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Over 1,200 Laikipia Farmers Trained on Better Farming Methods

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Laikipia hopeful to attain the 1billion target in revenue collection as third quarter shows positive results

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Governor's Bursary forms are now available. They are to be returned on or before 6th May

Infrastructure Bond Utilization Kicks-Off with Building Karuga Smart Town



On April 5 this year, the County Government signed off the commencement of building of the Karuga Smart Town with Warugita General Contractors. This is the first project that the just approved bond will finance, awaiting 16 more.

Tourism Fund Brings Boosts Laikipia Women Bead Workers

By Muriithi John

Women groups that rely on bead work in Laikipia County have reached a milestone that seems to transform their lives for the better. This is after the County Government of Laikipia invited the Tourism Fund who organized a three-day training in Nanyuki aimed at ensuring the women add more value to their products with an increased income.

According to the Director Tourism Fund Abel Odhiambo, this is a show of their commitment to keep their promise they made last year after the County Government invited them to capacity build people in the tourism sector.

“The reason we funded this training for the women is as a way of promoting local tourism. It is a fulfilled promise to the County Government. We intend to continue with this partnership, he said.

The training that covered areas like improving designs, producing variety of beadworks, product differentiation and packaging, customer service, tour guiding skills, safety and hygiene, digital marketing, first aid techniques, and other relevant topics benefitted the group in what they will now be offering to the market.

The different combination of beads in any product should be customized depending on the colors preferences of a person. For instance, people from differ-



An ongoing training session on beadworks sponsored by Tourism Fund at Sportsman's Arms Hotel in Nanyuki

ent communities prefer different colours.

First aid lessons and other life skills help the women when handling a customer with injuries of other minor health issues before they are attended by the doctors. The over 100 attendants who were drawn from various women groups as representatives, agreed on the need to unite under one umbrella to have better and more bargaining powers in the market.

“We need to come together as women dealing in beadworks for us to benefit from different financiers and other stakeholders. When we are united, we will enjoy economies of scale, branding will be easier, and so will be marketing of our products,” said Pamela Kilua from Naibala

Women Group.

Laikipia County is well known for promoting cultural tourism as witnessed in beadwork. It is considered as a tourism destination by many because of some unique features and rare wild animals like the Big Five and the Black Panther. More engagements are set to follow this training for monitoring on how well the training has been put into use.

“We want to urge all the other counties to take a cue from Laikipia in promoting tourism through identifying the needs of key players, supporting them, and even getting partners to support them more as this is a devolved function,” said Sam Ikwaye from Tourism Professional Association (TPA).

Karuga Smart Town Works Kick Off

By Muriithi John

The County Government of Laikipia has moved with speed to utilize the just approved Infrastructure Bond by the national Cabinet. Barely a week after the approval, the government has started its first project to be funded by the Bond, Karuga Smart Town.

On April 5th 2022, the contractor to work on the project together with the County Secretary Karanja Njora signed the contract as a sign of commitment to accomplish this task. The handing over of the site to Warugita General Contractors also took place on the same week.

The project that is expected to take around eight months will include 1.2 km bitumen road around the town, walkways of about 4.4km, street lights, and well-done drainages to ensure no flooding of water-hence ensuring longevity. One of the stretches will involve moving from Laikipia University to town for the sake of the safety of the students and other pedestrians and avoiding congestion in the highway.

“The project will create direct em-



Warugita General Contractors representative (seated right) joins Laikipia County Secretary Karanja Njora in signing of Karuga Smart Town last week

ployment to many Laikipians, including the contractor who hails from the Laikipia West sub county. We have also instructed them to ensure the menial work is given to the local community, unless there are specialists needed who may not come from the area,” said Mr. Njora.

Karuga Smart Town is one of the many series of projects that this alternative source of funding by the county Government of Laikipia has embraced. It is expected to follow in the footsteps of Oljabet Smart Town which is almost complete and has transformed the area for the better.

There are more than 16 projects to be funded through this new

way of financing projects. The bond carries Ksh.1.16 billion and will go to the specific projects.

“We are going to open accounts for specific projects so that when the contractor is done with a project, the money will be available. This money cannot be diverted whatsoever for proper accountability,” CEC Finance Murungi Ndai said.

“My office will also make follow ups ensuring financial statements will be developed for specific projects so as we can see how the projects have been moving quantitatively and qualitatively,” he added.

Over 1,200 Farmers Trained on Better Farming Methods



An ongoing training session for farmers

By Mollin Wanjiru

Agricultural extension services play an integral role in promotion of Agriculture through advancement of information on farm technology and research to farmers at the ward and village levels. As an effort to increase productivity and eradicate poverty, the Department of Agriculture led by the Chief Officer Emily Kioko in collaboration with Remington Africa Ltd organized a Farmers Field Day in Ng'arua-Kinamba to teach on various aspects of modern agriculture.

