



Laikipia

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Nanyuki University of Manufacturing and Enterprise Development Coming

By Kariuki Wangeci

Laikipia County Government in partnership with Ministry of Education, and Laikipia University, are at advance stage of installing a University college in Nanyuki town whose proposed name in draft report is; Nanyuki University College of Manufacturing and Enterprise Development.

Those who chaired: The draft report was presented to Laikipia County Government on 6th December 2021. Deputy Governor HE Deputy Governor John Mwaniki and Laikipia University Vice Chancellor Prof. Joseph Rotich chaired the meeting.

The proposed University College has its niche defined making it stand out. It will offer courses ranging from Innovation and manufacturing, value addition, enterprise development, rangeland management, animal hus-

bandry and feedlot, Education, among other skill-based courses.

This development has been a culmination of series of meetings that started since April 2018, when Governor Ndiritu Muriithi created a taskforce, whose mandate was to explore viability of a varsity in Nanyuki, its niche, location, and possible name.

The taskforce after series of meeting, settled on Laikipia University as suitable varsity to nurture the new college. A technical team from Laikipia University was crafted to do an establishment proposal that will guide the baby college to realisation.

The proposal is dubbed: Proposal for Establishment of Nanyuki University College of Manufacturing and Enterprise Development. Stakeholders have given their input, on improvements and corrections, to be accommodated in the final draft.



The proposed University college will be strategically situated in the outskirts of the town. Neighbouring Nyeri and Meru Counties, being a commercial hub, and a gateway to northern eastern region, the college will only flourish.

Progress: The proposal draft will be refined and later, it will be presented to the Ministry of Education for adoption, and when approved, Laikipia University will be the mentor of the constituent college.

Deputy Governor reiterated County Government's commitment to having the University which he said "will be a sustainable solution to Laikipia, Kenya and the East Africa's region especially in business hand-holding skills, development and value addition."

Laikipia University Vice Chancellor Prof. Joseph Rotich also promised his Varsity's readi-

ness to guide the now-to-be 74th University in Kenya, to a full-grown university emphasizing.

Upon refinement of the draft proposal and input of the stakeholders incorporated, it will be tabled to Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, for approval. Then its installation will begin.

The leaders present during proposal presentation were: Deputy Governor, HE John Mwaniki; Vice Chancellor Laikipia University, Prof. Joseph K. Rotich, Deputy Speaker who is also Mukogondo East MCA, Hon. Daniel Nyausi; Chief Officer, department of Education, James Mwangi; CEO, Laikipia County Development Authority, Jesse Mbuthi; and University's technical team.

Laikipia Lobbying for Reduced Energy Costs for Local Manufacturers



By Vivian Wachira

The energy sector is an important drive to the industrial growth by providing fuel to power the rest of the economy. The County Government of Laikipia is committed to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

The electricity rates in Kenya costs ranges at 23 Kes to 19 Kes for both households and business connections. This higher electricity costs causes enterprises to incur high energy costs leading to a high cost of production.

Higher operational costs has greatly affected Laikipia manufacturers and enterprises countrywide from competing globally due to different pricing of commodities despite them producing similar products.

The County Government of Laikipia has therefore prioritized the provision of affordable and reliable energy to their manufacturers in order for them to realize industrialization and also improve their livelihoods. This will lead to low production cost causing increased demand for goods and widen the country's manufacturing base and reduced taxation of locally produced items and also reduced price for consumer goods.

To implement collaborative framework that would guide the role of counties, state Agencies and Non-state Agencies, the County Government of Laikipia has called upon Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) to aid in ensuring a smooth running during the construction of the energy infrastructure.

"The County Government has digitalized and published all registry index maps, which are readily available upon request. Access to this information would serve as a guide during the construction of energy infrastructure,"

said H.E Governor Ndiritu Muriithi.

The ongoing projects in Laikipia County according to Kenya Electricity Transmission- Co limited (keTRACO) includes the transmission line in the following areas, 132KV Nanyuki-Isiolo 70 km cable, Nanyuki- Rumuruti 132KV 16.8 km cable and Nanyuki- Isiolo 132KV 5km cable.

The benefits of these transmission projects in Laikipia County will include, enhanced electricity access to the whole of Laikipia County, stabilization of voltages by extending the transmission grid which in turn reinforces the distribution lines and improvement of power quality in Laikipia County and reduced system losses.

