



# Laikipia to Host Africa Industrialization Week



**T**he Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and Enterprise Development has chosen Laikipia as the host of the African Industrialization week. The week will be observed between November 15<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> this year in Nanyuki. The state department of industrialization is riding on the success of Laikipia's model of supporting growth of SMEs which is gaining traction nationally.

The agenda for 2022 General Election focuses more on the best way to uplift the country's ailing economically, with Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development Programme presenting a more practical model.

The model has managed to entrench itself into the political debates ahead of the General Election, as presidential aspirants seek to address the issue of inclusive economy and what the government can do to realize growth of micro enterprises.

On September 26, former Prime Minister Raila Odinga who was in three-day tour of Laikipia was impressed by an exhibition of a range of 'made-in-Laikipia' products by some of Laikipia SMEs under the Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development Programme (LIEDP).

"I am happy to see Laikipia county government under the leadership of Governor Ndiritu

Muriithi making deliberate effort to uplift the SMEs. It's something that other counties should emulate," Mr Odinga said.

Two days later, Governor Ndiritu Muriithi was a key speaker at a luncheon organized by Mt Kenya Foundation spoke broadly about the Laikipia economic models.

More than three quarters of counties have come to benchmark with Laikipia in the last four years.

Laikipia's strategy is to grow its economy four-fold- from Kshs100 billion to Kshs400 billion within the medium term, Governor Muriithi's administration has identified enterprise development as a key driver.

Under the Enterprise development programme, the county has been incubating micro, small and medium enterprises- handholding them through the maze of formalization and certification processes. For the economy to grow four-fold, the county is targeting the handholding of 5,000 SMEs. Support to the SMEs under the Laikipia model includes provision of working space, market linkage, intellectual property rights registration, link to strategic partnerships, business planning development, business and technical training link to relevant certification and product development and design. Others include access to finance, mechanization of en-

terprises to enable mass production and enhancement of business environment.

It also includes a Sh3.3 billion economic stimulus fund set up through a partnership between the county government and several banks. Banks lend to businesses at normal market rates but the county government discounts the interest rate by five percent. This means if the bank is lending at interest of 12 percent, the business will repay at 7 percent. Businesses can access facilities such as working capital, asset finance, invoice discounting, Local Purchase Orders (LPOs), Group loans and Agribusiness loans. The main idea is to enable SMEs stand up again after the slowdown by covid-9 pandemic. Laikipia-made products have been placed both in local and international markets 16 other products have filed for utility models and patents. In 2019, 10 Laikipia enterprises showcased their products in Rwanda during the 20<sup>th</sup> East Africa Community MSMEs trade fair. The team got a chance to market their products and learn from other enterprises across the East African Community. "I sell my products in the East African region, Nigeria, Congo and Rwanda as a result of this exposure," said David Burii who makes maize drier. Three months ago, the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) registered BJ50- the four-wheeler tuktuk that Governor Ndiritu Muriithi rode on in 2017. The assembly is supporting at least 15 Nyahururu-based sub-contractors. The county is preparing to start exploiting iron ore and other mineral huge deposits in the county to accelerate the industrialisation process and electricity reticulation. The demand for more jobs and increased incomes has inadvertently brought to the fore the question on the best model to support SMEs which form the bulk of enterprises to create more jobs and higher incomes. This question is even more relevant to the ten CEREB member counties which have a combined GDP of Kshs 2.7 trillion, the bulk of which is supported by three million-plus MSMEs. Governor Ndiritu Muriithi believes his county is providing a practical way to support growth of SMEs and a perfect economic stimulus model to cushion the businesses against the devastating effects of Covid-19 pandemic.

# Well-wishers Restore Solar Power to Merigwit Primary School



A group of well-wishers has completed the repairs of Merigwit Primary school in Ol Moran ward which whose roof was burned down by bandits two months ago. The repair work on the affected classroom was completed with restoration of solar power to the school. Solar panels are among the items de-

stroyed during the on the school early September. The group of well wishers raised funds to reconstruct the school as a way of standing up for the Ol Moran

community. The Kenya Defence Forces too has been construction two modern classroom at the school.

# Feed Pelleting Can Improve Milk Production



*A pellet-making machine*

## By Mollin Wanjiru

The Department of Agriculture will be implementing the feeds pelleting and formulation concept among dairy farmers in the county. The goal is to transform dairy farming into a

commercial enterprise by increasing productivity through providing high quality feeds to farmers.

