

NEW OIL DEPOT TO SPUR LAIKIPIA'S ECONOMY



Fuel tanks are seen at the new Vivo Energy Nanyuki Depot. The 11 million-litre depot will supply Central, Northern and North-Eastern Kenya

Featured in this Issue:

- Laikipia Businesses meet with NSE officials
- -Inside Nanyuki Vocational Training Centre business plan
- Public Service Reforms Enter New Phase
- Nanyuki Hosts national boxing team

LAIKIPIA SMEs EYE NSE LISTING

..as an alternative of capitalizing their businesses

A major hurdle to local business start-ups and expansion is lack of capital. But, as it turns out, there exists great business financing options that the Nairobi Securities Exchange can provide to turn around fortunes of many small and medium enterprises in Laikipia ...*page 2*



FACTS ON CEREB BLOC

- Regional economy estimated at Ksh.22 tm
- If CEREB was a country it would be Number:
 - ◊ 4 out of 5 in the East Africa community
 - ◊ 21 out 52 in Africa
 - ◊ 113 out of 217 of world economies

Source World Bank

Nanyuki Town is set to become a regional economic hub with the entry of Vivo Energy as the firm sets up a mega oil storage depot.

The 11-million litre Vivo Energy fuel depot will supply fuel to parts of central, northern and north-eastern Kenya, cutting the costs and risk of trucking the product by road.

By setting up in Nanyuki town, the oil company is at a strategic point to supply the counties under Central Kenya Economic Bloc (CEREB) whose economy is estimated at Ksh. 2.2 trillion, in addition supplying markets beyond the region.

This means Vivo energy is set to tap a market with an economy that would place it position four in East Africa, if the region was a country, edging out Rwanda and Burundi. The choice of Nanyuki for investment of such large scales underlines the growing significance of the town and Laikipia in general as a preferred business destination.

The railway line whose restoration works is currently in high gear will provide a cost-effective, safe and efficient bulk transport alternative for the oil firm, further strengthening the significance

Other big entrants in the Laikipia investment landscape include a 300MW solar farm in Rumuruti, a billion shilling hotel in Iing'wesi in Laikipia North, high end hotel chain Lodo Springs in Loisaba Conservancy, Tuskys Supermarket among many others.

The new business-friendly environment in Laikipia is attracting more investments across most of its economic sectors of tourism, agriculture, finance, energy, real estate and other areas. This positive development trend is a boon for the residents who will get direct and indirect jobs in the production and service industry value chain.

HAY BARN TO UNLOCK OPPORTUNITIES IN LIVESTOCK VALUE CHAIN



Laikipia County has made yet another stride create jobs in livestock keeping and the associated value chain with the commissioning of a modern, large scale hay barn. The new 25,000-bale hay shed in Matanya, Laikipia East is set to expose area residents to vast opportunities in the growing of grass for animal feeds, zero grazing and feed-lot farming for dairy and meat production respectively.

Nanyuki Vocational Training Centre Begins Auto Repair Services



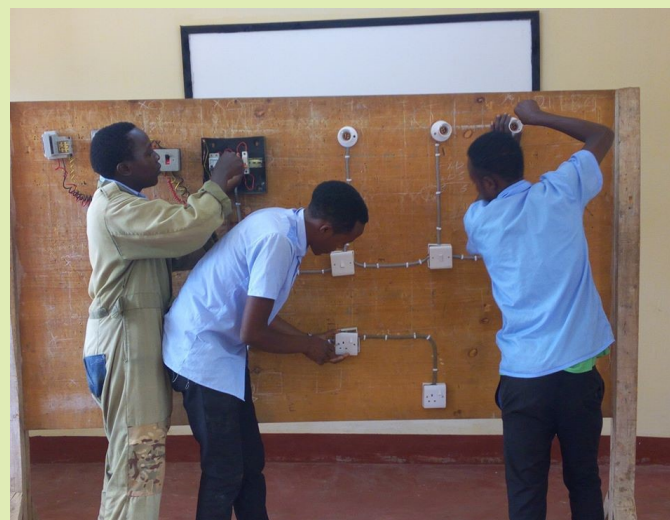
Automotive Mechanics students in class at Nanyuki Vocational Training Centre. Right: an Electrical wiring class in practical session

Is your car due for service? How about making a stop at the auto workshop at Nanyuki Vocational Training Centre the next time you need to have your vehicle fixed?

