

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Laikipia County

Our Vision: An Inclusive County With Sustainable Quality of Life



www.laikipia.go.ke



IMAGE: FAO

GOVERNOR JOSHUA IRUNGU EGH JOINED WORLD LEADERS ON A HIGH-LEVEL AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION CONFERENCE IN ROME, ITALY, COURTESY OF FAO

GOVERNOR IN ITALY

Between September 27th and 29th 2023, HE. Governor Joshua Irungu was in Rome, Italy.

The Governor was among keynote speakers at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) global conference on sustainable Agricultural Mechanisation.

PLACING LAIKIPIA HQ, STRATEGICALLY

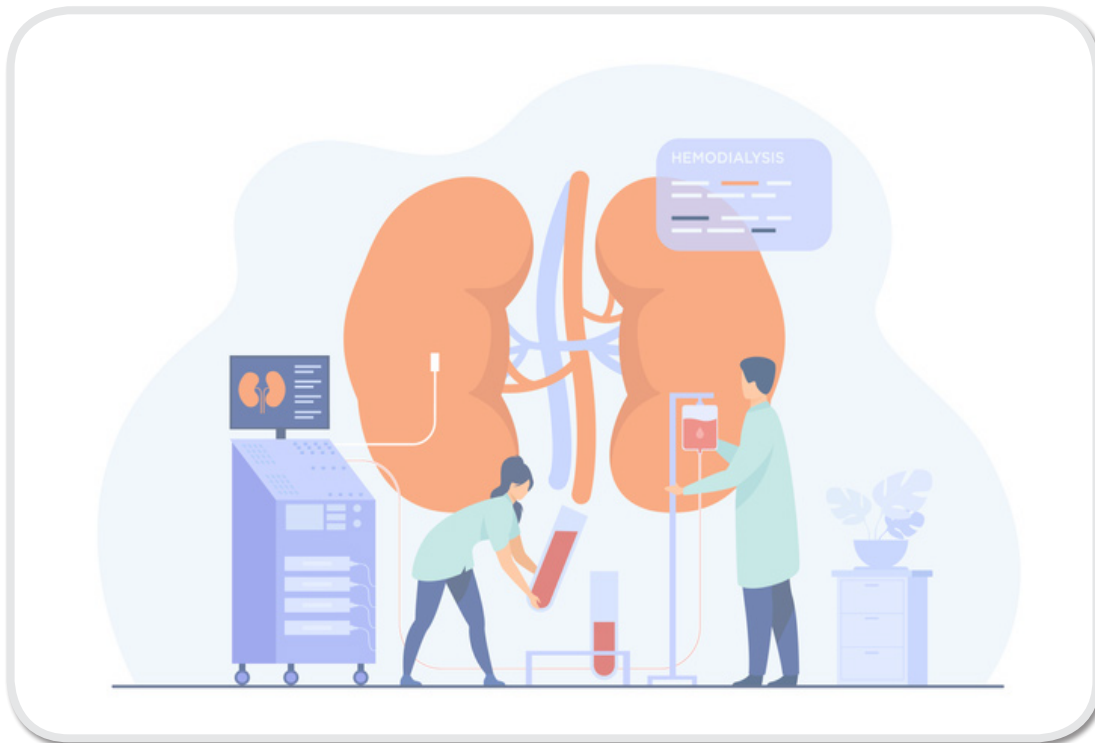
RUMURUTI INDUSTRIAL PARK

The County Government of Laikipia has broken ground to the County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP) in Rumuruti in an event presided by CS Investment, Trade and Industry Moses Kuria and HE Governor Joshua Irungu EGH on September 18, 2023.

NTRH RENAL UNIT

NANYUKI TEACHING AND REFERRAL HOSPITAL - NCRH

Just to remind you



DIALYSIS CLINICS
MONDAY, TUESDAY,
THURSDAY & FRIDAY

1st Sessions 5:30 - 9:30
Afternoon - Mid-Day Onwards

Special Requests and Emergencies: 24hr standby

Laikipia County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP) in Rumuruti



The County Government of Laikipia has broken ground to the County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP) in Rumuruti in an event presided by CS Investment, Trade and Industry Moses Kuria and HE Governor Joshua Irungu EGH on September 18, 2023.

The 500 million project is a joint venture between the county and national government and will sit on 300-acre land, a massive project set to revolutionize the agricultural and industrial sectors in Laikipia.

The commencement of the construction phase marks a significant milestone in the county's economic development that focuses primarily on value additions, storage, cold rooms and warehousing facilities.

