Ingwese cultural manyatta, Twala Tenebo cultural manyatta, Koiija star beds, Makurian cultural manyatta, Ngiroliti cultural manyatta among others.

To promote this Community Based Tourism Organisations (CBTOs), the Government of Laikipia county set to intervene by;

Holding trainings that will teach them customers relations, communication skills, book keeping and financial management, guiding skills, diversified cuisine, marketing and organizational structure. This will expand their thinking and see things in different dimensions.

Construction of resource centres to act as conference facilities and rehabilitate or construct Bandas, create campsites, construct curio or shanga facilities among others.

Help market their facilities, this will help create more awareness and hence have more tourists visiting Laikipia.

Despite the COVID- 19 pandemic that has affected various sectors of Kenya's economy, the County Government of Laikipia remains positive in making Laikipia a preferred tourism destination.

Laikipia County Statistical Abstract 2021, note

that there has been a decline in the number of tourist arrivals at Thomson falls from 203,912 in 2019 to 66,330 in 2020. This can be attribute to measures put in place country-wide to curb COVID-19. Post pandemic, the expectation is for the sector to register growth as witnessed between 2017 to 2019 where the number of visitors to Thomson falls jumped from 135,903 to 203,912.

The county government is employing strategies to promote tourism: -

## Digital marketing

Digital marketing entails, online advertising, working with social media influencers and use of e-mail marketing. Focusing on promotion of tourism using social media in Laikipia county is likely to get better results. Social media is a relatively inexpensive source of market intelligence which can be used to track and respond to consumer-identified problems and detect market opportunities.

## Enhance stake-holders engagement.

This involves looking out for the interest of various stakeholders, in order to establish trust and facilitate engagement. Laikipia county will have to enhance interconnectivity among suppliers at the destination, interactivity with customers and the destination managers .

## Branding

To make Laikipia brand stand out from others, special attention should be paid to the photos and videos the county uses in its marketing. They should come up with coherent colour scheme, use of tagline about the county destination and be consistent in the promotional message so that people become familiar with it.

## Search Engines Optimization.

Search engines has become one of the most strategic tools for marketing tourism destinations. The goal of SEO is to get destination Laikipia website to the top of the first page of results.



cottage constructed by County Government of Laikipia at Twala tenebo cultural manyatta

## Celebrating World Habitat Day, 4th October 2021 Tree Planting at Thompson Falls, Nyahururu

The County Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources led by the County executive committee member accompanied by staff of the directorate of Environment graced celebration of the world habitat day that was characterized by tree planting at the Thompson falls, Nyahururu.

The function also attracted the staff and cultural dance Troupe of the Thompson falls lounge who also graced the function. The world's habitat day is celebrated annually on the 4th of October and the theme of this year's celebration was ACCELERATING URBAN ACTION FOR A CARBON-FREE WORLD. World habitat day is set to create awareness on the importance of conserving the habitats of every living thing on earth.

It is therefore important that tree planting be done to ensure a drastic reduction in carbon emissions and embrace better agro and urban planning. Urban planning is one of the most powerful tools to mitigate the environmental impact in towns and reduce their contribution to global warming.

It is important that people own up their environment by actively participating in environmental conservation through tree planting and nurturing. Nyahururu Thompson falls is one of the major tourist attraction sites in Laikipia County that generate revenue for the County.

It is also a habitat to various species of wildlife as it is surrounded by Marmanet forest. There are also cultural dancers that entertain tourists with traditional songs and dance, a reflection of our cultural heritage. The environment team did tree planting and beautification of the Thompson Falls compound (grass cutting, trimming and shaping of flowerbeds, control of overgrown bushes)

Tree planting will help to conserve the natural forest thus conserving the natural habitat for the wildlife and insects in the ecosystem. It will also help conserve the wetland, which is a tourist attraction site and a source of water for the human and wildlife. The conservation of the natural forest and wetland will lead to increased tourism and thus more revenue to the county.

