



DCI Pursuing Laikipia Land Fraudsters

..as agencies team up to streamline county's land sector



Governor Ndiritu Muriithi talks to staff at county land officer after inspecting digitization land registry. Present was Laikipia East DCC Ms Esther Mwamure, NLC and local land registry officials

Land sector agencies in Laikipia have closed ranks to launch a multi-sectoral onslaught on land-related fraud in one of the most coordinated attempts by the government to streamline the chaotic land sector in the recent times.

For many years, Laikipia County has been a free theatre for land fraudsters in all their various forms with victims being individuals, government, shareholders of land-buying companies and Saccos.

Land-buying company officials have been transferring and even selling land initially set aside for public utility during the sub-division. Enthusiastic entrepreneurs, saccos or real estate firms have been buying and sub-dividing agricultural land into small plots under what has come to be known as *mburoti maguta mata*.

Processes in the land sector were thrown through the window. Many of these would sell and allot land that was not yet surveyed. Like elsewhere, Laikipia too has cases of allocation of forest, riparian and wetland to individual. Scores of plots are also not in conformity with conditions in the lease. But it has shockingly

emerged that out of the 2,996 part development plans (PDPs) in the county only 212 are approved. This means that many leases and titles are sitting on unapproved part development plans.

The DCI has instituted a wide-ranging criminal investigation into land fraud in Laikipia. The racket involves forging of the PDPs, then generating back-dated allotment letters, before officials purporting to act on behalf of the cabinet secretary, issue land leases. The agencies involved in the exercise to streamline the sector include the County Government of Laikipia, the Judiciary, EACC, DPP, NLC, Settlements, Land Registrar and plot owners association.

The approach by the agencies is multipronged and operating on a common principles of the land sector. Each of the agencies is eager to see results of its specific efforts in the land reforms process.

Dozens

"There is a lot of fraudsters targeting government land. Fake documents are rampant especially in Matanya and land-buying companies

in Ngobit and Segera areas. We are closing in on them," county DCI Francis Wanjau said during a recent multiagency meeting.

The DCI investigation which targets dozens of officials at both levels of government, also includes officers at the national land commission, as well as private land brokers.

Nanyuki and Rumuruti are particular hot spots. In one recent incident, a senior land administration official purported to issue a lease on behalf of the cabinet secretary to a well-known Nakuru land broker – except that the back dated letter of allotment was issued when the broker was in school, and the land is already fully developed and belongs to another!

The fraudsters have targeted riparian land, government compounds, Kenya Railways, and the Nanyuki by-pass, among others. The DCI investigations are part of a broader effort to restore sanity in the land sector in Laikipia.

Digitized

In a far-reaching audit that may have devastating effects, government has discovered that over 90% of part development plans (PDPs) in circulation are not approved, putting in doubt the legality of thousands of land leases (title deeds). The PDPs are defective for many reasons, including flaunting planning processes, purporting to plan land that is already titled without extinguishing previous rights, and incomplete approvals.

The fact that incomplete PDPs are widely used has created a perfect loophole for fraudsters.

Government is racing against time to close the gap. The multiagency task force has been working in recent months to bring the sector back to rule of law. And it is already bearing fruits. New guidelines for sub-division have been issued. The land registry at Nanyuki has been modernized, and the filing system revamped. A brand-new registry has been started at Rumuruti. The county planning department has digitized over 5,000 registry index maps, (R.I.M) and 1,400 part development plans.

Building Proud, Professional and People-oriented Public Service



County Government of Laikipia workers receiving staff identity cards as the roll out of public service reforms kicked off

public service rolled out under Governor Ndiritu Muriithi's leadership. Some of the reforms focused on strengthening existing the structures.

For instance, while an institution like the Laikipia County Revenue Board had been created earlier, it could not as it only had one staff- only the CEO. The same case applied to the Laikipia County Development Authority.

These were critical institutions created but stayed without the necessary structures. The same staff who produced Ksh416 million in 2016/2017 were the same ones who collected revenue beyond the target in 2018/2019.

From the word go, the Governor had a clear road map of where he wanted the Laikipia public service to be and how (see the circular on initial milestones of the reform process). It is this service that was drive his vision for the county. He had to make it professional, people-oriented and proud.

The reform programme included right sizing the department, staff performance appraisals, training, job enrichment, spot awards, among others. It became compulsory for staff to wear official badges. Meetings in Laikipia start on time.

The performance culture inculcated in initial year of Governor Ndiritu Muriithi's administration. The service has made many firsts. Today the Laikipia county public service is focusing beyond delivery of not just inputs, but outcomes and impact through enterprise development. **See Governor's circular on Page 3**

In June 2019, Laikipia's own source revenue hit Ksh815 million – some Ksh15 million above the projected revenue. This was close to double the Ksh416 million revenue collected in 2016/2017 financial year.

Many counties have been coming to learn how Laikipia has been collecting own source revenue- from Makuani to Laikipia, from Uasin Gichu to Kiambu, from Narok to Vihi-ga, and Migori. It was a fast-result area of public service reforms initiated by Governor Ndiritu Muriithi immediately after assuming office as Governor.

Did the revenue growth just happen? Of course not. You can't do the same thing the same way over and over again and expect different results.