The strategic move reduces dependence on imported value chain products contributing to Laikipia and Kenya's food security and self-sufficiency.

“The aim is to ensure that residents from this great county get maximum benefits from their cattle; in leather products, value add dairy milk and

all other products that are found in Laikipia,” CS Kuria said.

According to Governor Joshua Irungu EGH, the park will serve as a hub for agricultural processing and manufacturing, providing a vital link between farmers, industries, and the market.

“The park will promote the production of high-quality agricultural products. We have seven value chains that will be key to operations such as beef, maize, tomatoes, soya, avocados, animal feeds and dairy,” Governor Irungu highlighted, adding that the park will address post-harvest losses that have bedeviled farmers for a long time in the county, especially those who rely on maize and tomato farming.



Images: Nahashon Maina

CAIP Project in Rumuruti Set to Revitalize Agriculture and Industry Sectors

The County Aggregation and Industrial Park in Laikipia will also provide a platform for renewable energy initiatives. With the integration of solar and bio-energy solutions, the park aims to achieve sustainable and environmentally friendly practices.

This will go a long way towards a green country by harnessing the region's abundant natural resources. The project will contribute to the reduction of carbon emissions and promote green industries.

The park is strategically located at the County Headquarters where there is optimum land for investment opportunities like Export processing Zone and the International Airport, which will soon be established, aimed at promoting and facilitating export oriented investments.

"The industrial park will provide a conducive environment for businesses to thrive and leverage Laikipia's unique position as a gateway to the East African region," Laikipia Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri affirmed.

Transportation and storage will be key components of the park's infrastructure, enabling efficient movement of goods to and from the facility. This will enhance



accessibility for farmers to bring their produce, while also ensuring an uninterrupted supply chain for manufacturers based within the park.

By addressing logistical challenges, the park will attract more businesses, create jobs, and spur economic growth in the region.

The event was attended by County Secretary Koinange Wahome, CECMs Stephen Kisorio (Trade), Purity Kendi (Administration), Leah Njeri (Water), Ekwam Nabos (Infrastructure), Albert Taiti (Health), a host of Chief Officers, community leaders, industry representatives and other county

By Nahashon Maina



Images: Nahashon Maina

Image series of CAIP's Project Launch



Images: Kipkimeii Rutto

Illuminating Laikipia's Path to Progress

The Department of Infrastructure, Land, and Urban Development has undertaken an initiative to rehabilitate the towering high masts at Sipili Market and Nyahururu Main Stage. This endeavor signifies a fresh start for small business owners, matatu operators, and entrepreneurs in these areas; enabling them to extend their operational hours and thus enhancing their economic prospects.

According to the Director of Energy Chris Kimanga, the transformation involves replacement of conventional lighting with energy-efficient LED lights in Nyahururu main stage and Sipili market.

"This transition has yielded a remarkable 50% improvement in energy efficiency, resulting in cost savings while concurrently bolstering business activities within these areas," said Mr. Kimanga.

He also highlighted the installation of electrical lighting in Rumuruti and solar-powered lighting in Nyahururu markets, which has received positive feedback from vendors and business owners.

"I am able to operate my business up until late and go home without worry of being robbed of my belongings," Jemima Njeri, an elated market vendor at Nyahururu market



commented.

The program is expected to be carried out across the county targeting densely populated areas and markets.

"We intend to expand street lighting infrastructure across Laikipia County progressively. Priority areas for installation and rehabilitation include major traffic routes, bustling markets, busy bus stops, high-crime urban zones, town centers, pedestrian crossings, foot bridges, stadiums, and prominent public recreational centers and social

amenities," Mr. Kenneth Kibaara, Chief Officer of Infrastructure, Land, and Urban Development, said.

Solar-powered lighting serves as a resilient energy source during power outages and in regions with limited access to conventional power.

The installation and maintenance of streetlights serve as a critical tool in enhancing security, effectively illuminating expansive areas in both urban and rural settings, and thus fostering a thriving 24-hour economy.

By June Yator

County Takes Special Nutrient Enriched Uji to ECDE Children



The County Government of Laikipia has initiated the uji program for all ECDEs across the county to help the learners get a warm daily meal of nutrient-rich porridge (uji) every day.

A total of 35 tons of Afya mix flour, a precooked blend of maize, soya beans, sorghum, sugar fortified with diverse vitamins and minerals have been acquired by the government to serve the learners. The unga is easy to prepare and small quantities are needed to feed a child for an entire term.