The County Government of Laikipia could soon be one of the first clients to have its vehicles serviced at the institution's fully equipped auto workshop soon, a milestone that will strengthen the relevance of technical training to the youth as a catalyst of economic growth.

The development provides the technical training institution with the capacity to go beyond training to become an employer to some of its finest graduates in the respective the various areas of training.

The entry of mechanical service provision is set to raise the profile of the institution's business plan which currently already in the business of carpentry, welding and catering services.



Once again, the County Government of Laikipia's pursuit of job creation is steadily being realized by aligning investments in the institutions under its mandate to raise the capacity for job creation.

The technical training centre prides itself in equipping its graduates with hands-on skills on motor mechanics, electrical wiring and installation, carpentry, masonry, welding and fabrication, catering among other areas.

.....(cont'd from page 1) *Laikipia businesses Eye NSE to raise investment capital*

domain. As revealed by officials from Nairobi Securities Exchange, stock markets are one of the best avenues to raise capital through the sale of shares to provide liquid capital to finance business expansion.

Laikipia business people, who met with the officials from Nairobi Securities Exchange in Nanyuki and Nyahururu, were exposed to the immense opportunities they can explore to raise liquid capital through trading in the stock exchange market.

The forum provided the business people with an insight into the process of raising equity capital through the sale of shares, a financial practice behind the success of multinational organizations.

By listing with the Nairobi Securities Exchange, companies, besides realizing financial strength, will also raise their profile as they feature in stocks trading. This not only strengthens the finances of an organization, but also exposes it to new customers through without necessarily having to market.

And contrary to popular belief that investing in physical assets such as land or commercial buildings are the most rewarding ventures, the stock markets trading is one of the most lucrative investments. The stock provides financial flexibility by allowing the investor to sell shares for liquid capital whenever the need arises.

on the stock market. By targeting SMEs, the stocks exchange company plans to bring the bulk of the companies running the Kenyan economy onto a platform that will enable them get hosted under the program to incubate startup companies going into full listing.

The NSE has stock trading products that are tailored to suit the local market. Ibuka, is an NSE product that will enable the listing of SMEs through hosting, an incubation opportunity for businesses planning to transit into independent listing

explore the business financing options at their disposal.

M-Akiba is another stocks investment opportunity from the NSE, providing Kenyans from all walks of life with the opportunity to invest in profitable government bonds through the mobile money platform. With an initial deposit of 3000 shillings, the investment guarantees a 10 per cent untaxed profit in six months, one of the incentives the government has put in place to bring more Kenyans on board.

Water for Production Key for Social transformation in Laikipia



Muthengera borehole in Laikipia West

The project, a case in point of the impact of devolution is set to turn around the lives of the people of Solio from recipients of food aid to commercial producers of fresh farm produce, dairy farming, feedlots farming and the associated value chain.

The Luoniek Water Project is another life-changing story to the residents who for years have been living at the periphery of development. By drilling a new borehole and distributing water to the residents, the County government moved in to end persistent water crisis that has been the cause of water-borne diseases, conflicts and poor school attendance among the children.

Some of the projects at different stages of implementation include boreholes drilling, equipping and servicing, construction new of water pans as well as dredging and desilting existing ones.

Some of the rehabilitated dams are Solio, Kariunga, Doldol, Aiyam, Wanewachi, Lonyiek, among many others. The government has done boreholes in Segera, Bokish, Muthengera, Luonyiek and many others.



A section where the 34 km Solio water pipeline passes through

As a way of making agriculture a profitable business, the County Government of Laikipia has made remarkable progress to provide water for production. The economic activity has continued to operate below potential due to lack of sufficient water.

