



Why Laikipia Topped in County Budget Transparency Survey



Governor Ndiritu Muriithi hands a copy of the third edition of Laikipia County Statistical Abstract to CRA chair Dr Jane Kirangai as PS Saitoti Torome looks on during its commissioning in August 2020 in Nanyuki



By Julius King'ori

Laikipia County has been ranked 2nd among the 47 Counties in an independent transparency survey by the International Budget Partnership Organization (IBP). This Survey (CBTS) 2020 reflected an assessment of the key planning and budget documents required to be produced by counties as a source of information to the public in scrutinizing county operations.

This is part of Laikipia county deliberate efforts to ensure that the public is well informed on its operations through unhindered access to key county plans, documents and reports.

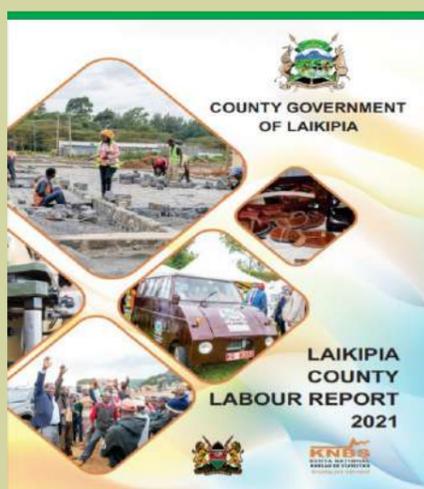
Laikipia has manifested itself as an open society with our rallying call being that of participative and informed decision-making for economic development.

The county has pioneered in provision of infor-

mation to stakeholders through public releases of quarterly financial and audit reports and recent positive credit-rating further show that the county is breaking barriers in public sector information sharing.

Information available

The following are some of the informative documents accessible by the public from the County offices and the County website which have critical information on the County development



agenda, investment opportunities and program implementation reviews.

- ⇒ County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP)
- ⇒ The statistical abstracts
- ⇒ Annual Development Plan (ADP)
- ⇒ County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP)
- ⇒ Program-Based Budgets (PBB)
- ⇒ Citizens Budget
- ⇒ Finance Act
- ⇒ County Budget Review and Outlook Paper (CBROP)
- ⇒ Quarterly Budget Implementation Report
- ⇒ The labor report
- ⇒ The mining report
- ⇒ The external audit reports

Laikipians and other stakeholders should continue engaging the Government, use the information provided for decision-making and utilize available opportunities for economic development as we move towards industrialization.

Mr King'ori is the director of Budget

Am Proud to See Citizens Transforming Laikipia By Paying Taxes

Sometime in 2018, Ms Prudence Waithera walked in to head the revamped Laikipia County Revenue Board. A year later, the LCRB collection was not only double that of 2016/2017, but had also gone beyond the set target. Covid-19 set in and disrupted the economy in the last half of 2019/2020, making her fall short of her Kshs 1 billion target by a few millions. Ms Waithera is on the same target this year ending June. Within a span three years Laikipia is the county with the highest per capita revenue collection compared to many of its peers. We talked to Ms Waithera, the CEO LCRB on the unique thing that is attracting almost all other counties to benchmark with them.

A year into the office and you doubled revenue collection and surpassed the 2018/2019 target, where did you come from?

I have worked in various public sector institutions—the Public Service Commission, Transition Authority and County Government of Meru in different capacities.

While in there I was involved formulation of e-government guidelines and policies, development and implementation of online recruitment and selection system and setting up the devolved system of government at the county level. I also initiated and steered the automation of revenue collection processes at the county level; developed the ICT roadmap as well as formulation and development of the County Network Infrastructure and Implementation of the National Government Financial systems at the County level.

While at Public Service Commission I was awarded a commendation for exemplary performance and promoted on merit by the Head of Public Service.

As the CEO how is your typical day?

Generally, my work does not have actual working hours. Most of the time I extend beyond the working hours. Being the secretary to the Board, I'm responsible for the day-to-day management and direction of the affairs and transactions of the Board.