H. E Governor Joshua Irungu EGH has observed that Laikipia has been hit hard by the effects of climate change. Some parts of the county have gone for more than four years without a harvest and pastoralist communities have lost thousands

of livestock to drought. This has left many households vulnerable to food insecurity, has threatened their livelihoods and pushed them into deeper food, nutrition and material poverty.

“As leaders who care for our people, we could not just sit and watch our people suffer. We had to work on a plan to rescue them from this situation which we are starting by securing our young children in ECDE,” said Governor Irungu.

The department of Education has successfully distributed

A total of 35 tons of Afya mix flour, a precooked blend of maize, soya beans, sorghum, sugar fortified with diverse vitamins and minerals have been acquired by the government to serve the learners.

the porridge flour in ten drought-stricken wards targeting the ECDE centres. The distribution has also targeted special schools and schools in disturbed areas (mainly areas facing insecurity). Some bags have also been spared for households living in extreme poverty especially those in slums.

By Njoroge Thuku





Images: FAO

HE. GOVERNOR IRUNGU EGH IN ROME, ITALY

Between September 27th and 29th 2023, HE. Governor Joshua Irungu EGH was in Rome, Italy.

The Governor was among keynote speakers at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) global conference on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanisation.

The conference brought together governments, stakeholders and development patterns debating on agricultural innovations around mechanization of agricultural activities.

Carefully, the discussions interrogated how adoption of mechanization can lead to efficiency and increased productivity in farming.

In his submission, Governor Joshua

Irungu painted a clear picture of the status of Agriculture in Kenya, and in Laikipia, and how it relates to the Kenyan economy.

“Agriculture Contributes 26 percent of country’s GDP and 65 percent of total national exports. Interesting too, the sector literally carries a big chunk of burden of employment in Kenya contributing 18 percent of formal and 70 percent informal employment. Imagine, 70 percent of the rural population depend on various agricultural activities for their livelihoods, “Governor Joshua attempted to explain the pivotal role agriculture plays in Kenya economy.

It is against this backdrop that Governor anchored his persuasion towards Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (SAM) efforts. He observed that with an ever

growing population, traditional way of farming can no longer be viable however much fear of job-loss through mechanization is pronounced in Kenya.

“At home, we are lagging behind in adoption of SAM. Currently we are at 15 percent adoption. But we are having a paradigm shift on SAM acceptance. We're seeing rapid use of mechanical tools especially in small hold farmers in Kenya and in Laikipia. Women, persons living with disability and the elderly have easily adopted tools like shallow weeders and jab planters. It is noble in the villages. Youth too have become advocates of fabricated farm tools” Governor Irungu informed the conference.

During the discussions, Governor Irungu highlighted challenges that

Mechanizing Agriculture

might have contributed to the slow pace of SAMS noting that farmers especially in the villages lack adequate access to mechanization technologies and inadequate business development support to mechanization entrepreneurs.

“Success of Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization Systems SAMs is predicated on high level literacy in our rural areas and deliberate appetite for technology by our youth. That way, farmers can have a near-fabricator in every village whenever their machines break down. We as government too need to develop policies that enable agricultural products market linkages and afford farmers credit facilities that encourage farming and farm mechanisation” Governor Irungu challenged governments reps and stakeholders attending.

He for instance cited deliberate efforts in Kenya and in Laikipia county that are geared towards actualisation of SAMS for optimal agricultural production.

“In Kenya, we have adopted a policy that requires all 47 counties create County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP). On September

18, 2023, Laikipia county officialy broke-ground for a 300-acre industrial park joining few counties that have commenced CAIP implementation. This park will be supporting aggregation of farmer commodities/products and enable value addition of these commodities and products. Additionally, Government will provide common mechanization utilities for value addition processing and marketing” Governor strategy his administration and Kenya Government commitment has deployed towards mechanization efforts.

The County boss had been accompanied by CECM in charge of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Dennis Kasoo and Leah Njeri, CECM in charge of Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change.

The hosting team said *arrivederci*, to their visitors. That is good bye in Italian. They prayed travel mercies, *misericordie del viagg*, and implored each other to act on the dicussions' reccomendations.

Laikipia team ammassed wealth of knowledge and created productive networks that will be fundamental in implementing Governor’s pledge on viable agricultural sector that is profitable and sustainable.

By Kariuki Stevejackson



Images: FAO

Greening Laikipia: Up scaling Forests and Landscapes Restoration

The Department of Water, Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change, led by CECM Ms. Leah Njeri, has embarked on a strategic restoration move to breathe life back into county forests and degraded lands.

