



More Roads Constructed Through Leasing Program in 5 Months

By Nahashon Maina

From 23rd August 2021, to end of January 2022, through leasing program, the County Government of Laikipia has graded 1,204 km of roads and graveled 397.82 km in efforts to open Laikipia for investment, ease movement and improve connectivity.

The leasing program has become one of the greatest achievements by this government in road sector. The Department of Infrastructure, roads and urban planning embarked on road construction using the leasing program in 2019.

The program has proven to be more effective in realizing project implementation time frame as the department is able to plan and execute the project using its own team. The workplan by the department has divided the team into five brigades able to simultaneously work in different wards to grade and gravel rural roads. The workplan offers a strategy which the department utilizes to be more effective and timelier in their sector.

The recognition that roads are vital and integral part of Laikipia development infrastructure, the county government is committed to fast track the construction of rural road network. The workplan enables the department to realize more roads



Ndoyoriwo road in Olmoran ward. It was impassable until the government deployed a brigade through the leasing programme

construction through efficient team collaboration.

Brigade 1 started road work in Tigithi ward on 30th August 2021. It has been able to grade 210.4 km and gravel 63.3 km of roads. Brigade 2 worked in Githiga ward from 23rd August 2021 grading 197.65 km and gravelling 64.5 km. Ian Olmoran ward Brigade 3 and 4 were assigned the road work.

Brigade 3 covered Mahiga and Naibrom areas grading 32.2 km and gravelling 9 km. Brigade 4 was in Wangwachi area where it achieved 76.55 km of grading and 20.9 km gravelling of roads as from 9th September 2021.

The county now prides of having well-developed road network that will bring socio-economic development to community. As Laikipia envisions to grow the GDP 4-folds, the road network will play a significant role in the economic development.

Leasing program is opening up more areas that will stimulate economic and social development. Roads are connecting producers to market, workers to jobs and providing safe, reliable transportation means becoming a catalyst for productive growth of the county.

About 214 km more roads are expected to be graded soon.

Modernization Of Rumuruti Livestock Market Infrastructures



Rumuruti Livestock Market that is still under construction

By Pius Butichi

Rumuruti Livestock Market is one of the major secondary/tertiary markets in the CEREB region and is able to serve livestock traders from as far as Nairobi, Nakuru, Meru, Marsabit, Samburu, Baringo and Isiolo counties. The devolved government has modernized all its major Livestock Sale-yards to top notch classic markets.

The New Rumuruti Livestock Market that is under construction is being funded by the County Government of Laikipia and is going to be one of the largest Livestock Market in the CEREB region. The market measures 210m by 85m = 17,850m² (Approx. 4.5 acres), making it the largest Livestock Sale-yard in the region.

The market will have all the re-

quired facilities in a modern Livestock Market.

It has an off-loading ramp, an inspection unit, a holding pen, four huge paddocks (Two for shoats and two for cattle). It also has also an auction bay and a loading ramp.

When complete, the sale-yard will hold 5,250 cattle and 7,350 shoats (sheep and goats) at any given time.

With the modernization of all these major livestock markets; linking them to KLMIS; adoption of feedlot production and the use of LITS system by livestock farmers, this will make the livestock farmers reap huge returns from their business – as they will easily get their livestock to the market with ease.

In the past four years, the County Government Laikipia has been wisely investing in the improvement of Livestock marketing infrastructures.

All this is geared towards improving on the returns received from livestock keeping enterprise by the farmers.

Other similar markets that have been modernized include, Kimanjo Livestock Market, Muwarak Livestock Market, and Olmororan Livestock Market

The main focus of the government has been on four critical areas that aim to make livestock keeping a well-paying enterprise. These are: -

- Promoting and supporting feedlot production,
- Promotion and adoption of Livestock Identification & Traceability System (LITS) – to enable them access prime markets,
- Modernizing all Major Livestock Sale-yards, and
- Linking of all the major livestock markets to the national Kenya Livestock Market Information System (KLMIS) – For information sharing.

• *Butichi is the head of Livestock Production, Laikipia County.*

Big Win for LHS Kimanjo as Government Pumps Sh 50 million for Upgrade

By David Serem

The County Government of Laikipia has set aside Ksh. 50 million to upgrade LHS Kimanjo into the region's referral hospital.

The mega facelift, which will be implemented this financial year, will put the facility at a better place to handle most of the referrals, especially from the Northern part of the county, and will only refer complicated cases onwards. The development will not only benefit Laikipia North, but also the vast region, as the likes of LHS Nanyuki will be relieved the burden of the many referrals.

The upgrade will see the facility widen its range of specialties, including x-rays, lab and theatre services, becoming the region's radiology centre. The facelift will include extra staff to run the added services.