The government has initiated several water projects across the County, as it strives to turn around fortunes of the farming communities. Through partnerships with national government, water agencies and the international community such as US and Nordic Countries, the government is implementing a water master plan to provide water for domestic and agricultural production.

These water projects are meant to cultivate a water harvesting culture among farmers to reduce over-reliance on erratic rainfall for farming.

Of the many projects, the Solio Water Project stands out in terms of scale and financial input. After two years of planning, negotiations through implementation, the project has finally delivered clean water to the 20,000 residents of Solio who previously depended on saline water from unreliable boreholes.

New Hay Barn unlocks opportunities in livestock value chainfrom page 1

zero grazing and feedlot farming for dairy and meat production respectively.

The massive modern store, which is set to accommodate 500-hectare hay, will provide a platform for farmers to in cooperatives to better manage their output to maximize on the efficient storage capacity within their reach.

Contrary to what has been the norm where farmers have engaged in less-profitable agricultural activities, farmers in Matanya will now engage in profitable animal feeds farming, an agricultural venture the area climatic condition is more suitable.

And with the railway transport revival in Laikipia well on track, the efficient Matanya hay barn will open up the area to large scale animal feeds-farming to supply markets beyond Laikipia. This development is set to strengthen contract-farming as the revived railway line address the missing transport link by hauling the bulky goods cheaply and efficiently.

The rail transport and a robust animal feeds production zone are suitable combinations for famers on feedlots scheme as the venture is dependent on an efficient bulk transport system.

With optimum utilization, the hay barn will provide jobs in the livestock production value chain of milk, meat, leather, veterinary services among others. This development is in line with the government's commitment to providing the business-friendly environment to accelerate job creation.

Promotive Healthcare Strategy to Boost Life Expectancy in Laikipia



A surgical Theatre at Kimanjo sub-county hospital, 70-km north of Nanyuki

Laikipia is investing more in promotive and preventive health care in a bid to push life expectancy of its population from 72 years average, which is the highest nationally. This means residents of Laikipia live five years longer than those living elsewhere in Kenya because the country's average life expectancy is 67 years.

.....pg 4

STAFF RATIONALIZATION TO BENEFIT CITIZENS

...the bold move will ease the wage bill and increase development vote



Governor Ndiritu Muriithi engages staff at a quarterly general staff meeting in Nanyuki

Laikipia County Government will have additional Ksh 1.143 billion for development of roads, healthcare, water, bursaries, and other projects after removing from its payroll 172 employees who were not doing any defined work.

The county had allocated Kshs128 million to cater for the benefits of the employees who exited, but will in turn gain Kshs1.143 billion over the next three years from this investment.

The savings will go towards development projects. The County Assembly approved the Ksh128 million in this financial year's budget. It will be paid to 172 members of staff whom the government has released from duty after their positions were found to be no longer tenable.

The affected members will be taken through professional counseling to enable them make the best out of their retirement benefits.

The move is part of a staff rationalization program, which is at the centre of the ongoing reforms to the public service that the government has been pursuing for the last two years. The reforms are set to streamline the public service for efficiency in service discharge.

The decision to relieve some workers of their duties was informed by findings from a staff audit conducted last year which revealed that some positions were no longer rational.

The report on the staff audit by the County Public Service Board found out that while some workers were drawing salaries, their roles did not complement services delivery to the people.

The decision is part of a strategy aimed at achieving fiscal balance on government expenditure. Standing at 58 per cent, the recurrent expenditure for Laikipia has continued to put a strain on finances meant for development, which is contrary to the legal requirement that caps recurrent expenditure at 35 per cent of total government spending.

The staff restructuring bring will bring Ksh. 1.14 billion to the county development kitty in the medium term. Early retirement has been an ongoing process as the government responds to prevailing changes that require a shift in the way government transacts business.

Technological disruption, for instance, has rendered the positions of telephone switchboard operators and messengers obsolete.

