



Committee to Decide Way Forward on Laikipia Land Issues



A consultative multiagency meeting on pertinent issues on land, infrastructure, environment and natural resources

Part Development Plans (PDPs) for many areas in Laikipia are not approved which puts investment worth millions of shillings at risk.

Only about 200 PDPs have the requisite approval out of slightly over 2,000 PDPs in the county, a multiagency consultative meeting on pertinent issues on land, infrastructure, environment and natural resources heard.

During the meeting which took place on March 26, 2021 under the chairmanship of Governor Ndiritu Muriithi. It brought together agencies like national and county government, National Land Commission, Judiciary, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, DCI, land owners, among others.

It was the second meeting following the inaugural one held on 15th July 2020 at County House, 10 Mt Kenya Road. The aim is streamline issues bedeviling land sector across Laikipia County Laikipia is in the process of developing spatial plans and digitizing land records.

The irregular or unapproved PDPs have been facilitating land fraud including grabbing of way leaves and other public utility land. This has been done over the years by officers in collusion with fraudsters.

Rampant use of unapproved PDPs

Allotment letters generated using unapproved PDPs have in the past managed to generate ownership documents thus sanitizing land fraud. The judiciary has in several occasions upheld those ownership documents thus further sanitizing the fraud.

Investments running into millions of shillings could be at risk should the government decide correct the anomalies or even reclaim most of its land that has been grabbed using the irregular PDPs.

“A lot of investment is sitting on a quick sand,” one of the speakers said.

How can we correct these mistakes of the past? This is the million-dollar question that the multiagency team is faced with. Also in attendance was county commissioner Daniel Nyameti and Deputy Governor John Mwaniki.

A technical team was formed to monitor progress, develop actions, legal procedures and road map to solving the land issues. Its members will be drawn from NLC, Spatial Planning team, County Attorney, county assembly, Land registrar, settlement office, county surveyor and director environment.

Another technical team with county commissioner, governor, NLC, Land registrar, county attorney and chief officer Land will be looking at recovery of grabbed public land. The DCI cited officials of land-buying companies as key culprits in fraud involving land.

Everybody Can Be Great Because Everybody Can Serve



A global conservation organisation, Maliasili Inc. has plucked Laikipia Water, Environment and Natural Resources CECM Njenga Kahiro from his position to head its operations in

East Africa. This development has come just months after a peer performance review, internal appraisal and external perception survey placed the performance of this department at the top. Our editor, **Muriithi John** (pictured above) had a one-on-one with Mr. Kahiro before his departure for his new assignment.

How was your experience serving in the County Government of Laikipia?

Public service is the highest honour one can get in life. I thank H.E Governor Ndiritu Muriithi for the opportunity to serve in Laikipia. I have had very fulfilling three-and-a-half years in the public service. It's frankly the highlight of my professional life to have been given a platform and opportunity to serve my country and pay my debt, albeit in a small way, to society. I must acknowledge that I have received immense support from my colleagues, the MCAs and general public and for that I am eternally grateful.

How can you say you have transformed the lives of Laikipia citizens?

I can't say I have transformed alone because it is essentially a team effort. Without fear of contradiction, I can say we have made impact. When we joined government, less than 55% of the households in Laikipia had access to clean water. As we speak more than 75% of the households can access clean water within 400 meters of their house. The towns were filthy, the support infrastructure (bins, skips and trucks) were lacking and the team doing the work didn't have the Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs). It is now generally agreed that our towns are clean, we have expanded waste collection to the wards never previously covered, we have purchased new equipment and trucks and our team is properly kitted. Working on those two areas, - water and environment as enablers of commerce and other outcomes have been most fulfilling and I would say we have made the citizens lives much better.

Rate your performance in Water? In Environment? Natural Resources Management?