I continuously monitor revenue targets and review progress reports. I ensure compliance to the Finance Act by all officers assigned to collect revenue. I also advise and guide the Board, county departments and citizens on revenue matters. I oversee implementation of strategies, decisions, policies and also ensure the Board's Human Resource is efficient and effective. I advise on internal financial control systems and oversight on financial reporting to ensure conformity to PFM Act, 2012

Why should Laikipians be proud to pay taxes?

The fundamental role of the revenue we collect is to enable County Government of Laikipia meet its transformational agenda. Payment of taxes has resulted in better infrastructure in terms of roads, provision of water for productivity, improved healthcare, better learning institutions, among others. Every citizen can see the transformative activities taking place in the

county as a result of the revenue we collect. Laikipia have made all these projects to be realized through the different fees, charges and rates that they pay to the county government. They are driving the transformation unfolding in Laikipia.

You have been reporting steady revenue growth. What is the magic behind it?

We have re-engineered the revenue collection processes by looping in all departments in; LCRB has also prioritized the use of technology to better facilitate revenue collection by introducing cashless mode which has eased the payments process. Human Resource restructuring and introduction of performance based system has also been fundamental in revenue growth and more to that we have carried out citizen engagement and civic education on revenue matters. We have widened the tax base by ensuring every eligible tax payer are paying the revenue as expected.

There have been claims that farmers are required to obtain single business permits for their farms?

There are various businesses within agricultural sector that are commercial in nature and there is need to license such business as required by law. Some farms are in vibrant business export business. However, before any charges are done there is assessment done to determine the eligibility of such businesses.

Some high budget counties like Turkana and Kiambu are among those that have come to benchmark your revenue style. What is it that you do differently?

LCRB is semi-autonomous lacks in many counties. This helps the revenue collection process to be autonomous and independent in its daily operations. This ensures effective and efficient revenue collection since there are no external or internal interferences. Our Board has become a model that is being emulated by many other counties across country.

How is LCRB relationship with the Citizens?

I can say we have a cordial relationship with our citizens. I a bid to support compliance and



improve service delivery the Board has continued to carry out interactive educative forums such as *Sema na Sisi Kikao*, *Tax Open Day week* and *ofisi Mashinani* to enlighten and create an understanding of their expected obligations. This is in addition to their deep involving in making of the development of the Finance Act which guides revenue collection. Many Laikipians are happy with what they government is doing with their taxes. They feel proud to be associated with Laikipia making compliance rate to grow impressively. We have observed notable increase customer satisfaction levels.

How is the process of developing annual charges, fees and rates arrived?

The LCRB is guided by county Finance Act in its operations of collecting of revenue.

It's reviewed every year by incorporating the public views through the public participation. We held close to a hundred sit-ins with the citizens across the county where we engaged freely on the Finance Bill. The Finance Bill proposal is submitted to the County Assembly for review and subjected to another round of public participation before the approval. It becomes an Act after HE the Governor assents it. The Board continuously receives the views from the tax payers which guides the preparation of the subsequent finance bill.

Your parting shot.....

I wish to thank you all our tax payers for believing in us and dutifully paying their taxes. The Board will continue having regular consultations with our tax payers to ensure that we walk together in this journey of making Laikipia the greatest county with the best quality of life to live in. For any queries, clarification, compliments and complains you can reach us through our official email lcrb@laikipia.go.ke, telephone number 0757701850 or any of our ward offices within the county. *Pamoja Tulipe Ushuru Tujenge Laikipia Yetu.*

Laikipia on the Path to Eradicating Rabies



By Dr. Peter Mwai

Rabies is a vaccine-preventable, zoonotic, viral disease. Once clinical

symptoms appear, rabies is virtually 100% fatal. In up to 99% of cases, domestic dogs are responsible for rabies virus transmission to humans. Yet, rabies can affect both domestic and wild animals. It is spread to people and animals through bites or scratches, usually via saliva.

Rabies is one of the Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) that predominantly affects poor and vulnerable populations who live in remote rural locations. Approximately 80% of human cases occur in rural areas.

The Fight to End Rabies

According to the World Health Organization, about 2,000 people die of rabies in Kenya every year. Children under the age of 15 and communities in remote rural areas are at the highest risk. The disease is transmitted through the saliva of infected mammals, usually through a bite. Once contracted, it is fatal in humans almost 100% of the time.