The County Government of Laikipia has remained steadfast on reforms that are geared towards achieving a world-class public service.

Continuous training is part of the reforms meant to ensure the workforce is equipped with the necessary skills to manage cross-cutting projects that are tied up to the County Integrated Development Plan.

In addition, a weekly online timesheet shows a breakdown of the weekly activities that are part of a worker's individual work plan that is tied to the departmental work plan, which is linked to the County Integrated Development Plan through the Annual Development Plan.

Laikipia's Preventive healthcare strategy.....from page 2

The county's health intervention strategy is also to drastically reduce child mortality for children under the age of five years, where the county records the second lowest deaths nationally.

The government is keen to attain healthier communities by investing more on preventive and promotive health care strategies. The unique Laikipia Universal Health Coverage model empowers community health by investing more in frontline health provision points, with an emphasis on communities taking charge of their health by changing their health seeking behavior through taking frequent check-ups.

Disease screenings will greatly improve the chances of success in treatment, as early detection for early intervention is the only way to manage cancer. By recruiting Community Health Volunteers, health education on personal hygiene, child immunization and nutrition is set to greatly boost community health interventions.

The end result is a healthy population which will channel their energy into more income-generating activities.

All in pursuit of making Laikipia the best county with the best quality of life, the government has continued to pursue health insurance by continuously engaging the public on the benefits of health insurance. The effort has seen Laikipia lead on NHIF subscription standing at 63 per cent against the national average of 37 per cent.

Strong frontline health care provision strategy has seen the government scale up investments on basic health care facilities. This has seen the construction of additional referral hospitals and health centres across the county.

With stronger capacities, dispensaries and health centres will handle most of the diagnostics as maternity needs.

The establishment of more sub-county referral hospitals closer to the people is set to establish an efficient referral system. Kimanjo, Lamuria, Olmoron, Ndindika, and Rumuruti Sub-County Hospitals will each serve respective catchment areas to strengthen the referral system.

The sub-county hospitals are equipped to handle most of the surgical, x-ray and other services that will decongest the main county referral facilities of Nanyuki and Nyahururu.

The strategy

The county's strategy is to invest in the diagnostic capacity of dispensaries and health centres, as well as increase the services available in them. This has started with Lamuria, Doldol, Kimanjo, Rumuruti, Ndindika, Ol Moran, Wiyumiririe and Kalalu and will soon be rolled out to other facilities like Kihato, Solio, Matanya, Ngobit, Likii, Nturukuma, Githuci, Mugumo, Muramati, Powys, Ilpolei, Ewaso, Chumvi, East Laikipia Arjiju Luoniek, Sosian, Lorien, Ndurumo, Ol Ng'arua, Thigio, Oljabet, Melwa, Salama, Pesi, Thome, Mwenje, Maili Saba and Losogwa. The county has also established maternity facilities in 17 of its dispensaries. Three weeks ago, HE the Governor opened a three (3) bed maternity wing at Nturukuma dispensary. Others with similar facilities are Ol Jabet, Chumvi, Sipili, Muramati, Luoniek, Salama, Pesi, Arjiju, Matanya, Wiyumiririe, Kalalu, Muthengera, Solio, Minjore, Karandi and East Laikipia

Leased Equipment Hastens Laikipia Road Rehabilitation

Road construction through the leased equipment program is making remarkable progress as it transforms Laikipia into a regional economic hub through enhanced transport. The program provides a cheaper and flexible alternative to do more roads as opposed to ordinary contracting.

After Salama and Ol-moran wards where the government has done over 41 kilometres of roads since November last year, the next stop for the construction brigades leaving Salama is Marmanet ward. The roads upgrade project is set to cover over 300 kilometres across all the 15 wards of Laikipia in phase one. This will include new and rehabilitated roads to interlink the rural areas to the increasing network of tarmac road covering Laikipia.

Once complete, the ambitious project will present opportunities in the transport of farm products, livestock, and commerce within and out of the county. This will raise Laikipia's profile higher on the ease of doing business index, where the latest survey by Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research Analysis (KIPPRA) places Laikipia at the fifth position nationally.