One often doesn't get a chance to beat their own drum but now that I have the drum let me say this. Consistently, we have had one of the highest development budget absorption rates in the county and as a result we have been able to get nearly 115 boreholes drilled and equipped, pipelines extended, water storage increased through dams and pans and big new projects in Solio, Kinamba and Makurian. Nearly 90,000 households have access to water. On environment, we have vastly improved our solid waste management systems and purchased equipment for the job. We have tackled invasive species like *opuntia* and in the last year we completed the first ever mining survey and published the Minerals of Laikipia Report. We have also done a baseline

survey for Kirimon National Reserve in preparation for active management of the Reserve by the County Government. There are many areas but I am also proud of having been involved in building one of the most impressive teams in Laikipia – the Water and Environment team.

Which are the three projects that make you proud for the last three years?

Without doubt, Solio Water Project ranks top of the many projects we have done. It is a good example of project management and execution. From fundraising, setting up project management team, project execution, and post project management. It is a fantastic project which I am very proud to have led the team that delivered it. As a result, nearly 2,000 households translating into 10,000 people are getting clean drinking water from their houses. The other project is Kinamba water which is still under construction. It is exciting because many people had given up that it can't be done and yet we have been able to find sufficient water to serve Kinamba and we will shortly be able to do that.

The solid waste management system also ranks among the initiatives that I am proudest of. You see in our department we didn't have as many degrees, masters and PhDs as other departments. As a matter of fact, perhaps we had the least of those but we were able for three years to be among the highest ranked performers. The difference is the clarity, dedication and commitment that is in this team and I am very proud of them. Frankly, I think it is the best team I have ever worked with.

What made you shift from private sector to the County Government of Laikipia?

When I got the message to go for interview as CECM I was in a small town in Namibia's Zambezi region training a group of African conservation leaders from all over Africa. Although I was making a contribution to help others, I had not done enough for my community and being in county executive afforded me an opportunity to serve my community better and make an impact. There is no opportunity like public service where you have the scale and platform to make a difference to your own community and country.

Organizations have been head-hunting top leaders from CGL. You are the latest one. Why do you think this is happening?

Under the leadership of H.E. Governor Muriithi, we have one of the best public service organizations in Kenya and we are just starting. I believe with all the investment in training that the Laikipia public service is carrying out and the clarity we have on our theory of change coupled with investment in enterprise development the service will have the best cadre of public service and will also attract the very best. When you have the best, others want to take a number of them and any good organisation must leave room for the growth of other leaders. I am confident we have capable people within the service to immediately step in and do what needs to be done. We cannot be successful if we do not groom successors.



Why do you think Maliasili Inc. picked you as the regional director?

I think it's because I have worked in that space previously but also because the County Government of Laikipia has afforded me experience and platform in building strong teams, implementing systems, formulating strategy and executing it.

How significant is Water sector in Laikipia?

It's perhaps the biggest enabler. The impetus to use it in the best way possible for social and economic transformation is huge. We are blessed with land and therefore water as an input that can transform us to a food basket for Kenya and beyond requires significant investment and thought. For me, it is the single most important issue we should invest in.

Where do you see Laikipia in the next five years?

Laikipia is on the right trajectory. In Governor Muriithi, we have a captain and champion for transformation. I have no doubt that in the next decade Laikipia will be the county with the best quality of life where people live, work and invest. It is, honestly, a very exciting time to be a Laikipian especially with the focus on enterprise development and manufacturing that is at the centre of service delivery.

How will your new role help Laikipia?

In everything we do, we need strong institutions and organisations to carry out the important work of transforming society and I pray that I will be able to help engineer and re-engineer strong organisations including the county Government of Laikipia to carry out the important work mandated to them.

Your parting shot...?

I can't find better words than what Martin Luther King Jr spoke about service and greatness. "... everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.

Some Transformational Projects Implemented by Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources



Drilling of Mwiyo Primary School Borehole- Tigithi Ward



Drilling of Gatitu borehole



Dignitaries in examining various mineral deposits found in Laikipia County

In the financial year 2017/18, the department was able to drill 9 boreholes, equip 12 boreholes and also rehabilitated 12 and rehabilitated 14 dams.