Farmers in Laikipia normally face serious shortage of animal feeds during dry seasons. Often,

this leads to unprecedented increase in the price of animal feeds especially in the cow milk value chain.

Feeds pelleting and fortification is a system that converts a finely-ground blend of ingredients into dense, free-flowing agglomerates (pellets).

Pelleting is key to the production of high-quality nutritional feeds as they ensure that the feed formulation is in the correct quantities to meet the nutritional needs of each animal.

The nutritional value of the pellets can help farmers increase milk production from a low of four to a high of 15 litres per day and therefore increase their daily incomes. This will also lower the cost of production of milk as much of the amount earned goes to animal feeds.

The issue of storage of fodder which are plenty during rainy season will also be addressed, this will ensure feeds security for the farmers throughout the year.

Feed pelleting will also help address the issue of storage of animal feeds as they are not bulky. The feeds are also of high quality and can be preserved for a longer period. Ultimately, the high-quality nutritional feeds produced will improve animal performance.

Among the farmers who have educated on feed pelleting are members of Solio Ranch Settlement Cooperative Society.

## Multiagency Security Team Medical Camp Treats 100 in Ol Moran

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021, officers from the multi-agency Command Centre in Laikipia County conducted a free medical camp at Ol-Moran Health Centre.

The Kenya Defence Forces achieved their aim of providing high quality medical services, raise health awareness among the community and create a good long-lasting rapport between the security team and the residents.

The residents were treated for various diseases such as malaria, diarrhea, respiratory tract infections and hypertension.

The officers, led by Commanding Officer 5<sup>th</sup> Kenya Rifles Lieutenant Colonel Dennis Obiero, offered health advice on nutrition and common diseases.

The team also donated some assorted medical equipment such as; a portable pressure steam sterilizer, a delivery bed, a space heater and drugs to the institution. This was to complement county government's efforts to provide more beds and drugs in the health centre.

The clinical officer of the health centre Mr Henry Kemboi, received the equipment. Approximately 100 people were treated during the medical camp. The KDF also helped in transporting pa-

*A KDF officer attends to some patients in Ol-Moran during a multi-agency medical camp*



tients from Ol-Moran to other facilities in the case of referrals.

The team promised to continue to work with the county government in their efforts towards fostering good relations with the residents.

Residents turned up for free check-up and treatment. Apart from being appreciative for the health services offered, they also expressed their gratitude for the security measures put in place by the multi-agency

security teams in the region.

Lt Colonel Obiero guaranteed continued support for the health centre so as to improve service delivery to residents. He advised pregnant mothers to attend prenatal clinics and go to hospital for delivery to avoid complications and infant deaths.

The multi-agency Command Team implored the residents to share information through the community policing mechanism to enhance security.

## Magimi-Kamangura Borehole Project Set to Benefit Around 200 Households

The pursuit for water for production in Laikipia continues to gain momentum as borehole water project is currently being constructed in Magimi-Kamangura Village, Tigithi Ward.

The project is 25% complete with the drilling of borehole and perimeter fence complete.

The county government has been implementing water for production with the objective of increasing agricultural productivity and building of resiliency to climate change risks to smallholder farming and pastoral communities in Laikipia.

These projects that are being implemented in various part of the county such as Makurian and Solio will also offer immediate and effective response for mitigating drought during dry season.

The construction of ablution block is currently at 60% complete. The target beneficiaries are around 200 households translating to about 1000 individuals. The residents will be able to access safe, reliable water for irrigation and live-



*Drilling of Kamangura borehole*

stock use.

The project is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries at a cost of Ksh 9 million.

The scope of the project includes drilling and equipping Kamangura borehole with solar powered pump, construction of 6-meter-high tank tower complete with 40 cubic meter fabricated steel tank, construction of ablution block, construction

of perimeter fence, 5 Kilometre Supply and distribution line for the 3 villages and supply of 300 ¼ drip kits

The borehole has a depth of 165 Meters below the Ground surface with water struck Depth of 125 Meters below the ground surface. The expected yield of the borehole will be 15 Cubic meter per Hour.