The team planted 100 indigenous seedlings of *Olea Africana* species. The seedlings will be maintained and monitored by the team to ensure proper growth. The Department is determined to ensure Continuous tree planting that will help mitigate the effects of climate change.



# Laikipia Records Growth in Beef Production



**By Wanjiku Wambaki**

Laikipia's rangelands are conducive environment for beef production. The county is a leading producer of Boran cattle in Kenya reputed for quality beef.

Over the past four years, the number of livestock has increased tremendously.

According to the Laikipia County Statistical Abstract 2021, the number of beef cattle has increased from 201,200 in 2017 to 232,848 in 2020 with their value after slaughter increasing from Kshs441.7 million to Kshs 746.8 million within the same period.

This can be attributed to increasing linkages between fodder producers to livestock keepers within and outside the county.

The county government has also ensured its residents benefit from livestock keeping through partnership with Kenya Meat Commission (KMC). The reintroduction of livestock rail transport wagons from Nanyuki station to the

Kenya Meat Commission slaughterhouse in Athi River, is also a major motivation to livestock keepers.

KMC provide farmers with ready market for their beef cattle and transportation with railway ensure farmers save on transport costs. Modernized marketing strategy has helped pastoralists in Olmoran, Kimanju, Doldol and Rumuruti to have links with the National Livestock Marketing Information System in order to provide ready market for their livestock without the need for brokers and expensive intermediaries.

To help promote more livestock production, the county government has encouraged pastoralists to get involved in modern technology such as feedlots which has been effective to some farms including Wargus Feedlot, Nanyuki Ranching, Ngera Farm and Synergetic Limited.

Livestock keeping in Laikipia County has

boosted other businesses such as leather industry through production of hides and skin as a by-product, the milk processing industries which have increased from 11 to 16 from 2019 to 2020 and meat production industries from 3 to 6 in the same years.

The Laikipia County Statistical Abstract 2021 indicates that 21,337 kilograms of hides and skin were produced in 2020.

Other sectors benefitted from livestock keeping is crop farming where improvement of crop production is feasible from manure.

Manure from livestock assists in crop growth, land productivity and improvement of soil structure as well as water retention.

The county remains to be proficient in livestock production and still seeks strategies on how to maintain its competency in the ever-expanding income earner.

## Nanyuki Edition of KCB Kenya National Rally Championships



The 2021 KCB Kenya National Rally Championships took place in Nanyuki on 9th October 2021. Twenty three drivers participated on the rally. Promoting Tourism and Trade and cementing Laikipia county as the best County in tourism industry

# First Lady Launches Hongera Mama Kit Phase II



First Lady launching Hongera Mama Kit at LHS-Matwiku

Laikipia First Lady Maria Mbeneka in conjunction with the Department of Health on Thursday launched Hongera Mama Kit at LHS-Matwiku, LHS-Thigio and LHS- Seria in Laikipia West and LHS-Lorien, LHS-Mbogoini in Laikipia West.

The purpose of antenatal care is to prevent or identify and treat conditions that may threaten the health of the newborn and/or the mother, and to help a woman approach pregnancy and birth as positive experiences. To a large extent antenatal care can contribute greatly to this purpose and can in particular help provide a good start for the newborn child.

Hongera Mama Kit Initiative aims at ensuring better health care for the people of Laikipia which is in line with Governor Ndiritu Muriithi’s manifesto on access to universal health care.

“Getting good care before, during, and after your pregnancy is very important. It can help your baby grow and develop and keep you both healthy. It is the best way to be sure your little one gets a head start on a healthy life,” First Lady Maria Mbeneka said.

Good prenatal care includes good nutrition and health habits before and during pregnancy. Hongera MAMA Kits will also accelerate skilled delivery and reduced maternal and infant mortality.

Hongera MAMA Kits are designed to help expectant mothers deliver their babies with basic professional medical assistance before, during and after child birth.



Laikipia County First Lady Maria Mbeneka at LHS-Lorien