This ambitious move sets the stage for re-greening Laikipia, not only to build climate change resilience but also to contribute to the national goal of growing 15 billion trees by year 2032 and the county's goal of three million every year.

To achieve this, the government has drawn environmental and development stakeholders, including FAO Kenya, the Department of Agriculture, KFS, KWS, WRA, WRUA, NDMA, KMD, ILMAMUSI CFA, NEMA, ENNDA, LISTEN Project, IMPACT Kenya, KEFRI, Nature Kenya, Hand in Hand Eastern Africa, EQUITY Bank, Laikipia Permaculture, Laikipia Conservancies Association, and Laikipia Wildlife Forum, among others, on a mission to forge a consensus for joint action on tree planting and growing across the county through the development of 'A Laikipia Tree Planting and Growing Plan'

"Our focus is not just on the number of trees to be planted but on nurturing a greener Laikipia that embodies resilience and sustainability," the CECM noted during a three-day stakeholders engagement workshop held from 29th to 31st August, 2023, to initiate the first phase of the development of the strategic plan.

The Laikipia Tree Planting and Growing Plan will guide the systematic planting and growing of trees across the county, including, but not limited to, the gazettement and restoration of



Images: Ann Ngunjiri

wetlands and riparian lands, as well as planting and growing the right variety of tree seedlings in the right ecological area.

With this, the CECM called for collective efforts and further stressed the need for conscientious tree planting and growing activities and action plans, as they will form the bedrock of a successful tree planting and growing plan.

"A sustainable future hinges on the decisions we make today. Let us ensure that every step we take is well thought out, and together we will restore the ecological balance of Laikipia and foster a nurturing environment for generations to come," Ms. Njeri noted.

By Ann Ngunjiri

Recovery of 100 Stolen Goats in Kimanju

A total of 100 goats of the 400 that were stolen on September 24, 2023 at 02:00 in the morning in Kimanju, Mukogodo West ward have been recovered

The 100 goats were recovered by the National Police Reservists (NPR) the day after the attack and their operations are still ongoing to recover the remaining ones. Three persons suspected of being involved in the attack are being held at the Kimanju police station.

CECM County Government Co-ordination, Administration, ICT and Public Service, Purity Gitonga, said it was saddening to witness the adversity that the Laikipia North residents are facing and how many miles such attacks set the community behind.

“It is heartbreaking to see the affected families reduced to wanderers after losing their livestock which is their main source of livelihood,” said the CEC while at the place where the raid took place.

“We are working closely with the police and the local administration to ensure that the bandit attacks are stopped, ensure our people are secure and that they do not lose their livestock anymore,” she added.

Such attacks leave the families



Images: Irene Nderitu

involved in a painful situation knowing that the years of labour and hardwork they had endured to have the large numbers of goats has been reduced to nothing in a matter of hours.

Robert Kaparo, a Kimanju resident, expressed gratitude for the recovery efforts saying that the act has ignited hope in the residents not only for the

reacquisition of the remaining goats but also prevention of such attacks in the future.

“We are grateful for the help we have received so far and are hopeful for the future,” said Mr. Kaparo.

Mukogodo West ward administrator, Tumpes Legei joined the CEC in the visit.

By Irene Nderitu

Boon for Residents as the Government Moves to Equip Rumuruti Hospital

Residents of Rumuruti and the environs will soon benefit from more specialized health services, as the county government embarks on equipping the radiology and theatre departments of Rumuruti sub-county hospital.

Governor Joshua Irungu during his tour of the region on September 13, 2023 said plans are at an advanced stage to have

the two service points up and running, with this expected to relieve the residents the costly travels to Nyahururu to access them in the public hospital.

For a long time, users of this sub-county hospital have had to contend with high cost of treatment and procedures in the alternate private facilities within town, with huge financial



implications to families and communities.

The development is especially welcome news to mothers delivering through caesarian section, with this cutting the need for onward referrals. The intensified upgrades will see the equipping the of the new male ward with beds, enabling the hospital cater for men in need to be admission for

Image/article: David Serem

Partnership: Improving Education Sector

County Government of Laikipia today held a consultative meeting with Human Practice Foundation exploring possible areas of partnership.

Human Practice Foundation’s main interventions in Kenya is supporting quality education and local income generation.

The foundation therefore becomes the ideal potential development partner in education sector improvement as the County steps up efforts of renovating and constructing ECDEs centres across the county.