### STATEMENT ON COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING CHAIRED BY H.E. GOVERNOR NDIRITU MURIITHI

ON THURSDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2021

The County Executive Committee under the chairmanship of H. E. Governor Ndiritu Muriithi met today, Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 and deliberated on various issues as follows:

- Upholding of sanctity of life and property by all visitors and investors coming to Laikipia. With reference to the case of Agnes Wanjiru who was suspected of having been murdered by a British soldier(s) in Nanyuki nine years ago, the Executive Committee resolved to pursue all cases of gender-based violence and other injustices perpetrated to the people of Laikipia in one way or another.
- Approved an investment of Kshs 394 million in the Laikipia Health Service in the following areas:
  - Two Mother & Child Hospitals at LHS-Nanyuki and LHS Nyahururu each with 100 beds. Two premier wings at the top floor of the s Mother & Child blocks at LHS-Nanyuki and LHS-Nyahururu each with 20 beds
  - Equipping theatres at LHS Ndindika, LHS Rumuruti and LHS Lamuria
  - Laboratory equipment (biochemistry and Haematology) at the five cluster hubs, namely; LHS Olmorani, LHS Chumvi, LHS Kalalu, LHS Oljabet, LHS Muramati
  - Advanced laboratory equipment (Immunocytochemistry Hematology, Biochemistry, Blood gas analyzer) at LHS Nanyuki & LHS

Expansion of the renal unit at LHS Nanyuki. The county is currently able to serve 28 patients on a weekly basis.

Ultrasound machines in LHS Rumuruti, LHS Ndindika, LHS Kimanjo, LHS Lamuria and LHS Doldol to enhance Mother & Child Health (MCH) services and radiological diagnostic services.

X-rays for LHS Rumuruti and LHS Kimanjo and MRI Machine and associated civil works in LHS Nanyuki

Two CT scan machines, one each at LHS Nanyuki and LHS Nyahururu and associated civil works

- The Executive Committee also discussed a list of 79 items made or manufactured in Laikipia which the county government will give preference to in its procurement. To facilitate growth of local enterprises, these items will only be bought from Laikipia. Adequate procedures will be put in place during procurement processes to ensure the items in this list are from Laikipia.
- The Department of Infrastructure will develop a new work plan for improvement of roads under the Laikipia Leasing Programme.

# Sample Referral System Promising Early Success



*Analyzing referred samples at a LHS lab*

**By David Serem**

In just over a month following the introduction of the sample referral system in the new Laikipia Health Service, the uptake of the service is promising great results on the eastern front. By mid-last week for instance, LHS Nanyuki had received, analyzed and electronically relayed the results of close to 400 clients whose samples were collected from the facilities close to their homes. These are number that would have been required to go through all the queuing to be processed for the service in the facility.

The move brings fresh relief for clients who, for the first time, will not be subjected to the expensive and time-consuming arrangement that required them to personally avail them-

selves to the laboratories to access the diagnostic services. Instead, samples are now collected at the lower-level facilities and sent to the respective labs, with results being sent back for medical prescriptions and advice.

At LHS Nanyuki lab, this new development is exciting as the staff adjust to the new way of service delivery, where use of ICT for interfacility communications is poised to be a critical enabler to the successful implementation of the project.

Sample Referral System is one of the major pillars of the new Laikipia Health Service, with the innovation set to introduce uniformity in accessing quality services for all the 84 government health facilities in the

county. It seeks to directly relieve clients of the burden of having to present themselves to the facilities with labs for the services.

## Health concerns

In the long run, the new plan is set to counter the rampant effects of misdiagnosis as a result of patients seeking the convenience of unscrupulous private healthcare outlets. It has been established that a significant number of patients referred for lab services fall victim to the low-quality options in private clinics. Cases of patients presenting very inconsistent investigation and treatment histories from shady clinics are on the rise, mostly stemming from poor diagnosis or even complete lack of it. This has led to poor antibiotic prescriptions that has in turn led to the rising antimicrobial resistance.

Over time, there is buildup of misdiagnosis in the community, and abuse of drugs due to wrong prescriptions. The result is the antimicrobial resistance, a crisis that is fast catching up with us.

LHS Sample Referral system involves mapping out facilities into clusters, where one main facility will be serving smaller ones within its catchment. Motorcycle riders on delivery in between facilities will use designated routes that will make it easy for them to deliver samples, drugs and other commodities maximumly at a go.

Coming in the backdrop of waning trust on government facilities, the plan is meant to restore public confidence in government facilities by guaranteeing access of care to anyone at any of the outlets, and in the process educate them on the importance of seeking quality healthcare.