For 2018/19, 10 boreholes were drilled, 18 equipped and 1 were rehabilitated. 7 dams were rehabilitated.

In 2019/20, the department drilled 22 boreholes, equipped 18. This will help the residents to carry out farming and enable the county to be food secure.

Some of the rehabilitated dams are Kariunga, Ngobit, Tiemamut with work involving scooping of reservoir, embankment enlargement and building of concrete sill and rep rap of the spill way.

The department also supplied pipes to Muguongo water projects (Rumuruti) 350 pipes, Karaba water project (Marmanet) 350 pipes and Makeni water project (Marmanet) 300 pipes.



Muramati primary school borehole



Matanya health centre and community borehole in Tigithi Ward (ongoing)



Keeping Laikipia towns clean through regular collection of waste

Project title	Project description	Ward
Olar ajijo	Equipping, solar powered borehole	Mukogodo East
Mukuri borehole	Manhole and water trough construction	Nanyuki
Olmunichoi borehole	Drilling and equipping	Mukogodo West
Mlima meza borehole	Drilling and development of borehole up to 185m	Olmoran
Machunguru borehole	Construction of tank and solar support structure	Rumuruti
Kandoro springs	Rehabilitation of the spring	Salama
Muramati sec. school borehole	Equipping of the borehole	Segera
Mwiremia water project	Supply of pipes and fittings	Tigithi
Drilling of Muthengera borehole	Equipped with submersible pump	Igwamiti
Suguroi borehole	Solar panels installation and fence repair	Ngobit
Rehabilitation of Mbombo dam	Scooping of reservoir	Sosian
Ndemu secondary borehole	Equipping of pumps and solar panels installation	Umande
Milimani borehole	Supplying water to milimani sec and pri. schools	Githiga
Ruai masonry tank	Tank Completion	Thingithu
Gatami intake	Rehabilitation of the intake and expansion of pipeline	Marmanet

From political promises to action...

Facilitating Farming to Become Profitable Business



The County government of Laikipia has consistently maintained a good progress in fulfilling the promises made to the people during the 2017 elections.

Governor Ndiritu Muriithi's election manifesto had been anchored on 12 pillars that included (i) Proper Governance and Accountability, (ii) Job Creation: 30,000 Jobs, (iii) Farming Becomes a profitable business, (iv) Access to clean and Reliable water, (v) Access to Quality and Affordable Health Care, (vi) Employable youths and Entrepreneurship, (vii) Opportunities and Talent Development for young people, (viii) Protection of Life and Property, (ix) Light-up of homes and Markets, (x) Upgrade of roads and Building bridges, (xi) Develop Smart and Green Towns, and (xii) Destination Laikipia.

In our second installment of 'From Political prom-

ises to action' we are focusing on Pillar number three.

(ii) Farming Becomes a profitable Business

In efforts directed at realizing profitable farming ventures, the government has reached 32,802 farmers through extension services. There is a farm inputs subsidy program in place, promotion of high value fruit trees, promotion of fruit tree nurseries and soil testing. Extension officers have also been training farmers on best farming practice and the type of crops that can do well in particular areas.

Through the three-year period, the county government has supplied 27,500 of high value fruit seedlings to farmers (avocados, mango's and citrus). The seedlings are meant to produce better and high-quality products. The expected outcome is income per ward is Ksh. 8.6 million in 5 years

which will improve quality of life. Ninety people in every ward have benefitted from these seedlings.

Olmoran, Muwarak and Kimanju livestock markets have been modernized over the last three years. Kimanju, Doldol, Olmoran, and Rumuruti markets have been linked to the National Livestock Marketing Information System (NLMIS).

By the end of last year, the government had vaccinated 375,222 domestic animals against various diseases. At least 52,713 animals have been vaccinated against rabies and other zoonotic diseases by end of last year.

Kinamba and Mutanga now have new warehouses each for storing grains for the farmers, while the Sipili one has been upgraded.

The government had excavated water pans to 187 households by the end of last year and have been able to establish kitchen gardens leading to increased production of different a variety of vegetables.