Ol-Pajeta Conservancy Energy program which

was established back in 2014 with the main objective to provide alternative source of energy like the solar energy, energy cook stoves and solar lion lights has impacted the community positively where by, 32 stove builders (youths and women) across 18 communities have been trained, 1379 stove cookers have been manufactured and 180 portable stoves have been sold to the communities in 2021.

Chris Kimanga, the County Director, Energy and Mining, calls upon all stakeholders to subsidize electricity costs, support energy generation and improve electricity access in order to promote manufacturing, job creation and improve livelihoods among Laikipia residents.



Thriving COVID-19 Business in Laikipia



By Muriithi John

There is a common and hopeful phrase that many use 'When one door closes, another one opens'. The reality of this has been witnessed with the coming of COVID-19 in the country which forced many businesses to close and rendered many jobless.

The unexpected pandemic forced many to be innovative not only to remain relevant in the market, but also be in a position to put food on the table.

Among the businesses that came up during the COVID-19 time is the business hub in Down Town, Nanyuki town. Surprising to many, this is not just about entertainment, beer and meat- there are a total of nine businesses within this compound. All these have come up as different people look for survival means. Were it not for creation of a good environment for business to thrive by the County Government of Laikipia, these enterprises would have been taken to other counties.

Sir Jay Suits, a business which majored on designing official suits and those for weddings, was hard-hit by the pandemic as people started working from home and social gatherings like wedding were banned. The business had to be innovative for sustenance despite the setbacks.

"We were forced to diversify our fashion designs and increased our products from only official wear to fast-consumer wear as many of our customers were not wearing official outfits as they were working from home," said James Maina, the Sir Jay Suits.

This enterprise now has a range of products like body fragrances, sunglasses, earrings, bomber jackets, lipsticks, throw blankets, customized masks, African print fashions among many others. It has employed two people and

also offers attachment opportunities.

McBull Art, also found within the Down Town compound was founded on November 26 after the owner, Kelvin Ndegwa lost his job as an Administrator in Hampton School due to the pandemic. He is now a renown person who does quality customized furniture and metal sculptures. He also does construction of structures and interior decorations, fine arts, modifying electric mobility.

Ndegwa does not regret starting the new venture despite the challenges he encountered before standing on his feet.

"I cannot go back to my former job even if I am offered triple the amount I used to get as now

I'm flexible and have time to explore into art," he said, adding that so far, he has offered employment to two people after a successful three-month attachment, one being a student from Nanyuki VTC.

Muthoni Kirauko whose business, Muthonily Design works closely with that of McBull Art says that COVID-19 has taught her that nothing is permanent and that we should strive to tap into our abilities.

"I was working at Panari Hotel as a banqueting coordinator when the pandemic was announced and I was one of the people to be laid down as many eateries closed down. Then I found McBull online and we have been working closely since then," she said.

She says she has received great support especially from women for venturing into wood and metal work that has been male-dominated.

Also in the same hub is Bon Oqgo Studio which was started by Jeff Waweru in a bid to move from outdoor shooting to indoors and offering unique selling points for photography. It aims at transforming *Bonoko* (fake) photography to high end at affordable rates to accommodate all types of clients.

A tattoo centre also exists within the same locality called Silent Saint Arts. According to the sole proprietor Denis Gakuru, were it not for COVID-19, he would never have thought of coming back to Nanyuki for business. The hub has provided him with an avenue to interact with other like-



Muthoni Kirauko of Muthonily Design doing her wood work

More Businesses open Up In Laikipia Despite COVID-19 Challenges...



A display of variety of products from Sir Jay Suits

mindful people to give back to the society. Started around June 2021, the business is growing and expected to stabilize soon and offer employment to the locals.

Chill n' Grill offers some spice to the business environment with a variety of food. The business gets the vegetables and meat from the local farmers as a way of upgrading them economically. Something that started just as a walk in has now expanded to employ ten people who work in shifts.

"I first in Down Town as a customer and I heard many people asking for food which was not available at that time. Being a chef

having specialized in pastry and desserts, I gladly took advantage of that and came up with this business," said John Tumuti, the owner, adding that he another reason for starting the Grill was to bring together people in the hospitality department that was negatively affecting when eateries were closed as the government tried to curb the spread of COVID-19.

BaraBurrito is yet another business in the hospitality category that has brought a new variety of food in the area. This is a Mexican dish that caters even for the vegetarians.

The Down Town side of the beverages also came to be as a result of COVID-19. It came

into existence last year when campuses closed down and forced Vincent Otieno the co-owner to be stuck at home with nothing to do. The idea was initiated to develop a creative hub when people will have an open space for networking, interaction and generally keeping themselves busy. Soon people started asking for beverages and the idea of Down Town was created and has since created employment to 15 people.