With the plan rolling into a successful take-off, all hurdles and emerging issues in the teething stages

## Governor Ndiritu Muriithi Chairing a Cabinet Meeting on Thursday, 4th November, 2021



# Traders, Residents Excited as Ol Jabet Smart Town Takes Shape



**By Vivian Wachira and Muriithi John**

The benefits of Ol Jabet smart town which is underway have started trickling to the local community improving the livelihoods of many.

The County Government of Laikipia has taken this initiative to ensure faster industrialization of the county through urbanization. The project, being constructed in two phases will have its first phase complete before the end of this year. The huge investment by the county government has not been in vain.

According to the project manager, Esther Mathenge the economic positive change is evident as the people embrace the new look.

"Many businesses have already started re-branding and changing the look of this town since we started its improvement to a smart town," Ms Mathenge said.

Paving of the streets of the town will make movement easier while accessing businesses that are in the interior especially during rainy seasons where mud was a huge hindrance, to go about their daily businesses will now be possible.

According to the site foreman Ouma Duncan, this project has already created employment among the locals in the area.

"We have employed 60 unskilled workers and 10 skilled persons from here," he also added that 70% of the earth work is complete that is the dam section, service roads, Jua Kali roads and also along the dispensary.

New businesses have started springing up in Ol Jabet town. Among them is a large scale posho mill She says she has witnessed new businesses

come up every day owing to the fact that good roads are enablers of businesses in any area. Investors look for places with good infrastructure to put their money with an assurance of low costs of production.

The town was previously muddy. Shoppers would only engage with those selling along the highway which has tarmac and leaving other sellers in interior sections of the town at the mercy of those with guts to maneuver the muddy streets.

"The business community is confessing that the businesses are doing better because of they are now accessible. We now have a modern posho mill and a supermarket, businesses we never had before," she said, adding that they expect even more such business.

Mathenge says that not only are new businesses coming up but also people coming to reside in the new town. The flow of people has increased compared to when the town was either muddy or dusty depending on weather.

According to the chairman business community in Oljabet Daniel Mwangi, the products the community has been forced to get in Nyahururu or other major towns will be available without extra cost in commuting fees. He says he has talked to people who are waiting for the completion of the project to invest in the town.

"We will rarely be visiting Nyahururu and other towns to look for some products as they soon be available here. The way people take time before going to Nairobi will be the same way we will be taking before visiting Nyahururu," the chairman said.

The county government intentionally heavily invested in the area to attract more investors—both local and international which will help in creating jobs for the local community, while also saving the people from making long journeys in search of basic commodities.

Every investment, especially the major ones will have people from the locality as employees. Already, about 90 per cent of the people involved in the construction of the project are people from the area.

"We have engaged the community to ensure we get local labor in construction of this smart

town. In fact, only 10 people working here are not locals," said Duncan Ouma, the site foreman.

Investors are advised to take this early opportunity to make their investment in Oljabet so that when the infrastructure development of the town they will have an advantage. Real estate business is a viable opportunity as the town attracts more people to visit and even settle. Land prices is also expected to shoot as the town continue developing, thus the time to relocate and invest is now!

"The smart town project is an inspiration for me to start this posho mill business. The location is interior but the road construction has made it easier for customers to reach the to my business," said retired senior chief Lawrence Kihoro Njuki.

Mr Wanjohi Waka, who owns a soup and mutura base says he has been having customers even from Karandi as people pass by while checking the progress of the project. He also says since the smart town project started there is a high demand for business premises in the town.

The ongoing improvement of the town is attracting more and more people. Ms Judy Githogori of Angaza Boutique in Ol jabet designs vitenge clothes. Ms Githogori, who is in the Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development Programme hails Governor Ndiritu Muriithi for encouraging people to buy locally made fabrics thus promoting her business.

The smart town project has been effective in a positive way to her business, she says. The construction of the roads around the town has eased access to the market. Farmers can bring potatoes, maize and even milk to the market easily. Also, the health center has become accessible by many.

Ms Mary Gitucha, popularly known as Wa Caro Salon says: "We will have proper display of business due to the smart town project as there will be no dust or mud. It will lead to expansion of the business as more customers will be attracted to the area."



## Firming Up Ol Moran Unity Through Football



*A football match at Nanyuki Stadium. Sports have a way of bringing communities together*

The County Government of Laikipia has organized a football tournament at Sipili stadium in Kirima Sub-County on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021.