County Government team was led



by County Secretary Koinange Wahome while Human Practice Foundation team was led by Patricia Muigai, the foundation’s manager in Laikipia County.

Laikipia team had Burje Mohamed, CO Economic Planning, Abraham Lemanyishoe CO Water, Jecinta Koree, CO Sports and Youth, Peter Macharia CO Roads, Alexander Muchemi, the County attorney and Eng. JM Maina, director

By Kariuki SJ

New ECDE Centre at Kamnanten in Sosian Ward

The County Government of Laikipia in partnership with Laikipia Nature Conservancy has constructed two classrooms for ECDE learners of Kamnanten village in Sosian ward.

The new ECDE centre was officially opened on 27th September, 2023 by Ag. CECM Education Mr. Stephen Kisiorio and flanked by the area MCA Hon. Lekopien Parletto.

Learners in PP1 and PP2 are the ones to occupy the two classrooms. The facility also has a tank for rain water harvesting, ensuring supply of clean water for the over 100 learners.

While addressing the elated gathering of parents and guardians, Mr. Kisiorio urged residents to take advantage of the facility and enroll all children who have attained the age of four years. He further revealed that the Department of Education, Sports, Youth and Social Services is working on a plan to have the classes furnished through the County Government Vocational training centers.

On his part, Mr. John Gichuki, the Chief Officer Education, called upon the residents to embrace peace without which the



education of their children will be compromised- leading them to further marginalization.

Mr. Njuki Mahiga, Chief Officer Tourism applauded Laikipia Nature Conservancy for choosing to celebrate the World Tourism Day by gifting the community with two new classrooms. He noted that proceeds from tourism tend to benefit the entire community, with the new ECDE serving as evidence of the great things the community can achieve by fostering good

relationship with the conservancies.

Sveva Gallmann, the Director Gallman Memorial Foundation, asked the community to foster peace, noting that there is no meaningful development that can happen without it. Her words were echoed by the area MCA, Hon. Lekopien Parletto who praised the Gallman Memorial Foundation for their projects aimed at promoting peace, education, livelihoods among other thematic areas.

Image/Article: Njoroge Thuku

Governor Calls for Collaborative Efforts in Marketing Laikipia as Tourism Destination



The County Government of Laikipia together with tourism stakeholders has formed a committee that will formulate a practical action plan geared towards positioning Laikipia as a leading tourism destination.

The decision was arrived at during tourism stakeholder's consultative meeting held on 19th September 2023 aimed at streamlining tourism marketing strategies in the county. During the meeting, H.E Governor Joshua Irungu EGH noted that there is need to have a collective rethinking of strategies used to promote tourism sector to achieve its sustainability and increase revenue generation.

"We need to promote Laikipia more in the national and international market. I will make it my mandate to speak about tourism in Laikipia to everyone who visits my office. We have to leverage on the wildlife population, the landscape and strategic location of Laikipia to drive the agenda on tourism sector," Governor Irungu said.

The Governor also encouraged all stakeholders to collaborate on information and data sharing to have a common pool containing comprehensive information on tourism.

"As a county, we have vast selection of tourism sites that often go unnoticed or overlooked by more popular destinations. We have what it takes to ensure we become a champion in matter

tourism. Achieving a win-win situation for everyone."

Marketing Laikipia as a destination for conference, tourism circuit and investment has been identified as a key priority for the government and stakeholders through collaboration.

"Let us have a candid discussion on how we can collaborate by bringing everyone on board. Tourism can be a big boom in the county benefiting government, sectorial players and our people," Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri noted.

On his part, CECM Trade, Tourism, Cooperatives and Enterprise Development Stephen Kisorio noted that there is need to have a common online platform to host all facilities in the county with relevant information.

"We are ready to work as a department with all the stakeholders. In term of laws and regulations, we will improve, amend or add any clause to get the best out of our tourism sector," CECM Kisorio elaborated.



Images/Article: Nahashon Maina

Responding to Fire Incidents in the County



The County Government of Laikipia has been quickly responding to fire incidences across the county by sending the fire engine, offering psycho-social support and donating assorted goods to the affected.

On 18th September, 2023 around 12:30 pm, fire broke at one of the dormitories in Ngenia Day and Boarding Primary School. The fire engine was alerted and quickly responded. With combined efforts

of the teachers, non-teaching staff parents and neighbors the fire was put out within minutes.