When bitten or scratched by a dog that could potentially carries the virus, individuals are strongly recommended to immediately and thoroughly wash the wound and receive post-exposure vaccination.

The human post-exposure vaccine series, which consists of five vaccine doses delivered over a period of 28 days, can prevent onset of the disease.

However, the full course of human vaccination is costly, and access to treatment in remote areas can be challenging. The World Health Organization reports that vaccinating domestic dogs is the most cost-effective way to prevent rabies in humans in the long-term.

Over 98% of human rabies cases in developing countries are caused by the bite of an infected dog, and eradicating rabies in domestic dog populations simultaneously protects humans.

Genesis of Laikipia Rabies Vaccination Campaign

The Laikipia Rabies Vaccination Campaign was started in 2015 by two researchers based in Mpala Research Centre who study dogs and small carnivores. They partnered with the County Government of Laikipia where in the first year, the campaign vaccinated 821 domestic dogs and cats in five pastoralist communities around Mpala.

The following year, 2016, the campaign expanded to additional communities, vaccinating 4530 domestic dogs and cats.

In 2017, the Laikipia County Government and the Kenya Zoonotic Disease Unit(ZDU) strong-



ly supported the LRVC as part of the nation-wide effort to eradicate rabies in Kenya by the year 2030, where a total of 9313 dogs were vaccinated and the number almost doubled in 2018, where 15300 dogs and cats were vaccinated.

In last year, 2019, the campaign was interrupted by heavy rains which was pounding in the October- December period which made the operations very difficult and the figures dropped to 13,000 dogs and cats since most of the areas were rendered impassable.

During this year's Laikipia Rabies Vaccination Campaign, we targeted to vaccinate 20,000 domestic dogs and cats, over a period of 8 weeks targeting all the risky areas across the county, which would bring us closer to eradicating rabies out of Laikipia. The programme Future Strategy for elimination of dog mediated Human rabies in Laikipia

- Upscaling mass dog vaccination by bringing on board more collaborators and players
- Prompt provision of post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) in our health facilities
- Enhance surveillance for rabies in humans and animals
- Upscale Public Health Education and awareness on rabies
- Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization

- Keeping dog vaccination costs low - Innovations in vaccine delivery
 - i. Vaccination during school holidays, vaccination sites in schools and shopping Centres.
 - ii. Engaging local persons at the village for data entry and mobilization
 - iii. Use of volunteer vaccinators, large vaccination campaigns, intense campaigns over a short period
- Lobby from the county assembly for an enhanced budgetary allocation for rabies eradication
- Enhance collaboration between County Medical Health Services and County Veterinary Services in rabies control through strengthening the one health approach e.g. Health facilities should always treat bite patients with information from the veterinary sector
- investigation of bite cases by public health and animal health officers and linking animal surveillance to human surveillance for rabies

Dr. Mwai is the County Director of Veterinary Services Laikipia

The table below shows the vaccination coverage in terms of numbers over the years

| No. | Year | No. of dogs/cats |
|-----|-----------|------------------|
| 1. | 2015 | 821 |
| 2. | 2016 | 4,530 |
| 3. | 2017 | 9,356 |
| 4. | 2018 | 15,265 |
| 5. | 2019 | 13,185 |
| 6. | 2020/2021 | 21,527 |

From political promises to action...

Pillar x: Lighting Up of Homes and Markets



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

Governor Ndiritu Muriithi's election manifesto was 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) Upgrade of roads and Building bridges (x) Light-up of homes and Markets, (xi) Develop Smart and Green Towns, and (xii) Destination Laikipia.

In our ninth installment of 'From Political promises to Action' we are focusing on Pillar number ten.

(ix) Lighting up of homes and Markets

The aim of every government is to economically empower by creating conducive environment for enterprise development as means to a quality life.

Many urban centres are enjoying longer business hours as the county government continues to install solar power street lights. Small-scale businesses like 'mama mboga' are extending their operations which increases their earnings.

Streets lights have contributed to increased security all over the county. This has ensured that people feel secure going on with their businesses.

The county government has also been engaging private and national government agencies to ensure that there is increased in number of households with access to electricity. Laikipia

has taken advantage of readily available renewable energy from the sun due to its location on the equator to light up the streets and markets.

Installation of 198 solar powered street lights has been completed: Laikipia East has 54, Laikipia West 96 and Laikipia North 48.