These businesses will be celebrating one year anniversary between December 17 to 19 2021 as they celebrate team work that has seen them grow together. Every business will be showcasing their unique products for all.

"We are calling it Down Town and Friends Festival to celebrate our progress as were it not for friends and other customers we would not have managed to reach this point," commented Otieno.

The coming together of young people to help each other improve their lives shows what real friends are for and is something to be emulated.

The County Government of Laikipia has also set aside Ksh. 3.3 billion Economic Stimulus in partnership with local financiers to help such organization acquire loans at a reduced interest rate of 7.5 per cent after catering for the 5 per cent. This is mean to cushion the MSEs from the harsh conditions of COVID-19.

New institutions have also opened up in Nnanyuki like Sollution Sacco, New Forties, Toyota Kenya, Quick Mart Supermarket, among others.



BaraBurrito business. Structure and design done by McBull Arts

Hope for Cancer Patients as LHS Nanyuki joins International Support Platform



LHS Nanyuki Empower Clinic with a team from the International Cancer Institute during the launch of the Join cancer care platform late last month

By David Serem

Cancer patients in Laikipia are set to benefit from advanced cancer care and management following a recent move by LHS Nanyuki to join an online global cancer care platform.

The online platform 'Join' in the form of a phone app, gives cancer care givers access to a global pool of oncology consultants for advise on what interventions to initiate based on patient presentations.

This step is sigh of relief to many cancer patients whose treatment has been hampered by the need for physical referrals to higher facilities, which is a costly undertaking.

The app enables cancer care staff to put out medical histories and presentations of a patient for consultations on the best care approaches from cancer specialists spread all over the world.

The initiative, which is part of support from the

International Cancer Institute, is part of the growing partnership to bring access to care closer to the people.

The 'Join' platform marks a significant step at utilizing telemedicine to advance cancer care in the country, seeing as scarcity of specialists poses challenges to the existing personnel in the country's referral facilities.

LHS Nanyuki Cancer Clinic nurse in charge Jane Matimu says the development is a welcome move since many patients get locked out of treatment due to transport expenses to facilities of referral. Consequently, these patients may default on referrals, only to turn up at the inevitably late stages of cancer, where interventions are late.

Long term, the platform brings the much needed expertise to save more lives and the immense public and private resources that go that are pumped into cancer programs.

Cancer continues to pile pressure on strained human and capital resources especially in the developing countries. It is the second leading cause of death from non-communicable diseases.

A report by World Bank this year says 8 per cent of Kenyan households have experienced catastrophic health expenditures, with out-of-pocket payments pushing more than one million Kenyans into poverty.

Drought Mitigation Measures by County Government of Laikipia

By Molin Wanjiru

To mitigate effects of drought in some areas of Laikipia, the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries is distributing supplementary feeds and acaricides to farmers. Already, the department has dispatched 5,882 Hay bales, 2,159 Range pellets, 958 UMMB mineral blocks, 1800 pieces of 500ml pour on Acaricide targeting migrating herds and 80 litres of Amitraz Acaricide for re-charging community cattle dips across the county.

The response is to ensure that livestock farmers are able to salvage their stocks during this dry season. Drought is one of the most damaging natural hazards in the county, destroying lives and livelihoods and limiting county development. Laikipia has been listed among the 25 counties that have been adversely affected by draught.

"We are going to put more resources to save the livestock asset in the county during this season," CEC Water Peter Matunge said during the distribution.