To facilitate sustainable management and development of fishery resources and products for accelerated socio-economic development, the government provided pond liners, fingerlings and rehabilitation of Rumuruti fish farm.

The county has been exporting breeding beef animals from commercial ranches to the neighbouring countries of Uganda and Tanzania since 2017. The number has been increasing.

The county government has also constructed hides and skins *bandas* in Igwamiti which will be used for curing hides and skins as a value addition process. The beneficiaries will be hides and skins traders, butchers, individual farmers and youths who will be employed.

This will increase the value of hides and skins since the butchers will not sell raw hides/skins but will preserve and sell at a better price

The government has also introduced the livestock identification and traceability system (LITS). The system helps in tracking individual animal to the owner with Radio Frequency Identification RFID ear tags, creates a database of livestock population. With the LITS system it is easy to gather details of the animal, owner, premises, treatment and vaccination history, livestock movement, and help the government officers manage quarantines. It is also through this system that livestock farmers access credit and livestock insurance facilities. The government has helped in curbing illegal livestock movement within and across the county. It has also facilitated in control of trans-boundary and trade sensitive livestock diseases.

This will improve the quality and the safety of food of animal origin, link the producers and traders to create a reliable high end market for livestock products.



Ngenia Secondary School Aquaponic

Sprucing Up the Face of Laikipia’s Business Centres



Being the heartthrob of commerce and enterprise, Laikipia urban centres have been undergoing a total remake to make them more habitable and with enabling business environment. Well planned and serviced towns are an attraction to investment. Our photographer **Alice Mbaki** (pictured) has been tracking and documenting the unfolding transformation of Laikipia urban centres. These are images of Nanyuki’s Willy Jimmy Road (complete) and Mathenge Mirugi Road (currently undergoing construction).



Kahiro to Head EA Operations of Global Conservation Body

When Governor Ndiritu Muriithi embarked on reforming the county public service, his intention was to have in place a professional and globally competitive service.

