



# Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

WEEKLY  
BULLETIN

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12,500 farmers in Laikipia to benefit with assorted maize seeds

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17th Haemophilia Clinic in Kenya to benefit Laikipia and its environs

# Medical Equipment Leasing to Benefit Laikipians



The County Government of Laikipia has signed a contract to lease medical equipment that will see Laikipians get medical treatment closer home without much referrals. This aims at maintaining being the county with the highest quality of life.

# 12,500 Farmers to Benefit with Assorted Maize Seeds



Agriculture CEC Wangari Wachira (Right) receives some of the maize seeds set to be distributed to 12,500

## By Muriithi John

Following the expected rainy season in the course of the month, Laikipia farmers have even more reasons for having smiles on their faces after the county government's announcement to distribute maize seeds.

Coming from the National Government-Kilimo House, the County Department of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries in Laikipia has received 50 tonnes of different varieties of maize seeds awaiting distribution to farmers.

Confirming this, CEC Agriculture Wangari Wachira said the batch will go a long way in boosting Laikipia farmers in their maize production, consequently enhancing their economic status.

"We have received 50,000kg of maize seeds and we are going to distribute the same- four kilograms per farmer. Meaning, across the county we are giving a total of 12,500 farmers," said Ms. Wachira.

The CEC explained that four kilograms of maize seeds cover half an acre of land which provides economic sense in distribution of four kilos per farmer. The seeds to be distributed matures faster, thus the farmers must take advantage of these short rains. These maize seed varieties are H624, H520, DH 08, Wema-H532, and H513.

Priority to get these seeds will be according to the economic status of a farmer; distributing to the

less fortunate to enhance them economically.

"We have data that relates to the social-economic status of our farmers that we will use to make the distribution," the CEC said.

It is a way of lowering the impact drought due to prolonged dry season that has not only affected Laikipia County, but the entire nation.

According to the 2021 Laikipia County Statistical Abstract, maize is the most farmed crop in Laikipia, closely followed by beans and then wheat. In 2020, for instance, area under maize crop in Hectares was 46,470. For beans it was 22,035 and 7,984 hectares for wheat.

# Laikipia's LHS Equipment Leasing Takes Shape

By Andrew Maina

The Laikipia Health Service's dream of installing top of the range medical equipment, to bring better services closer to the people is becoming a reality following signing of a contract to deliver equipment. The first supplier signed contracts with the county government towards leasing of dialysis equipment, on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at the County Secretary's Office.

"The County Government of Laikipia has rolled out a program, whereby we equip all of our health facilities with state-of-the-art Medical equipment," County Secretary Mr. Karanja Njora said. "We have identified three suppliers, who will do this through a leading program that has been agreed upon." he added.

Leasing is an alternative way of providing the sophisticated and expensive machines without buying them. Laikipia County already has an ongoing leasing programme for road construction equipment.

"We are set to invest close to 500 million shillings in our health sector, under our medical leasing program" Laikipia Health Service Chief Officer Dr. Donald Mogoi



*Signing of the contract for the leasing of medical equipment*

said. "Today what we are signing is a contract worth 26 million out of that investment, and this is specifically to get us 15 dialysis machines, 15 dialysis beds, and also a water treatment plant for our dialysis units," he added.

Through this leasing program, LHS Nyahururu will begin offering dialysis services, free to people on the NHIF insurance cover. The contractor is expected to complete a 10-bed dialysis unit at this hospital. The facility is expected to begin serving patients by the end of May.

The Laikipia Health Service has also been offering dialysis at LHS Nanyuki since 2017, and with the installment of addition-

al dialysis machinery, it will increase its capacity from seven beds to twelve.

Under this leasing program, the LHS will also upgrade equipment in laboratories and theaters. The equipment will be installed at different facilities within the county for maximum benefits of the residents.

The advantage of going the leasing way as opposed to buying is that in case of breakages, the machine will be serviced immediately by the contracting company, thus reducing the downtime period.

# NYS to Complete Constructing Doldol Smart Town in Eight Months



**By Muriithi John**

The County Government of Laikipia on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022 signed a contract with the National Youth Service in a bid to actualize Dol Dol smart town.

This is the second project, after Karuga smart town, to be commissioned under the just approved Infrastructure Bond by the National Cabinet.