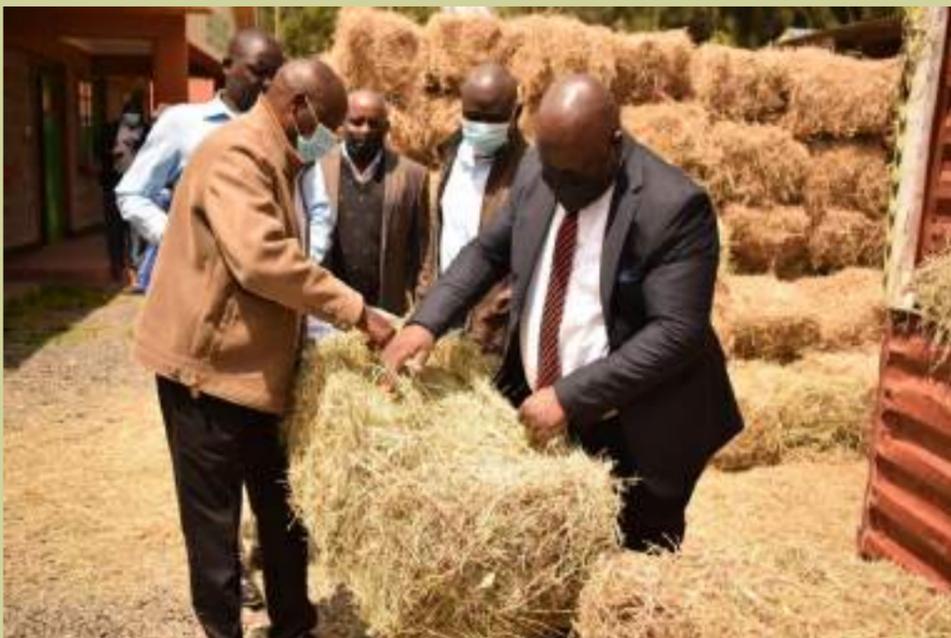
Most of the drought affected sectors relate to

functions which are now devolved such as agriculture, water and health. Devolution provides an unprecedented opportunity to end the suffering caused by drought. Among other things, devolved governance was introduced to bring services closer to citizens.

Due to lack of enough pastures in the County there has been movement of animals from one place to another as a result of this majority of the livestock have been highly infested with

pests and diseases have been on the rise. In order to control the pests, the department is also distributing the pour- on acaricides to different farmers across the County.

The acaricides will target of approximately 40000 heads of cattle in the county. The acaricide will help reduce the diseases mostly caused by pests, to the ticks. The distribution of acaricides is still ongoing in Ngobit ward where over 200 farmers from 9 locations have been



Distribution of hay to farmers by the county government to cushion the against the effects of prolonged drought

Nanyuki Pet Shop A Life-Safer for Many Anguishing Pet Owners



Some of the product in the only pet shop in Nanyuki town



By Muriithi John

Immanuel Kant, a German philosopher once said that "We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals" as a way of showing that animals, just as human beings, matter in this world and should not be taken for granted. As one way of responding to this call, Jackline Wanjiru with her partner started the only pet shop in Nanyuki town after realizing a huge gap in this area, Nanyuki Pet Shop.

She says the need was surfaced after they realized there was only a single supermarket that could sell them food and other needs for their pet. Still this supermarket did not have all that was needed to take good care of their pet. To make matters worse, the institution later closed down.

"We really struggled to always have the supply

of food and accessories since it was only Nakumatt Supermarket which was selling," said Wanjiru, adding they opened the shop on October 2017.

Nanyuki Pet Shop is located in Nanyuki town and has now employed three people to successfully run it.

In this pet shop there are variety of different products for pets, after the owners dedicated their energy to ensure that other pet owner do not undergo the ordeal as they did in search of products needed by their pets. Some of these products are food, accessories (including toys), and vaccines.

They also create awareness for people to know how best the to take care of their various pets and also embrace them. the common types of pets in the area are cats, dogs, fish, rabbits and hamsters. The shop provides all the needs for these pets, as they try to bridge the huge gap that was created.

Wanjiru challenges all the people with pets to ensure they vaccinate them against diseases. Apart from rabies, parvovirus is a threat to puppies and is highly contagious.

"Many people remove teeth from puppies when they see them suffering. What is unknown to them that this is not a remedy as the puppies have been affected by the virus. We are trying to create such awareness to save such pets from perishing," she said.

Every pet owner has a responsibility to ensure that they have good shelter, food and vaccination. By doing this, there will be limited number of stray dogs roaming in the streets.

There are lots of opportunities in existing in the pet industry that needs exploration. There number of trainers for dogs, especially those focusing on manners are very few as most of the existing ones focus on the security aspect.

According to Wanjiru, there are also few veterinaries in the area which makes them expensive in providing the vital services.

In many towns there are no such shops offering such unique services. It has only been possible for the likes of Wanjiru to establish such a shop because of the existence of a conducting business environment.

The town cleanliness, systematic taxations and good infrastructure in Nanyuki and Laikipia at large has seen enterprises open up to take advantage of the peaceful environment.

One of the main functions of any government is to ensure creation of a conducive environment for trade to take place.



Innovation, Mining and Manufacturing Key to Achieving Industrialization in Laikipia



By Nahashon Maina

County Government of Laikipia is banking on manufacturing and mining to achieve industrialization. In cognizant to this, the Governor is bringing on board various stakeholders in the county who are influencers in this sector. On Monday, he hosted Primary Headteachers to deliberate how education can be the key to nurturing innovation at an early stage.