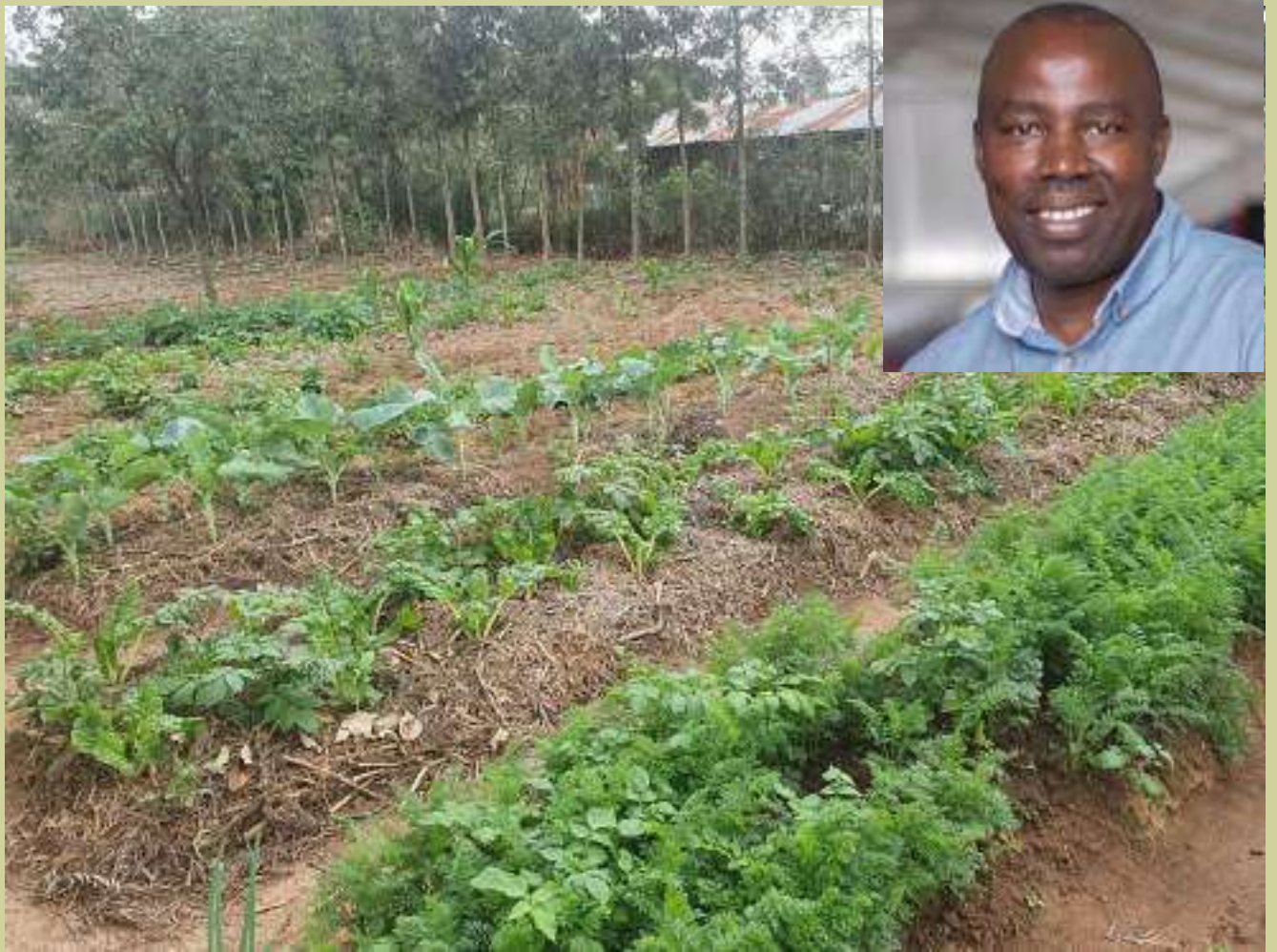
Although the reforms are still going on, the plucking of Mr Njenga Kahiro from the County Executive Committee to head the East Africa operations of Maliasili Inc., a global conservation organisation was the strongest indication yet that the county public service has reached this level.

Earlier, Kiambu County had picked Mr Kenneth Karanja and Mr Daniel Ngumi to join its service only months after Governor James Nyoro had publicly his admiration of Laikipia's equipment leasing programme.

Internally and externally Mr Kahiro's Water department has been considered a top performer. During his tenure, nearly 115 boreholes have been drilled, equipped and rehabilitated. This transformed and improved quality of life for over 90,000 households by enabling them access reliable source of clean water. Notable transformative water projects include Doldol, Luoniek, Solio, Makurian and Kinamba town. The last two are underway.

Makurian water project has seen the construction of 42 kilometres of water pipeline constructed from an intake at Mount Kenya to Doldol to serve about 15,000 residents. Drilling and equipping of Lusukut borehole in Doldol provided 700 residents with water.

Mr Kahiro oversaw the utilization of solar energy in pumping water from many of the boreholes. He has also laid a good foundation for water for production programme which is



A kitchen garden at Solio settlement scheme where outgoing CECM Njenga Kahiro (inset) implemented a transformational water project which is changing the hitherto barren land to the most productive

key in socio-economic transformation of the county.

"He has consistently performed well which explains why any organization would like to have him. It's a career progression that provides a bigger role, covering several nations. We are excited," CECM Rose Maitai said.

The department also made commendable progress in the environment sector especially in solid waste management and cleaning up of drainage systems. Governor Muriithi

had tapped Mr Kahiro from the private sector. He has served as program manager for Zeitz Foundation responsible for the strategic and operational leadership. His work involved developing, coordinating and directing the implementation of existing and, once appropriate, new conservation, community development and cultural projects developed by ZF in Kenya. Mr Kahiro has MSc. Conservation and Tourism from University of Kent. **(See Page 2 for interview with Mr Kahiro).**

Laikipia Decentralizes Covid-19 Vaccination Sites

By Dr Lenai Kamario



Citizens lineup at NTRH to be vaccinated against Covid-19

Laikipia County has witnessed good uptake of the Covid-19 vaccine. So far, as at 31st March 2021, 4,062 people had been vaccinated (1,857 females and 2,205 males).