There already exists an MoU between the county government and NYS for them to do internal developments on infrastructure and dams. For instance, the same institution was contracted in

2020 to do the 18 kilometres of road from Chumvi Bridge to Arji-jo. The road cuts the distance from Mia Moja and Chumvi to Doldol.

"The rugged terrain in Laikipia North area necessitated the engagement of NYS because of their extensive resources compared to other contractors. The Service is also well-disciplined and has a reputation of doing quality work," the Chief Officer Infrastructure Engineer Duncan Mwangi said.

The scope of the work for this smart town will include upgrade of roads to bituminous standards including 1.38km of tarmac paving

around Doldol centre- some as wide as 10metres, complete with vehicle parking areas. Also, there will be side drains on all asphalt-paved roads complete with storm drain structures.

"Non-motorists will have a stretch of 1.82km of pedestrian eco-cabro walkways along the road. A dedicated reinforced concrete drain structure will be draining the floods into the existing river course," stated Eng. Mwangi

To allow for more working hours for traders around the town, the government will install 46 stand-alone street lamps to light up Doldol town. This will also aid in increasing the security in the area.

A well-developed Smart town improves business environment, attracts more investment, consequently creating more jobs and higher incomes, as promised in Governor Ndirtiu Muriithi's manifesto. Ol-Jabet smart town is a case reference.

The other 15 projects funded by the infrastructure bond will also be kicking off soon.

Opinion: Tourism

# Destination Laikipia; The Escape Plan from Stressful Working Life



**By Victor Waiganjo**

The pace at which activities and life in general are coming at us is quite fast now, more than ever. The high-octane political campaigns currently rocking the country has added a little more spice to the stress levels and psychological burden people are experiencing.

Experts in the tourism sector are of the opinion that, taking a leisure trip provides opportunities for relaxation, detachment from work and personal control.

Employees who suffer from work-related stress often experience poor psychological wellness, which might contribute to mental problems and negatively influence job performance. The strain of daily work can also negatively influence the perspective on life satisfaction, by individuals.

With one of the most important motivational forces for tourism experience being to escape from routine and stressful environments, it is postulated that taking a leisure trip (even a short weekend getaway), can help individuals to recover from work stress and increase psychological well-being.

Laikipia County boasts of having abundant and a variety of tourism destinations and related activities that people could enjoy. Conservancies, ranches, hotels and natural sites are available in all corners of the county. For all biophiles and zoophiles, it is the county to be in as it will cater for both.

The amazing sites and sounds of waters falling at speed, 100fts down to the cool gorge at the Thomson Falls in Nyahururu, are

sure to calm and relax your mood. The tropical trees and wild banana plantations also create a calming ambience in contrast to the hectic daily activities one is used to experiencing.

A trip to the Olpejeta conservancy will offer you a glimpse into some of the rarest animals available in this planet like the Northern white rhino among others. A vacation at the Maiyan Resort, a visit to the Warwick hotel or a camping trip at the Mugie camp will change your viewpoint on life satisfaction for sure.

Even though some constraints such as time, money and companion are factors preventing people from taking vacations, the awareness of the benefits derived from tourism is quite scarce. Knowledge of its benefits will encourage people to travel more or at least have a stronger intention to do so. This also means more opportunities to forget about their work, to experience new things and relax.

Visit our website on Destination Laikipia to find more destinations and relieve your stress burden and impact positively on your psychological well-being, by visiting and enjoying them.

*Waiganjo is a Tourism Officer in Laikipia County*

# Hoteliers in Nanyuki Trained on Wine Mixing for Improved Customer Services

By Muriithi John

One of the things that make a joint that sells wine be classy is the ability to mix and serve wine in the right manner. A customer may never come back from a place that has confusion on how to serve this product.

Fortunately, Nanyuki bartenders and hoteliers recently got an experience on how best to operate and ensure customer satisfaction on matters wine. Courtesy of the Tourism Fund, over 30 stakeholders in the wine industry gathered at the Sports Mans Arms on March 6 2022 for a comprehensive learning exercise.

"The wine industry in the country is in the upward trajectory. We have even manufacturers here. Therefore, we want to have experts who have the wine knowledge, hence the need for training," said Sheila Udida from Skipskop Wines.