The field day came in handy for crop farmers who are preparing their farms for planting as they were introduced to various aspects of crop management. Starting soil analysis, use of certified

seeds, and using fertilizers.

The Kenya Seed Company advised the maize farmers on the best seeds to be planted in the area as farmers flocked to buy quality assured seeds. Getting certified seeds in the area has been a challenge.

The training also involved using various herbicides including preemergence herbicides, minimum tillage and mulching which are forms of conservation agriculture.

On livestock and dairy farming, the Farmers were intensively explained on various livestock feeds and the methods of feed conservation and treatment specifically on silage making.

Feeding accounts for up to 70% cost of production which may rise to 90% during the dry season. It

therefore forms a critical aspect what should be addressed.

Elias Njoroge, the County Livestock Marketing and value addition Officer, advises farmers to preserve fodder in form of haylage and silage during seasons of plenty as well as using crop residues.

Currently majority of farmers in Laikipia West from the maize growing areas have maize stokes which can be treated with molasses and urea to improve energy and protein respectively.

Farmers are also advised to reduce the size of the maize stokes using mechanical methods such as chopping by means of a pulveriser. This helps in improving the intake as well as easy handling of the fodder materials.

The training that attracted over 1,200 farmers, had over 40 exhibitors who showcased on different farm technologies and farm inputs. The county booth was one of the most frequently visited an indication that farmers are thirsty for knowledge on how to improve their farming and increase productivity.

The county livestock and Crops officers are available to provide farmers with practical demonstration on how to maximize on feeding during the dry season as well as methods to apply for conservation Agriculture practices.

Laikipia on Right Path to Hit Ksh.1B Target as Last Quarter Kicks off



Laikipia Revenue Board Chairperson Alice Kimemia (Middle) during the release of revenue statement for the last 3/4 of the 2021/2022 financial year. She is joined by the board's CEO Prudence Waithera (left) and CEC finance Murungi Ndai

By Kezia Kirera

In the last nine months of the current financial year (2021/2022), the County Government of Laikipia has recorded a remarkable collection in revenue of Kshs. 667,873,507 million. This amount is a 16% improvement from the previous financial year's collection of Kshs. 575,871,509. The collection is also an improvement of 31% and 17% for the 2019/2020 and 2018/2019 financial years, where the amount collected was Kshs. 507,958,099 and Kshs. 572,797,786, respectively.

The growth in Own Source Revenue (OSR) collection is credited to improvement in key revenue streams. These streams in-

clude, Health Service fee, Vehicle Parking management, Cess fees, Land sub-division fees, among others.

The upward trajectory of OSR growth has translated directly into major developments in Laikipia County. These developments, which are directly funded by the taxpayer's monies, have greatly improved the living standards of *Wanjiku* in the county.

Some of the developments include the upgrading and re-branding of Laikipia Health Service to improve the health care services, Smart Towns initiatives projects in Nanyuki, Nyahururu, Rumuruti, Oljabet

and Kinamba to modernize and make for planned industrial towns with great and accessible amenities.

Infrastructural development projects in the county have also greatly changed the face of the county for the better, with improved road networks increasing accessibility to areas within the County which in turn, facilitate efficiency in doing business. Another notable development is Water for Production projects which have greatly impacted on the lives of communities in Laikipia who have for a long time not been able to access adequate and clean water.

Optimism is still high that this financial year's target of achieving Kshs. 1,000,000,000 in revenue collection will be realized so as to enable every household in Laikipia to lead a prosperous life and make Laikipia the Greatest County with the Best Quality of Life.

Great thanks go to all the stakeholders who have continually supported the government through this journey of success.

Eligibility to the Laikipia County Rebate Programme

The below table shows the credibility of businesses within Laikipia County that are set to benefit from the Electricity rebates programme. The programme aims at refunding 30 per cent of the monthly energy bills that goes up to Ksh 100,000, and a 50 per cent refund on annual bills with a cap of 50,000 .

The intends to make Laikipia manufacturers have a competitive advantage of those products produced within and outside the country as a way of promoting local manufacturing.