Out of this, 1,409 are health workers, 295 security officers, 774 teachers and 1,584 residents.

Those who had registered for vaccination by Wednesday are 1,096 and on average 535 persons are vaccinated daily. To address increasing number of persons demanding the vaccine, health department has decentralized more vaccination sites. The vaccination sites are; Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital, Nyahururu County Referral Hospital, Olgarua/Karandi Health Centre, Ndindika/Kinamba sub county Hospital, Olmoran Sub county Hospital, Rumuruti sub county Hospital, Salama Health Centre, Lamuria Sub county Hospital, Kalalu Health Centre, Wiyumiririe Health Centre, Doldol Sub county Hospital and Kimanjo Sub county Hospital.

In the spirit of public-private partnership, the following private/FBO hospitals are also offering the Astra Zeneca vaccine free of charge: Cottage hospital, Nanyuki, St. Benedict Health Centre, Nyahururu.

The first phase of vaccination targets the frontline workers (all health care workers), security personnel, teachers and those in teaching institutions and the elderly who are aged 58 and above. Due to the overwhelming uptake of the vaccine, Laikipians are urged to book in advance at the vaccination sites near them and their vaccination shall be scheduled and communicated accordingly.

Dr. Kamario is the CECM Health and Medical Services

Laikipia Participates in Training on Prevention of Violent Extremism

By Bernard Matu

Laikipia County took part in a two-week training on preventing violent extremism. Director Administration John Lemuna and Cyber security officer Benard Matu represented Laikipia in the training of trainers.

It brought together 37 civil servants from North Eastern, Coast, Nairobi, western border counties and staff from national government, youth and gender to learn on measures of keeping safe.

The inaugural security course was conducted by security management institute in conjunction with national counter terrorism center, CSOs and KSG between 8th and 19th March 2021.

The aim of the course was to help learners unlearn, learn and re-learn on what they knew of terrorism, radicalization, Islam and ideologies. Some of the course units taught were; preventive security, terrorism financing, radicalization, impacts of violent extremism and psychology of terrorism.

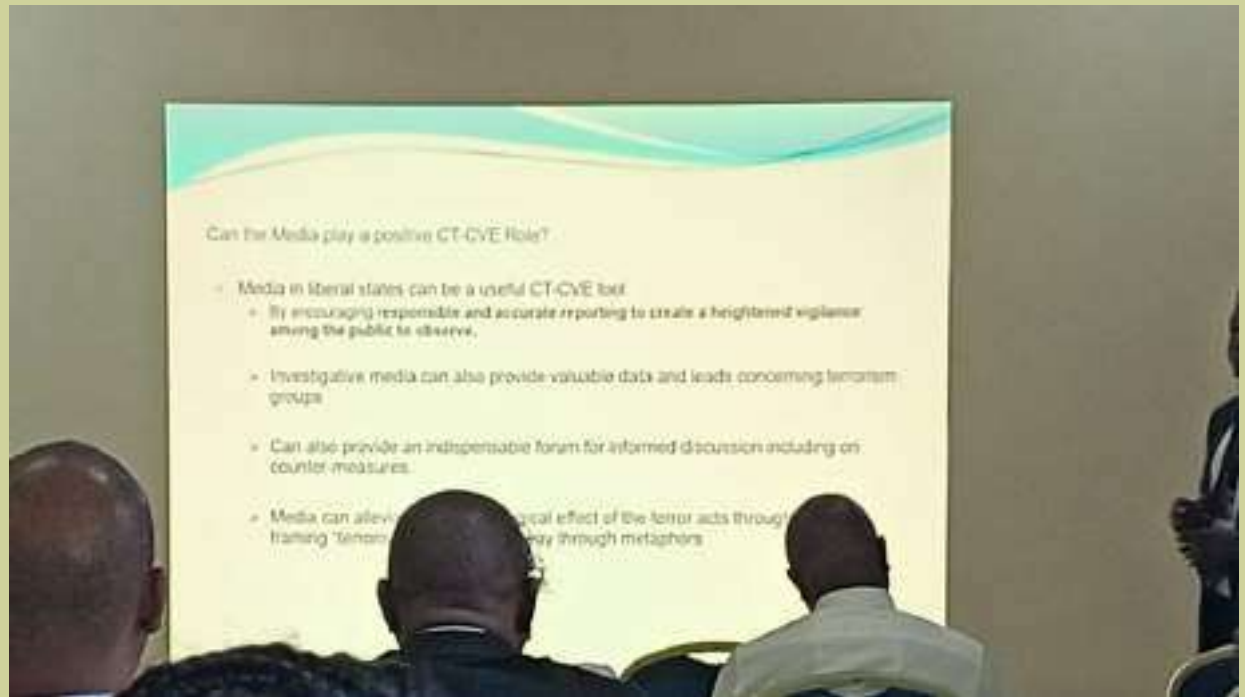
It has been realized that there are now new frontiers due to counter-terrorism initiatives in traditional hotspots of Nairobi, Coast and North Eastern. Today, recruitment is happening deep in Nyanza, Western, Central, Rift Valley & other Kenyan regions.