Faced with the need to rapidly transform the transport infrastructure within a shorter time-frame amidst financial setbacks, the County Government of Laikipia embarked on the uncharted path in quest for an innovative cost-friendly alternative to pursue the course that led to the vehicle and equipment-leasing program.

The vehicle leasing deal was a culmination of a two-year long process of negotiation where Laikipia County's financial credibility played a major role towards realization of the goal. This arrangement frees the government of the hassle of equipment maintenance, therefore allowing it to work on projects uninterrupted where chances of projects stalling are almost non-existent. This saves the government the set-back that comes with the breakdown of machines where replacement or servicing becomes painfully slow.

This means that contrary to previous arrangements roads construction projects cannot stall mid-way.

In addition, by spreading the payment for the leasing program over a longer period of time, the government is left with more money to implement the projects which the leased machines are procured to undertake.



A road in Kiamariga in Salama ward

A total of 41 kilometres of roads in Salama and Ol Moran wards have been graveled to all weather status using the leased equipment. The cost of improving the 41 kilometres is approximately Kshs. 8,000,000 translating to approximately Kshs. 200,000 per graveled kilometer excluding the cost of leased equipment. Including this cost brings the total to Kshs.300,000 per kilometer which is three to five times cheaper than prevailing market rates. This clearly demonstrates that our leasing option is indeed a much cheaper option to improve the road network in our county. In addition, delivery of projects is timely. With the rainy season now behind us, the county is expected to move with speed to complete more work on the roads and overall infrastructure programme.

Laikipia Sports

SKY ISN'T LIMITING FOR LAIKIPIA TUG-OF-WAR TEAM

The Laikipia Tug of War team recently earned Laikipia a name in the sporting arena as it traversed borders to bring home the trophy as the best in East Africa.

The County Spot Award-winning team pulled its way up to claim top spot at the Kenya Inter-County Sports and Cultural Association (KICOSCA) games in Kericho, where it proceeded to represent Kenya in the East Africa Local Governments games in Uganda after beating a team from Nairobi County.

The team was recognized with a Sport Award, the biggest prize from the County Government rewarded to individuals or teams for exemplary performance.

The quarterly award, which comes in the form of cash token, is meant to reward hardworking members of staff who go out of their way in their lines of duty.

The team comprises of players from the various staffing ranks of the County Government of Laikipia.

NANYUKI HOSTS NATIONAL BOXING TEAM TRAINING FOR OLYMPICS

Laikipia County has reaffirmed its position as a sports destination with the hosting of the National Olympic Boxing team that has currently pitched tent in Nanyuki town.

The boxing team, which will represent Kenya in the upcoming African Olympics Qualifiers in Senegal, has been training in Nanyuki Social Hall for the last three weeks, where Kenya will be fighting for a slot in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The boxing team management chose Nanyuki for its conducive, high altitude climatic condition ideal for training. The newly-renovated Nanyuki Social Hall provides an ideal training arena for the indoor game. The County Government of Laikipia is committed to promoting sports by improving sports infrastructure. The government renovated Nanyuki Social Hall to provide indoor sports arena to accommodate sports activities such as boxing, karate and other indoor games.

Laikipia Teams to Represent Central Region in Chapa Dimba Finals



Two Laikipia football teams are representing Central Kenya in the finals of the Safaricom's Chapa Dimba youths grassroots tournament. Boys' team Ulinzi Youth from Nanyuki's Laikipia Airbase and Nyahururu-based Falling Waters in the girl's category both cruised into victory to book a place at the regional finals to be held in Nairobi, where the winners from both categories will win a ticket to play in Spain. Both teams walked away with 200,000 shillings prize each awarded by Safaricom to winners of the regional championship. The teams are currently eyeing Ksh. 1 Million each, the prize money for winners of the regional finals.

Nanyuki Sports Stadium hosted the Central Region's finals.