In most cases the bar attendants may make some mistakes unknowingly, but which may have dire consequences on the customer. These mistakes come out of ignorance and treating every drink the same way- though



*Sheila Udida from Skipskop Wines training on how best to serve and take wine at Sports Mans Arms Hotel*

they are not.

"Some common mistakes you may find is like serving wine in the wrong glasses, which may irritate the experienced wine consumers," Ms. Udida said.

Similarly, the customers or the wine users may need to be educated by the attendants on which types of wine that will go with what occasion. The different flavours, types of grapes, vintage and tastes bring unique emotions. At no point should a consumer just ask for 'any sweet wine' as is

common.

Also knowing how to hold a glass of wine is important to avoid embarrassment. Swirling to bring out the distinct smell should be done in a clockwise manner.

Laikipia, and more specifically Nanyuki has seen many high-end eateries open up as more visitors keep flocking. There is therefore a need to ensure customer satisfaction from the word go for them to come back to the same spot next time.

# 17<sup>th</sup> Haemophilia Clinic in Kenya to Benefit Laikipia and its Environs

**By Ann Ngunjiri**

Laikipia Health Service-Nanyuki now has a Haemophilia Sickle Cell Care Clinic which has reduced the hustle patients with blood disorders had been going through.

This is a significant step towards realizing the LHS mission of providing easily accessible and quality healthcare services to all.

"Every Kenyan has the right to access and receive health care service when they need it and where they need it," said Governor Ndiritu Muriithi during the launch of the 17<sup>th</sup> Haemophilia Care Clinic commissioned in the country on April 14 2022.

Dr. Kibet Shikuku, Kenya Haemophilia Association chairperson stated that Haemophilia is a blood clotting disorder that can be inherited or acquired. Genetically, the

condition is inherited as a result of mutations in the gene that code for proteins necessary for normal blood clotting, factor 8 (haemophilia A) and factor 9 (haemophilia B). Males are affected more than females as the gene is located in the X-chromosome. Women, on the other hand, can develop acquired haemophilia. Patients with this disease bleed spontaneously for a long time after an injury or surgery. The bleeding can occur internally, causing health problems like joint damage, and can be fatal if the bleeding occurs in vital organs such as the brain.

"In Kenya, one in every 10,000 people has haemophilia and the number is increasing on daily basis," Dr. Shikuku,

Laikipia County has partnered

with the Ministry of Health (MoH), World Haemophilic Federation (WHF), Kenya Haemophilia Association (KHA), Novo Nordisk Haemophilia Foundation, University of Nairobi, and Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) in a bid to fight the condition.

Many people with this disease avoid seeking medical help due to various reasons, including lack of access to and financial means to pay for treatment. Haemophilia is primarily treated with injections of factors specific to the type of the condition. Treatment is extremely expensive, costing hundreds of thousands of shillings to millions per bleeding episode.

The clinic is a relief to patients from all walks of life. Margaret Wanjiru, a mother of a 6-year-old, haemophilic boy, could not hide her joy as she recounted her frequent visits to Kenyatta National Hospital in Nairobi and Outspan hospital in Nyeri. The clinic will save her money and the time she spent looking for medical care for her son.

"Our goal is to provide the highest level of care to our patients; we anticipate an increase in the number of patients as a result of this launch. We are committed to serving them all," said Dr. Joyce Chibungu, medical officer haemophilia clinic, at LHS Nanyuki.



Celebrations during the opening of the Haemophilia Clinic at LHS Nanyuki last week

## Ngenia Njeru to Gitugi Road Graveled Through Leasing Program



County Government of Laikipia continues to upgrade various rural roads through the Leasing program. The Department of Infrastructure, Roads and Urban Planning has been constructing roads using the leasing program since 2019.

The program has witnessed tremendous increase in the number of roads either graveled or graded. A robust road network within the county is necessary to stimulate social and economic development.

The county government is committed in ensuring there is improved connectivity so that producers are connected to the market while at the same time provide reliable transportation to the residents.



## Governor Ndiritu Muriithi joins the Muslim community in Nanyuki for Iftar celebration at Governor's Compound on Friday evening. The community is observing the holy month of Ramadan