Online Violent Extremists have their propaganda permeated on social media and as techno-savvy (digital) youth spend a lot time on social media platforms.

Social media environment facilitates radicalization processes whereby extremists share information. Therefore, many practitioners and policy makers who are "Analogue Generation" - may miss out numerous online red flags.

Schools, Universities, Colleges -VE Targets

Ground is shifting to target recruits who are well-



educated university, college students from well-off backgrounds. For example, one of the 2015 Garissa University attackers was University of Nairobi law student was son of a county government official.

Also, three Daesh "Jihadi brides" arrested at El Wak Kenya-Somalia border in 2015 were students. There is need to put measures in place to change the tactics of handling.

- Dismantle & disrupt terrorism-financing sources & networks.
- Identify gaps & strengthen legal, policy and institutional framework for CVE.
- Evidence-based research informing CVE policy, interventions & Programming.
- Embed CVE in County (Sub-County) Security & Intelligence Planning & Coordination.
- Entrench CVE in government programs at all levels (National/County).
- Build capacity of security agencies, NGAO in intelligence gathering, info-sharing on evolving

VE trends, patterns.

- CVE programming must incorporate gender dimensions given the growing role of women in VE.
- Need strategies for local, national, regional & international cooperation, partnership & coordination on VE.
- Threat of VE -complex, constantly changing -governments, security & other actors must evolve to address most pressing threats & its root causes.
- No single risk factor responsible for VE. Factors inter-linked & interconnected by actors, space, enabling infrastructure & environment.
- VE becoming complex-some camouflaged in charity/Philanthropy, disguised in legitimate economic enterprise -transport, energy, forex bureaus.

Water Day Celebration at Ol-Moran Health Centre

By Priscilla Chumo, Olmoran ward

The water day which is celebrated on March 22 highlights the importance of fresh water. Laikipia joined other partners at Olmoran health Centre to emphasize the need to provide adequate water in order to maintain sanitation levels during the Covid-19 pandemic. The represented partners included Bethel network, Procter and Gamble (P&G), and Caritas Nyahururu. The county government was represented by ward administrators from Olmoran, Sosian, Githiga and Marmanet. In attendance also were residents and pupils from neighboring schools who were taken through handwashing demonstration and water treatment by public health officers.

The topic of the day touched on the importance of conserving the natural resources such a water which will help to improve the livelihood of the residents. Access to clean water is essential for good health of the resi-



dents. Many residents acknowledged that access fresh and safe drinking water has improved their health as cases of stomach aches, diarrhoea and skin infections have

drastically reduced. The partners donated tanks for water to the health centre to increase hand washing points for patients visiting the facility .