Many were traumatized and the staff from the fire department provided the necessary counselling to the affected students, teachers and parents. On top of it, H.E Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri and the CECM Department of Administration, ICT, Coordination and Public Service Purity Kendi led in the distribution of the material for

the 30 affected pupils. They include 30 boxes and 30 mattresses. They were joined by Mukogondo West Ward Administrator Tumpes Legei.

Teachers and the BOM members hailed the support shown to them by the county government of Laikipia.

On the other hand, when fire inferno razed down several houses in Thingithu ward on 7th September, 2023 around 8:00 am, the fire brigade rushed and put out the fire and ensured no casualty reported.

CEC Purity Kendi, accompanied by the Chief Officer Administration Mike Kemboi, stood in solidarity with the 14 affected families.

"This is an unfortunate event but we thank God that all of you are safe, the county government of Laikipia is more than ready to help where needed, we will ensure the affected families receive the basic items to start a new life," Madam Kendi said.

The chief officer Mr. Mike Kemboi promised to sensitize the public on disaster management to avoid loss of lives and property.

In case of fire residents are urged to urgently call this number a quick response

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Images/Article: John Muriithi

Governor distributes ksh1.6 million County Enterprise Fund facility to groups

Six self-help groups from Tigithi ward have received cheques worth 1.6 million shillings from the Laikipia County Enterprise Fund for economic empowerment.

H.E. Governor Joshua Irungu EGH, presided over the issuance on 15th September and urged the group members to endure prudent utilization of the funds.

One of the beneficiaries, Lamuria Dairy Value Chain Group received loan in term of asset financing to acquire a silage multipurpose chopper with engine 7.5HP. The chopper machine has the capacity to feed 30 cows, 200 goats/sheep and 2,000 chicken. Having acquired the machine, the group plans to increase their production capacity leading to more income for group members.

Other beneficiaries were Flower Self Help Group (horticulture), Kahuho Dairy Farmers Self Help Group (Pig farming), Lamuria Out Growers Self Help Group (Crop farming), Starehe Mwakinya Women Group (Poultry farming) and Star of Hope village 3 Self Help Group (Table banking).



The Enterprise Fund seeks to inject working capital into self-help groups to help them carry out various economic activities, generate more income for the members and uplifting their social economic status.

The Fund has various types of loans ranging from group loans, asset financing, agri-business financing and LPO/LSO financing that it encourages registered groups in Laikipia to apply due to its affordable interest rate of 6% per annum repayable within two years.

Groups can apply amounts in the range of Ksh 50,000 up to Ksh 300,000.

Image/Article: Nahashon Maina

West Pokot Farmers Camp in Laikipia for Peer Learning



The department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries hosted 60 farmers from West Pokot who were on a three-day learning tour in the County to promote knowledge sharing, innovation and sustainability of agriculture.

The farmers drew major lessons on estrous synchronization - an innovation concept in the sheep value chain characterized by manipulation of the female estrous cycle by use of hormones so that they are bred at the same time being done by farmers in Salama Ward. They termed the visit as a profound and transformative learning experience.

The visitors also appreciated water harvesting techniques and technologies the aggregation of sheep and goats for marketing and value addition being done under the Laikipia Cooperative.

This cooperative has a fully equipped modern slaughterhouse in Juakali Laikipia North and the Vertical kitchen Gardens technology.

The farmers were fascinated by the great things farmers in the County have achieved basing that Laikipia has also experienced below average rainfall in the last three years.

The learning tour provided the farmers with an opportunity to explore opportunities in agriculture even as the effects of climate change persist in the Country.

Laikipia is recognized as a model county in climate smart agriculture techniques and technologies to learn from especially from the WEE-CSA.

The learning tour was facilitated through the Women Economic Empowerment Climate smart agriculture (WEE-CSA) a KOICA funded project jointly implemented by FAO and UN Women ,and the Agriculture Sector Development program(ASDSP).



Images/Article: Mollin Wanjiru

Transformative Partnership: Laikipia and St. Martin Join Hands for Youth Empowerment Project

In a remarkable development, St. Martin's Catholic Social Apostolate (CSA) and the Laikipia County Development Authority (LCDA) have officially unveiled an exciting collaborative project focused on empowering youth in Nyahururu and Rumuruti through vocational training and skill development.

The project pilot phase will be launched in Nyahururu and Rumuruti vocational training centers, with the goal of offering a diverse range of vocational courses that will equip the youth with valuable skills for their future careers.

The program's ultimate goal is to boost youth enrolment in vocational training centers, enhance their employable skills, and instil a positive attitude toward Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions.