For one to qualify to benefit from the programme, a business must score 40/50 marks in the below table

| Name of the manufacturing business | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| S/N | Item | Score |
| 1. | Laikipia Manufacturing sector (please tick appropriately): i. Manufacture of textiles ii. Manufacture of wearing apparels iii. Manufacture of food products iv. Manufacture of beverages v. Manufacture of tobacco products vi. Manufacture of leather and leather products vii. Manufacture of wood and products of wood including paper and paper product viii. Manufacture of chemical and chemical products ix. Manufacture of pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemical and botanical products x. Manufacture of rubber and plastic products xi. Manufacture of other non-metallic products xii. Manufacture of fabricated metal products xiii. Manufacture of computer, electronic, optical products and electrical equipment xiv. Manufacture of machinery and equipment xv. Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers, and other transport equipment xvi. Manufacture of furniture xvii. Other manufacturing xviii. Mining and quarrying | 20 marks |
| 2. | Which Content/Materials do you obtain locally for your production? (Give contact to your source of raw materials) | 10 Marks |
| 3. | Who are your external competitors? (Outside Laikipia County) | 10 marks |
| 4. | Demonstrate the outcome of your requested rebate (please illustrate all applicable options): a) Lowered prices b) Market penetration c) Sales/revenue growth d) Jobs creation projections e) Others (Kindly specify) | 10 Marks (each) |

Ensuring Better Learning Environment in Laikipia

By Julius Murage

A collaboration among the County Government of Laikipia, local communities, NGO's and other stakeholders has come to fruition through construction of more classrooms across the county.

In Rumuruti ward, for instance, there more than 67 Early Child-

hood Development and Education (ECDE), 28 in Olmoran, 47 in Githiga, and 79 in Marmanet among others in the county.

Construction of more ECDE centres is in an enabler towards achieving formal education for all students.

"We have already analyzed the

need of our schools and we have already indicated the number of classrooms that the specific schools are going to get out of the 10,000 in every sub-county," Principal Secretary Early Learning and Basic Education, Dr. Julius Jwan said during his tour in Nanyuki High School.

Other social facilities and public works sections such as the transport infrastructure are on rising phase courtesy of the County Government. The government has also not left behind the health facilities and services with construction of dispensaries such as Naipere-re Dispensary in Mukogodo West and resources needed mobilized through the Laikipia Health Service (LHS).



A newly-buit ECDE classroom by the county Government in Igwamiti Ward

Laikipia County Governor's Bursary Forms Out

In a bid to ensure 100 percent transition from primary to secondary school, and in an effort to support the needy families to maintain their children in school, Governor Ndiritu Muriithi will be awarding bursary for the needy children in secondary schools, special schools and tertiary institutions for Financial Year 2021/2022.

The application forms are available at all wards administrators' offices, MCAs offices, Education department and Laikipia County website (www.laikipia.go.ke) from 11th April, 2022 and to be returned on or before 6th May 2022.

The ward bursary committee will be vetting the applicants from 9th to 13th May, 2022, so as to identi-

fy the successful beneficiaries

This is aimed at ensuring students complete their studies for them to successfully pursues their dream careers.

The government's mission is to ensure that form four is not the end of any student's education journey.

Hundreds Benefit from Free Medical Camp at LHS Nanyuki

By David Serem

Hundreds of patients from Laikipia and the neighboring counties turned up for a free medical camp at LHS Nanyuki last week.

The two-day event, a collaboration between Laikipia Health Service, Kenya Airports Authority and Mater Hospital saw over 1,300 patients benefit from the free consultations, diagnosis, reviews and even surgeries. Scores of them received medications, with a number of them scheduled for further follow-ups after the clinical reviews.

Dr. Aggrey Wafula, Mater Hospital lead surgeon was impressed with the turnout, and lauded LHS Nanyuki for the elaborate preparations.

“We have seen patients with very diverse medical presentations, some not previously diagnosed. These are some of the highlights of the outreach,” Dr. Wafula said.

The surgeon added that the event is significant in addressing some of the unmet medical needs in the communities, which stands at 80 per cent globally due to cost hurdles, strains on human resources and even poor health seeking behavior.

Joseph Okumu, Airports Manager in charge of Wilson Air-



port and Northern Kenya Region, said the initiative is part of community outreach programs that Kenya Airports Authority has been extending to communities around the airports they operate in. He cited Nanyuki and Nyaribo Airstrips as key investments the authority is pursuing to enable residents access air transport services.

The camp received referrals from outside Laikipia, with two cases from Isiolo benefiting from cardiology review, saving them lots in out-of-pocket payment needed for the service.

The exercise also saw a number of the patients admitted for further management.

The patients benefited from various specialists including heart, eye, gynecologist, pedestrian and

specialist nurses.

Nazrin Babuh, nurse from Mater Hospital, expressed joy at the success of the event, saying the exercise is an opportunity for members of the community to benefit from the especially expensive diagnosis and treatment procedures.

Laikipia becomes the fourth county to host the outreach, with organizers noting that it was more organized than the previous ones.

The airports officials cited the choice of health as an area of focus for corporate social responsibility, seeing it as the most impactful area of intervention.

LHS Nanyuki stepped in with free interventions such as surgeries for those in need, an extension of the waivers given to patients unable to meet the costs of treatment.