Unique Machines Aiding NTRH's Diagnostic Capability



Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital has some of the unique machines that even other hospitals around refer their patients to.

For instance, it has the EID PCR machine for early detection of HIV in babies.

Since its installation towards the end of 2019, the machine has served health facilities in the whole of Laikipia County and beyond.

The machine plays a critical role in early detection of the status of an infant born of a HIV positive mother. The POC is a cutting-edge technology machine that marked a milestone in the hospital's HIV diagnostic capabilities.

The one of its kind laboratory equipment around Mt Kenya and Rift Valley regions, serves patients from all over Laikipia County

as well as those from neighboring counties of Nyeri, Meru, Nyandarua, Samburu and Isiolo.

The new technology has proved to be vital in the fight and prevention of transmission of the deadly virus. For instance, in 2018, 8,823 viral loads tests were done nationally. Out of the number, 16 percent needed urgent intervention because the viral load was higher than expected, but was not possible for lack of POC machine.

By the end of 2020, the machine at NTRH had facilitated in early detection of HIV in infants with a sample size 504 since its installation in 2019. More than 30 laboratory technicians across the county have been trained on how to operate the machine and produce the correct test results. Peripheral health facilities in the county use the referral system to send samples to NTRH and receive the results within hours.

The equipment has a capacity of running four tests at a go and thus a total of 16 tests can be done in a day. The machine was installed in the hospital in a collaboration involving partnership between the county government and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

Point of Care testing greatly assists in reducing the number of complex steps in the blood testing process, decreasing potential for errors and accelerating availability of critical test information in expediting diagnosis. Infants, children, adolescents and mothers under the prevention of mother-to-child-transmission (PMTCT) program are the primary beneficiaries of the technology. Before its installation at NTRH, it would take up to three months for sample results to be out as they had to be transported to Kemri Laboratory in Nairobi. Today, the results only take a maximum of two hours. The delays resulted in deaths of infants from HIV-related illnesses and complications as they waited for laboratory results. Early results mean quick interventions in providing the necessary care to the infant and informed guidance to the mother, to avoid mother to child transmission of the virus. If the child is already infected, appropriate instructions follow. The UN agency's contribution included procurement of the POC device, stakeholder engagements, community and training and implementation of Laikipia elimination of MTCT business plan 2018-2020. The 9.4-million-shilling HIV viral load test system is part of a plan to expand HIV/ Syphilis diagnostics including Early Infant Diagnostics and viral load monitoring in the hospital and the county in general.

Wasreb Carries Out Review on Nawasco Water Tariff

By Nahashon Maina

Water Service Regulatory Board (WASREB) carried out a review on implementation of water tariff by Nanyuki Water and Sewerage Company (NAWASCO) from 22nd to 24th March, 2021. This was to assess the realization of the performance targets set for water tariff in November 2019 for the financial year 2019/20 and 2020/21. WASREB approved regular tariff for the use by NAWASCO which formed the basis of the charges that the residents pay monthly for the provision of water. Before the water provider set any charges, WASREB must beforehand evaluate and recommend water and sewerage tariffs to the county water services providers and approve the imposition of such tariffs in line with consumer protection standards.

The review was done to assess the level of adherence to the conditions that NAWASCO was given for the set water tariff. The WASREB team also sort to establish the status and impact of the investments provided for in the approved tariff. Any

water tariff set by NAWASCO must always be approved by the regulatory board.

WASREB is established to protect the interests and rights of consumers in the provision of water services, while ensuring other stake-holders' interests are also safeguarded.

As the water provider in the county, NAWASCO is guided by sets standards of the regulatory board. WASREB enforces regulations that guide the sector to ensure that consumers are protected and have access to efficient, affordable and sustainable water services.

During the review, among the documents that NAWASCO availed were: Approved budgets 2020/21, monthly production, billing and collection summaries

(Jan-Dec 2020), ledger for regulatory levy (Jan-Dec 2020) and status report of the externally financed projects, indicating the project, scope, status, output and outcome.