The move is part of a wider healthcare investment plan the government is implementing across the county, which targets to bring referral capacities closer to the people. Long term, the plan is meant to offset the cost of healthcare for the public and government, seeing as both sides incur significant resources that would be deployed to other social economic activities.



LHS Kimanjo

This amount of investment puts LHS Kimanjo among the largest beneficiaries of the over 350 million shillings healthcare overhaul in the county this financial year.

The county government is adopting a policy shift in healthcare, where emphasis on bringing more services closer to the people to cut the cost of access to healthcare. It is expected that the approach, together with sustained efforts to have more families on insurance, will help lower healthcare out-of-pocket financing, a factor that continues to ravage families.

The investment is the culmination of intensive deliberations that prioritized sustainable inputs with limited resources in

mind. This way, the government is steering clear of the pitfalls that come with loosely researched investment choices, where huge funds are committed on unsustainable projects in the long run. This will be made possible through optimizing human resource and diagnostic logistics to improve efficiencies by maximizing output of every facility. This will facilitate prudent management of resources by limiting wastages on investments that do not have the volumes for input.

The LHS outlets of Kimanjo, Lamuria, Rumuruti, Ndindika, Nyahururu and Nanyuki are some of the biggest beneficiaries of the investment.

Laikipia Innovator Helping Curb Burglary Remotely



By Jackline Mariga

Elijah Mungurwe an innovator in Laikipia has created a remote power unit control device that switches on and off lights when one is away from home. According to him, theft cases in his neighbouring villages was the main inspiration towards this invention.

“It was during the Christmas festivals and together with my family, we wanted to travel to the village. I was stressed since my family is young hence no one would

be left behind to take care of our households,” describes Mr. Mungurwe on how it all began.

His technology mostly curbs those who wait until there is no one at home to take advantage of that time to steal poultry, households, sheep among other things.

He says the design of the device was unpleasing and the wires were scary hence no one would be willing to install such a device in their house.

“It was not until April 2021 that one of my brothers-in-law gave

me the idea of commercializing the device. However, the many wires made it huge and unappealing,” said Mungurwe.

The device has a working voltage of 220-240v and uses the alternating current (AC). It works well at a temperature of 20c- 80c.

The internal simcard only receives SMS command from one admin only for security purposes and helps in switching on and off security lights and internal lights using a simple SMS code from any type of phone. The device can switch on specified sockets within the house like TV system, cooker unit, shower and tank water pumping system to scare away a potential burglar.

“When one is travelling it is possible to leave the lights on but its just a matter of time for the home breakers to realize since the lights will be on during the day and the power cost will go high,” stated Mungurwe.

The county government of Laikipia through the innovation program has been walking a journey with innovators by helping them achieve their goals and protect their projects. Mr. Mungweru is in the process of joining the Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development Program

Reviving the Milk Value Chain to Benefit Laikipia Farmers



By Mollin Wanjiru

Capacity building of farmers is a key component that helps to improve knowledge and requisite skills in pursuit of agricultural transformation to commercially oriented enterprise.

In line with this, the County Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries with the support of the Agriculture Sector Development Support Program (ASDSP II) is training approximately 3,000 farmers along the 20 value chain organizations in the dairy value chain.

Farmers being trained are from companies, cooperatives, self-help groups and farmer's organizations.

Small scale farmers in the dairy value chain lack the necessary skills to do business in the most competitive sector of milk production, processing and market-

ing. The private service providers have been providing Artificial Insemination and animal health services but none is involved in milk production and marketing services.

The farmers will be equipped with necessary skills on;

- ♦ Milk Marketing and clean milk production
- ♦ Milk value addition
- ♦ Management of Artificial Insemination services,
- ♦ Record keeping
- ♦ Management and feeding of dairy cows

Animal health.

The department in collaboration aims at building and sustaining the capacity of the farmers, farmer groups, and cooperatives in the dairy sector. The main objectives are; increasing productivity of the VCAs, enhancing entrepreneurial skills,

and enhancing market access. Strengthening the structures for consultations, coordination and corporation.

Ng'arua Dairy Cooperative Society will be one of the beneficiaries of the program. The Cooperative society has a membership of 900 farmers, from the four wards in Githiga, Marmanet, Rumuruti and Olmoran. A meeting was held with representatives of the cluster groups to plan with the service providers on the roll out of the trainings.

The preliminary activity was to cluster the members of the value chain organizations based on the catchment areas for ease of training by the service providers. The cluster groups will form farmers' field schools for learning by the farmers.

"We aim at increasing the milk production per cow per day from the current average of four to ten litres and ultimately increase the volume of milk aggregated at the cooperative from the current 2000 litres per day to 10000 litres per day", explained Edward Njuguna, the officer in charge of the dairy value chain in ASDSP II program.