One of the pivotal discussions revolved around the Memorandum

of Understanding (MoU) that will govern this partnership between St. Martin CSA and the county government. It was agreed that the MoU should be comprehensive, addressing project specifics while allowing for broader collaboration in other areas.

The gathering, held at St. Martin CSA Premises on September 1, 2023, brought together key stakeholders who will play vital roles in realizing this project.

Mary Gachara, Vice Director of Communication and Community Engagement at St. Martin CSA, projected to have more donors to help them in making the community a better place.

"Through our funding partner COMUNDO, we hope to attract more donors on board to help us achieve objectives," she said.

LCDA's CEO, Mr. James Mugambi, expressed his appreciation for the

collaboration and underscored the transformative potential of this partnership.

"The County Government of Laikipia is fully committed to support the project, and recognises its importance in contributing to the betterment of Laikipians," he affirmed.

The program will encompass refresher training for instructors in an industrial setting, the acquisition of modern training equipment, training of instructors and key project stakeholders in international labor laws and certified training on entrepreneurship and business.

It will also have competency-based training, introduction of apprenticeship training for vocational trainees to refine their skills, sponsorship of 100 needy students, and capital investment for the best-performing graduates to start their businesses.

Image/Article: Pauline Muiyeria



Public Contribute to Finance Bill Improvement

The Laikipia County Revenue Board carried out 30 Public Participation meetings on Finance Bill 2023/2024 across the county to provide a platform for individuals and communities to voice their opinions, share their expertise, and actively participate in the development of this crucial legislation.

In every ward there were two meetings that took place between 18th and 22nd September, 2023.

The exercise brought forth a range of perspectives and ideas that contributed to a comprehensive understanding of the county's needs.

By embracing the spirit of Tujenge Laikipia, the County Government of Laikipia has fostered an environment where public participation thrives, providing a solid foundation for the future development of our county.



Images/Article: Nicholas Githinji

World Clean Up Day: ‘Think Before You Trash It’ Ignites Action for Change

The County Government of Laikipia hosted the National Clean Up Day event at Nanyuki Stadium on September 16, 2023, in the fight for a cleaner and more sustainable environment guided by the theme "Think Before You Trash It".

World Clean Up Day, observed annually on every third weekend of September, united communities, counties, and national government officials in the call for an active stance against waste-induced pollution as the world grapples with the rapidly growing population.

An awareness procession across Nanyuki town, a community clean-up drive conducted in the Majengo area, and environmental speeches were delivered, with speaker after speaker advocating for a culture of environmental consciousness and sustainability.

Mr. John Elungata, Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change, delivered the speech of the Ministry's CS Hon. Soipan Tuya in absentia, calling for increased waste management efforts and waste recycling.

“Our efforts must go beyond World Cleanup Day. It is essential to embrace and integrate circular practices into county policies and daily routines. By doing so, we

will not only reduce waste but also create new economic opportunities, paving the way for a more sustainable future," read part of the speech.

A circular economy is an economic model designed to minimize waste and promote the continuous use of resources by recycling and reusing materials, maximizing the utilization and value of the resources. This approach minimizes the strain on natural resources and lessens the environmental impact of production and consumption.

H.E. Governor Joshua Irungu's speech read by CECM Water Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, Ms. Leah Njeri stated the efforts Laikipia county is undertaking to ensure sustainable waste management in the county and further called for individual responsibility towards promoting a cleaner and greener environment.

"The essence of this event and



its theme lies in transforming our attitudes and behaviors towards waste. ‘Think Before You Trash It’ serves as a reminder for us to be mindful of the footprint we leave on our environment and for future generations," read part of the Governor’s speech.

Over the last year, the county government, through the departments of Environment, collected and properly disposed 85,564 metric tons of waste, underscoring its commitment to promoting a cleaner and healthier environment for all.

Image/Article: Ann Ngunjiri

Empowering Women Farmers through Financial Inclusion



On September 13th, the Laikipia County Enterprise Fund team collaborated with various financial stakeholders in a consultative meeting organized by Hand in Hand East Africa (HiHEA) as part of the Women Economic Empowerment through Climate Smart Agriculture project to assist women farmers groups to make informed financial decisions.

Hand in Hand serves as the key implementation partner for this initiative, which aims to economically empower women through Climate Smart Agriculture.

The project's core mission is to integrate women's contributions and innovations into climate change adaptation efforts. This involves women actively participating in policy-making, group leadership, and management.