The discussion also touched on the Laikipia County Education Sector Strategic Plan 2019-

2022 (LCESSP) which put emphasis on creating an innovation ecosystem in Laikipia by highlighting areas of priority such as inclusive and equitable education, and quality and relevance of education.

The headteachers got a chance interact with Department of Innovation and Enterprise Development that incubates innovations in the county. Currently, over 1500 enterprises are under the program that aims at establishing original Laikipia brands, linking the bearer innovators to market and financier, guidance on patenting.

The headteachers were challenged to motivate pupils becoming innovative. They also need to ensure they offer education that purpose to improve their lives. They need to empower them to be self-reliant and provide leadership skills.

“Industrialization is a conscious choice that we must make, and you are critical influencers in the society,” Governor Ndiritu Muriithi told the headteachers.

Governor Ndiritu said that Laikipia is endowed with abundant minerals that when exploited can propel the county to industrialize. A study conducted by the Directorate of mining and State Department of Mining found several minerals such as Iron ore at Naibor and Limestone. The two minerals are essential in the manufacture of Iron, Steel and Cement. Investment in establishing industries within the county has the potential to spur economic growth, jobs creation and higher incomes to residents.

“It is unfortunate that minerals are being discovered after 60 years of independence. Thank you, Governor, for the efforts as they are being discovered during your tenure,” Anthony Kirundi said.

County Government intends to partner with primary schools to organize science fairs across Laikipia that focus on innovation, mechanization and creativity. As the county shift its attention towards improving the local economy through industrialization, it is essential to nurture them in this field.



Laikipia VTCs on A Self-Sustaining Journey

Some of the high-end machines in Laikipia North Vocational Training Centre



By Janet Wambaki

Laikipia county is a hub for Vocational Training Centers. It proudly offers education to over 1700 students from all over the county in 2020 as compared to 590 in 2017. The centers offer courses such as Agricultural and Mechanical Engineering, Applied Sciences, Automotive Engineering, Building and Civil Engineering, Business Courses, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Fashion Design and Beauty, Health Sciences, Hospitality and Tourism Management, Information, Communication and Technology, Liberal Studies and Mechanical Engineering.

Among some of the 10 Vocational Training Centers in Laikipia is Nyahururu Vocational Training Center, Rumuruti Vocational Training Center, Sipili Vocational Training Center, Olmoran Vocational Training Center and Nanyuki Vocational Training Center. All these education centers are registered to Kenya's

Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA).

With a vision to provide skilled and globally competitive employable human resource, Laikipia aims at generating income through the schools for the schools. In this financial year, all the centers in the county were expected to hand in business proposals on how they were going to generate income for themselves. The business plans will be based on the main courses they offer. In order to sustain themselves, most training centers have come up with initiatives to create revenue.

Rumuruti Vocational Training Center is coming up with business plan on how to generate income for their institution. They have modernized their hairdressing sector where they charge for services at a relatively friendly rate. They are also charging a low fee on their garment making where they are designing 'Vitenge' clothes to anyone interested in their services.

A collaboration with Mwanzi Farm where they

are training flower farms on a part-time basis is also a way of them paying for institution bills and also profit making. They are hoping to diversify to other sectors in their programmes to help in the income creation such as Electrical and Agricultural sectors. The establishment is creating awareness to the Rumuruti residents especially those out of secondary schools so as to bring in more students. They are also extending to neighbouring Thome and Ayam areas to enroll post-secondary students.

During and after the Covid-19 pandemic, the Olmoran Vocational Center together with Nanyuki, Tigithi, Nyahururu and Tigithi VTCs ensured a healthy Laikipia through making and distribution of masks. Nyahururu VTC is also in the business of leather making where they are making shoes not only for Laikipians but nationwide at an affordable price. They are also helping their younger counterparts in ECDEs to make desks to stimulate their learning.

Nanyuki VTC is running a cafeteria at the county assembly of Laikipia thus putting to practice the knowledge they acquire in class and making money in the process. Their goal is to expand to social events such as weddings, funerals and other social gatherings. Wiyumiririe VTC is guaranteeing county residents security by producing concrete posts for fencing purposes.

In the end of VTC training, students are able to increase their productivity through professionalism provided in the organizations. The alumni are also able to be self-reliable by self-employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.



Left: A product of Tigithi VTC.

Right: Nanyuki VTC displaying some of their products that they sell as they strive to become self-sustaining