The Department of Infrastructure, Roads and Urban development has procured, installed and inspected additional 2200 solar street lights in various town/urban Centre's across the 15 wards.

To promote renewable energy investments for domestic and industrial use, Laikipia has engaged a private power firm, Kenergy Renewables to construct 40MW Solar Project in Rumuruti.

It is being built under Kenya's Feed-In-Tariff regime which entails the development, construction and operation of power plant by Kenergy. Once completed, the power plant

will connect to the national grid via the Rumuruti substation which is also under construction.

The plant will be set up in 300 acres of land and will create 100 direct jobs for the residents during the construction phase and will absorb 20 persons for employment once it is operational. Continuous repair and maintenance of street and flood lights was done to enhance of security and extend business hours in various urban centers across the county.

The county has also installed nine flood lights at Muthaiga, Mutanga, Gatundia, Muthengera, Rumuruti, Karandi, Lamuria, Nanyuki town and Dol dol.

The outcomes of these light is to Improve security for the business people as well as the residents, Increase business hours especially in towns and centre's and create job opportunities of the additional business hours.

| Ward | Area | No. of solar light |
|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nanyuki | Shika Adabu | 12 |
| Thingithu | Mitumba market | 12 |
| Tigithi | castle | 16 |
| Umande | Kalau | 13 |
| | Umande | 11 |
| Ngobit | Marina | 4 |
| | Matopeni | 4 |
| | Cannan city | 4 |
| Igwamiti | Asian Quarter | 8 |
| | Mamboleo | 9 |
| Salama | Pesi | 12 |
| Rumuruti | Rumuruti town | 12 |
| Kinamba | Kinamba town | 12 |
| Marmamet | Kwanjuku | 10 |
| | Junction | 4 |
| | Karaba | 10 |
| Sipili | Sipili town | 12 |
| Segeera | Naibor | 12 |
| Mukugodo West | Il Polei | 12 |
| Mukogodo East | Chumvi | 12 |
| Sosian | Posta | 6 |
| | Survey | 6 |



Karaba centre at night after solar street lights were installed.

Glacier Peaks Bakers Mulls Expansion Beyond Nanyuki



By Muriithi John

Glacier Peaks Bakery is a business based at Gikaria Plaza next to Equatorial Supermarket, Nanyuki town.

Started by two people, James Warui and Titus Mutinda, slightly over two years ago to make only cakes and targeting the low-income earners, the business has today expanded and bakes variety of wheat products.

The business is in a unique place, at Nanyuki town centre which makes it attract more customers. Further, they produce quality cakes and breads at a fair price.

Taking advantage of the market gap, the duo started the only known and certified bakers in Nanyuki. This is in line with the County Government's slogan: Buy Laikipia, build Laikipia. "We realized that there are no other people involved in sale of cakes and thus we seized the opportunity," commented Mutinda, a co-owner.

Most of their raw materials come from local traders where they buy the wheat flower from the local wholesalers.

Glaciers has grown to become a trusted producer of fresh bread both white and brown bread. The proprietors are also famous for their delicious and affordable occasion cakes for graduations, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, corporate events among others.

The bakery has a capacity of producing 1,200 loaves of bread daily. They work in night shifts to produce the bread due to their limited work space. The duo plans to have opened three branches within the next five years.

They supply their products to the local shops

within Nanyuki and have started penetrating Timau, Chaka and Naromoru markets. Their bread is available at local shops and supermarkets within Nanyuki as "Glacier peak bakers' bread".

The bakery is among over 500 SMEs undergoing incubation under the Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development Programme. Through the programme the County government of Laikipia has provided immense support through trainings, linkage to KEBS for certification of their products Aim to acquire bar-codes for their products and market.

Their products are available in all flavours ranging from; blueberry, Oreo, passion cakes, red velvet and any other flavour you could possibly imagine!! The prices are very affordable and vary according to size and flavours. They also design the cakes according to customers' specifications.