With the necessary skills on value addition the cooperative will start making yoghurt and other products from milk and therefore help the farmers earn better. The farm gate price is currently at Kshs.38 per litre.

Laikipia LHS' Deliberate Efforts to Provide Best Maternal Health Services



First Lady Maria Mbeneka inspects the maternity wing at LHS Luoniek

By Wanjiku Wanjiru

The county government of Laikipia has been deliberate in ensuring that all public health outlets have necessary equipment for maternity services.

Through the Laikipia Health Service (LHS), the county has developed a rich network of outlets across the Laikipia totaling up to 86 this week after the governor commissioned a new outlet at Nakwang' in Sosian ward. For the first time, women from this area will have a place to safely deliver their babies unlike in the past where they delivered at home or travel over 10km away to reach a facility.

In the first Week of February 2022, three other maternities were commissioned at LHS-Melwa, LHS-Loniek and LHS-Muthengera. Each of these maternities are equipped with two delivery beds and a four-bed unit for postnatal care.

The First Lady Maria Mbeneka's Hongera Mama kit initiative has also helped ensure that women deliver in hospitals and that they attend the recommended antenatal clinics. The kit is a package that contains a basin, slippers, baby warmer, ointment for the umbilical cord, vaseline, diapers and maternal pads for the mother.

The kit comes in handy especially for mothers who are in no position to afford these essentials. During the ongoing LHS drive, the governor is taking time to explain the essence of the Hongera Mama kit, as a way of encouraging men to be involved in their children's birth journey also.

These intentional investments have seen a rise in delivery in LHS outlets across the county. In 2020, 16,053 deliveries were made while 17,091 deliveries took place in 2021 in various outlets in the county. In LHS-Nanyuki alone over 500 deliveries have been made since the maternity unit moved to the mother and child unit in mid-December last year.

The maternity unit at LHS-Nanyuki has a bed capacity of 60 beds in the general ward and 30 beds in the amenity ward.

This increase is an indication that our outlets continue to be the outlets of choice to many expectant mothers in the county.

Other counties have sent delegations to Laikipia county to benchmark on maternal health units. The latest ones in this month were from Nyandarua County.

Internal Audit as A Tool for Enhancing Performance

By CPA. Julius Kingori

The Internal Auditing is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organisation's operations. It helps an organization accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance processes.

Our mission is to help the County Government and its entities satisfy their statutory and fiduciary responsibilities and employ public resources effectively and efficiently.

We offer assurance services that include audits on operations, compliance, financial; follow up, investigative, IT and management and consulting services that are advisory in nature such as advisory on control design, training on processes and internal controls.

We achieve our mission through working with other departments in undertaking different audit assignments, discussing and communicating the results to the audit clients that recognizes the effectiveness of measures set out.

Types of assignments

Financial audits- involves reviews of the reliability and integrity of the financial and operating information. It involves the correctness, entirety, legitimacy, provability and regularity of financial transactions, revenue and ex-

“Internal Audit an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organisation's operations”

penditure, account balances of assets and liabilities.

Compliance audits- intended to determine whether an entity has complied with specific policies, procedures, laws, regulations, or contracts that affect the business of the county government entity such as the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, County Government Act 2012, Public Finance Management Act 2012, Public Procurement and Disposal Act 2020, among others.

Operational audits- These audits cover the review and evaluation of the processes the management has established to ensure the achievement of the objectives and goals, economical, effective and efficient use of resources and safeguarding of assets. This is also referred to systems audits where the evaluation involves the design and operation of an organization's systems and process rather than locations or departments. E.g. Order-to-pay cycle.

Information Systems audits-

This is a process that collects and evaluates evidence to determine whether the information systems and the related resources adequately safeguard assets, maintain data and systems integrity, provide relevant and reliable information, achieve the entity's goals effectively and use of resources efficiently. The process also determines whether internal controls exist that provide reasonable assurance that organizational, operational, and control objectives will be met and the undesired events will be prevented or detected and corrected in a timely manner.

Value for Money Audit

(Performance Audit)- This involves review of processes to determine whether resources have been used efficiently, effectively and economically.

Procurement Audit- Reviews different contracts and contracting processes to determine the completeness, efficacy as well as the accuracy of the procurement process.

Project Audit- Involves examining, researching and verifying a project for consistency and relevance to the basic parameters (quality, performance, cost-effectiveness) that are pre-set at the very beginning of the project.

Mr. King'ori is the Director of Internal Audit

Call for Peaceful Coexistence as Calm Returns in Olmorran



Governor and national government officials led by PS Trade and Enterprise Development John Weri inspecting government efforts of ongoing reconstruction efforts at Kisii Ndogo and upcoming Kirima Sub-county Police Division HQ building in Olmorran Ward. The government is committed to ensure that security prevails in the area.