A total of 41 women and youth

farmer's groups from Umände, Tigithi, and Mukogondo East wards were acquainted with a range of financial institutions. This will enable them to make informed choices about their daily operations while safeguarding their income sources from monopolization.

Evelyn Mbugua, the Fund Administrator of Enterprise Fund Laikipia, underscored the advantages of engaging with these farmers. The Enterprise Fund extends three types of loans to farmers, all featuring an annual interest rate of just 6% and a maximum repayment period of two years—rates significantly more favorable than those offered by mainstream financial institutions.

"We provide affordable and accessible agribusiness loans, facilitate connections between MSMEs and industry experts, and cultivate an environment conducive to enterprise development. We link

the MSMEs with experts, and also facilitate them with a conducive environment for enterprise development," said the Fund Administrator.

"We also offer training such as business management, record keeping, marketing, and product and business plan development. Over that over 200 farmers groups have benefited from the fund so far," she added.

During the meeting, Programme Officer Gender and Advocacy Eastern Africa women Economic Empowerment Madam Phyllis Wanjiru emphasized that unlocking groups potential heavily relies on the members knowledge about credit access and application processes.

"Our goal is to increase awareness of financial accessibility among various women's groups, particularly due to geographical isolation and limited exposure to financial matters. To achieve this, we have partnered with financial institutions to promote awareness and foster long-lasting relationships with women farmer groups," explained Ms. Wanjiru.

Among the financial institutions actively participating in this collaborative effort were Tower Sacco, Agricultural Finance Corporation, and Women Enterprise Fund.

Image/Article: John Muriithi

The Journey to Laikipia CIDP's 300 Boreholes Across the County Gains Momentum



The County Government of Laikipia is on the verge of a transformative breakthrough, with the acquisition of Ksh. 40 million worth of drilling machines, and is poised to revolutionize the water supply in Laikipia.

The high-tech drilling machines, complete with a drilling rig, a terameter (with detection capacity up to a depth of 500 meters) and a test pumping unit, promise to efficiently explore underground water sources and bore into the earth's depths, unveiling hidden aquifers that hold the potential to quench the thirst

of countless communities in the county.

According to Governor Joshua Irungu EGH, the county is set to drill 300 boreholes over the next four years, with the ultimate goal of reducing the water access distance to under 1 km. This brings relief and optimism to communities, particularly those in Laikipia North, who have long grappled with water scarcity issues.

“This investment is a strategic move driven by a deep understanding of the challenges faced by the people of Laikipia. We recognize that reliable access to clean water is

not just a fundamental right but a prerequisite for the well-being of our people, translating to the overall growth of our county,” said the Governor during the unveiling of the county-owned drilling rig on August 4, 2023.

Borehole drilling in the first phase will prioritize public spaces such as schools and health facilities, with a commitment of at least two boreholes per ward. The communities will also have access to water via water kiosks as the government plans to install water pipes in the second phase to reticulate water to the larger population.

Laikipia's 40 Million Drilling Machine Set Water Revolution in Full Swing

“By prioritizing water availability in public spaces, we aim to alleviate water scarcity faced during the dry seasons while also ensuring our community's health and education are not compromised,” Governor Irungu said.

CECM Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change Ms. Leah Njeri, highlighted that the drilling of boreholes will cut the costs of water provision by 40%, as the investment will lower the expenses of water trucking during the drought period as well as cut the costs of outsourcing rigs.

“With easy access to clean water from boreholes, women and girls will be relieved of the strenuous and time-consuming task of a long and arduous journey to fetch water, allowing them to devote more time to education, income-generating activities, and personal development” she noted.

Speaking while witnessing the official commissioning of drilling works at Kiahuko Water Tank in Tigithi Ward on September 14, 2023, an event that saw the sinking of the first borehole in Laikipia, by the newly purchased machines, Mercy Kathambi- a local resident- expressed her excitement, saying, “For years, we've endured the burden of walking long distances



Images: Nahashon Muhia

that took a toll on our time and energy. The sight of a drilling machine in action fills us with hope and relief, knowing that we will soon have access to water right here in our community. This will significantly ease our lives and improve our overall well-being.”

The upcoming Laikipia Rural Water and Sanitation Company

will manage and govern the drilled boreholes, supplementing the county's two urban water service providers, Nanyuki Water and Sanitation Company (NAWASCO) and Nyahuru Water and Sanitation Company (NYAHUWASCO).

By Ann Ngunjiri



Our Vision

An Inclusive County With Sustainable Quality of Life

Our Mission

Facilitate Integrated Development for Socio Economic Prosperity of People of Laikipia

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