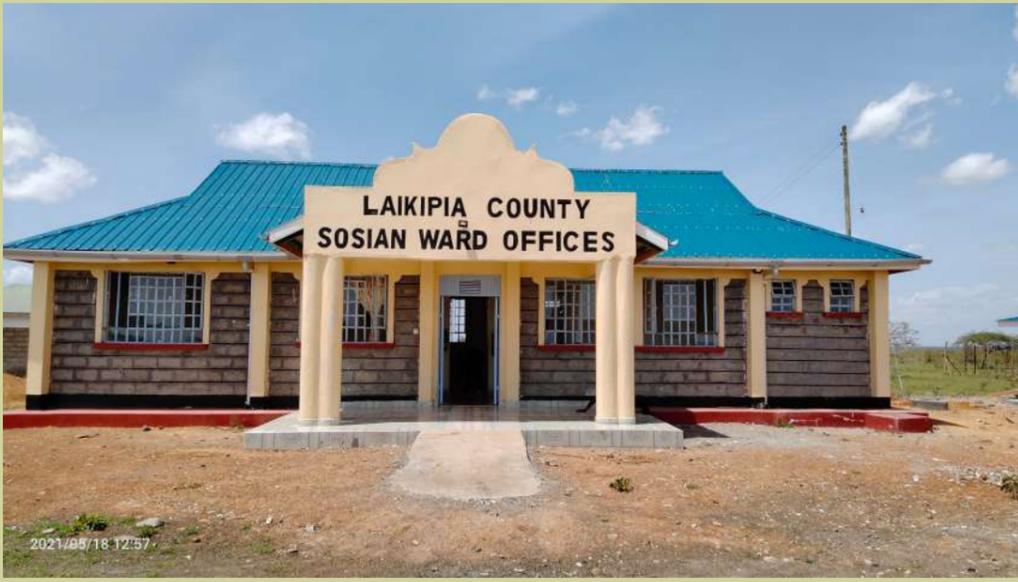
In the next five years the business targets to have three more branches as their market continue expanding.

For more information and placing orders contact; 0757727549, 0726542144, 0710386492. Facebook: Glacier Peaks Bakers

Instagram: Glacier Peaks Bakers



Muwarak: The Emerging Urban Centre to Watch



By Luke Murage, Sosian Ward

Completion of the Sosian ward office at Muwarak is a major milestone in the efforts by the County Government of Laikipia to bring government services closer to the people. All government services will be offered here without having to travel to Rumuruti, Nyahururu or Nanyuki. Muwarak is one of the emerging urban centres of Laikipia located about 40 kilometres north of Rumuruti as you move towards Maralal. The centre is now planned. There is a state-of-the-art market with its offices. The market day takes place every Monday of the week. The fast upcoming town is also home to Laikipia North Technical Vocational College. This institution has modern lathe machines that have the highest degree of precision. This means any tool, equipment or spare part can be fashioned out here. Apart from being used for teaching, these machines could play a key role in the industrialization process of our county and country. Intake to institution is ongoing and the enrolment is increasing.



Fare Thee Well Stephen Kirogo—A Career Public Administrator



A true embodiment of diligence, loyalty, commitment and hard work. He leaves behind a strong legacy of the essence of service before self. Over his long career, he gave courage and resilience to many and was at the lead of nurturing a whole new generation of public administrators and effective public servants who will remember him for many years to come.

— Governor Ndiritu Muriithi



Nyahururu Fetes Nurses on International Week of Nurses



Nyahururu County Referral Hospital (NCRH) observed the International Nurses Week 2021 to spread awareness about work of nurses at the facility. The NCRH fraternity led by Dr. Patrick Waihenya celebrated and recognized the important role nurses play in the medical field. Nurses have been the frontline warriors since the pandemic started

and they have been more responsive to the caring of patients who have contracted the virus.

“We will work to improve the working environment of the nurses, support their training, champion for their better terms, and listen to them whenever they, or one of them, is in need,” Dr. Waihenya said.

NCRH Renovations to Improve Patient Experience



Nyahururu Teaching and Referral Hospital is renovating its buildings as part of its efforts to improve customer experience.

Time taken in the hospital by patients with chronic diseases like hypertension, diabetes, among others will be greatly re-

duced as the hospital creates four extra consultation rooms.

Patients have been taking 40-60 minutes in the clinic, but with the new renovations, they will be taking a maximum of 25 minutes.

NCRH is also constructing a bigger waiting bay to improve the customer’s comfort.