The tournament will bring together youths from eight locations in the large Kirima Sub-County such as Luokien, Posta, Kawenje, Ol-Moran, and Sipili.

The event is one of a series of activities that the county is undertaking to keep conversa-

tion going on issues affecting Ol-Moran ward. After the match, the participants will engage with security organs operating within the area on peace. This will offer a chance to deliberate on how calm can be restored in the area and achieve a peaceful co-existence between different communities residing in Ol-Moran.

Football has the ability to bring communities together as it allows people to connect breaking down the barriers dividing people

while inspiring peace amongst them.

H.E Governor Ndiritu Muriithi has been advocating for adoption of soft security programme within counties that form the Amaya region; Laikipia, Samburu, Baringo and Isiolo. The programme is intended to address the root cause of banditry and cattle rustling.

“For a long time, we have been employing hard security strategies like carrying out security operations which has not stopped the attacks, it is high time we address the root causes of these attacks,” Governor Muriithi said.

The four county government are seeking an investment amounting to Ksh6 billion from ministry of interior and Treasury, to promote infrastructure, education, dam construction among others.

For the past two months, the county government has been initiating development projects in the area such as road construction through the leasing Programme to open up the area for smooth transport.

The county has also been assisting in reconstruction of homes and schools with the help of Kenya Defense Forces and other well-wishers who have donated construction materials.

## Mugumo – An Emerging Market in Ol Daiga



Mugumo centre in Umande ward is fast emerging into a vibrant market which is bringing traders and buyers from as far as Murangá and Kirinyaga counties. County First Lady Maria Mbeneka was there last week and shopped her groceries and engaged with women traders at the market. Women’s economic empowerment not only promotes greater economic development but greater equity, opportunity, and social progress.

# Laikipia Stands Up Against Killer UK Soldier



## By Muriithi John

The people of Kenya and especially those from Laikipia County continue demanding for justice for Agnes Wanjiru who was brutally murdered by a British soldier in Nanyuki town, nine years ago.

The county government of Laikipia also has also taken a bold step against a deafening silence from the offices from the national government who are responsible to answer to the unending questions of what transpired on that day.

“We cannot be discussing democracy and good conduct of international relations if such cases are to be allowed to happen,” said Governor Ndiritu Muriithi while expressing his concern at the slow pace of getting to justice for Wanjiru’s Murder. He expressed his disappointment in that Britons continue killing Africans and getting away with it, yet that is what the forefathers refused while fighting for inde-

pendence.

Governor Muriithi reiterates that nothing should supersede a person’s life; not even lifting of Nanyuki economy by the presence of UK soldiers who come for training in the town.

“The fact that they have provided employment to some of the locals does not give these soldiers the license to kill our people,” said Governor Muriithi.

The number one priority of any government in the world is protection of life of her citizens and that is what is motivating the county government to take the bold action and call for all relevant bodies to work toward ensuring justice in this case. The

On October 28 this year, the devolved unit launched an official demand for action with the DCI to keenly look into the matter

In line for show of support for speedy quest for justice for Wanjiru and her family, the

county government assured support for various groups intending to conduct peaceful demonstrations within Nanyuki town.

As the saying goes justice delayed is justice denied, it has been a justice denial in castigated by Kenyan and UK’s governments.

The incident that took place on March 31, 2012 at Lion's Court Hotel in Nanyuki has been laid low and left Wanjiru’s family including her now ten-year old child anguishing with nowhere to turn.

What adds salt to the injury is that the soldier who committed this murder went ahead and bragged with some colleagues for killing the lady. No prosecution was done by either of the governments.

Wanjiru’s body was discovered three months later bearing stab wound in a septic tank.

As if that was not enough for the frustrations the soldiers bring to Nanyuki people, another soldier was caught indecently lifting a Kenyan woman's skirt in a mall in October this year. The soldier, identified as a Colour Sergeant Barlow was fined Ksh 75,913 and dismissed from the military.

If only such actions are taken against the one who killed, then Laikipia and Kenyan people in general will see that justice has started taking its course and not only words.

Though the people living around British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK) benefit from the coming of the foreigners who provide employment and other services, there has also been major complaints of environment destruction. These actions leave the people undecided whether BATUK presence has a net benefit or

## Performance Appraisal



*Governor Ndiritu Muriithi taking County Government of Laikipia senior management through the performance appraisal process using the iComms system which is the core operating system for the organization*