It was as a result of reforms in the county



Governor Ndiritu Muriithi and Deputy Governor John Mwaniki with a section of the county staff in 2019

The Road Map to Modernizing the Laikipia County Public Service

H.E. Governor Ndiritu Muriithi

December 20, 2017

1. Performance Appraisal: 10-15 January 2018

All staff must have completed the first ever performance review by January 15, 2018. A simple performance appraisal form will be generated for all staff to complete and sign with their supervisors. The completed appraisal will be reviewed by the manager and signed off by the director.

2. Staff in the actual work stations: January 2, 2018

All staff must be in their actual work stations, and not based in the main centres of Nanyuki, and Nyahururu. Whereas it is recognized that staff may commute to work station on a daily basis, strict roll call will be carried out.

3. Departmental & Interdepartmental meetings - January 15th, 2018

The first wave of departmental meetings to be completed and minutes filed by February 1, 2018

- (i) County level - Chief officers will meet once monthly, with the County Secretary chairing
- (ii) Sub-county level - Sub-county department heads will meet monthly with the sub-county administrator chairing
- (iii) Ward-level - unit heads at ward level will meet once monthly with ward administrator chairing
- (iv) Typical agenda:
 - a) Departmental reports
 - b) New initiatives
 - c) Staff movements/deployments

4. Right sizing departments: January 31, 2018

Staff will be redeployed to ensure all departments have at least the bare minimum staff required to deliver services. The Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives Department will require particular attention. Staff deployments must also reflect geographical requirements. Give staff opportunity to apply for transfers.

5. Staff IDs: January 31, 2018

By end of January, every staff member must have a staff ID. Those without should be struck off the payroll.

6. Uniforms: January 31, 2018

All units that work in uniform will be kitted out by January 31 2018. In addition unique, elite jackets for the top leadership by end of February.

7. 2nd wave of all staff (County-wide) meetings by Executive: February 22-23rd, 2018

The 2nd wave of staff meetings will track completion of the first ever staff performance appraisal, explain to staff the on-going improvements and address any fears they might have.

8. Ward Level Service Centers: February 28, 2018

All ward offices will be converted to service centers by February 28, 2018. All county départements will offer services at these centers. In addition, these centers will be "agents" of huduma centres.

9. Training budgets: March 30, 2018

All departments will submit their proposed training budgets for 2018/19 by this date.

9. Job enrichment: March 31, 2018

To make work interesting, rewarding and satisfying, every opportunity to increase the scope of a staff member's work will be exploited. For instance, a street cleaner should also be the parking attendant on that street, and inspect premises for business licenses.

10. 2nd Governor's HR Roundtable: Friday, April 27, 2018

To take stock of improvements made in Q3 and re-affirm course.

11. 2nd Spot Performance Awards: April 18-20th, 2018

The second round of Spot Performance Awards will be on April 18-20th, 2018. Improvements in the nomination processes, verification of citation processes to be complete by April 2.

12. Career paths: June 1, 2018

The schemes of service will be inter-operable, so that staff can change career tracks without loss of rank.

13. Public service code: October 20, 2018

We are building a service that is people orientated, professional and proud.

Citizens, Experts Laud Laikipia for Innovative Financing of Transformational Projects

The county government kicked off an exercise to update the citizens on the process of the infrastructure bond which it is in the process of issuing to finance several transformational projects. It started off the engagements with a webinar on Tuesday, followed by public sittings with citizens in Rumuruti, Nyahururu and Nanyuki towns. The last three were held with strict adherence of Covid-19 protocols. Scholars, financial market experts and general citizenry appreciated the bold and innovative options of financing the transformational projects.

“The approach should be emulated by other public institutions. The performance of the county government has made this possible. It’s something unique. The intention of the government to transform the county is clear and this will be achieved,” remarked Prof. Ndirangu Kioni, vice-chancellor Dedan Kimathi university of Technology.

Also impressed was Mr Daniel Ndoloh, the director, debts strategy and management at the National Treasury. Said he: “I’m impressed by the presentation. It shows the impact in terms of the revenue that will be generated (from the projects).”

Ms Margaret Lesuuda was excited by the concept of smart towns. Sixty-eight percent of the world population will be living in urban centres by 2050.

The vice-chair of Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) Mr Humphrey Wattanga congratulated the county for scoring highly in credit rating. He said only Laikipia and Bungoma had so far moved towards issuing municipal bonds to finance development.

“As CRA we are willing to support and encourage county government in such endeavours,” he said.

Economic Impact of the Smart Towns Funded Through the Bond Issue

Gross County Product		
Smart town	Daily cumulative income/GCP Ksh	Total cumulative incomes/GCP(7years) Ksh
Doldol	3,488,800	1,273,412,000
Naibor	1,278,900	466,798,500
Kalalu	1,727,250	630,446,250
Nanyuki	12,815,040	4,677,489,600
Matanya	3,148,250	1,149,111,250
Wiyumiririe	16,514,225	6,027,692,125
Nyahururu	8,725,920	3,184,960,800
Karuga	1,772,575	646,989,875
Kinamba	10,798,375	3,941,406,875
Mugwarak	1,621,900	591,993,500
Pesi	1,504,300	549,069,500
Annual revenue/GCP	63,395,535	23,139,370,275
Water for production total	846,600	2,010,240,000
Total GCP	64,242,135	25,149,610,275

Economic Impact of Water-For –Production Funded by the Bond

	2020/21	2026/2027
WANGWACI DAM		
ACREAGE UNDER IRRIGATION	300	600
NO. OF FARMERS(H/H)	300	600
WATER STORAGE CAPACITY(M ³)	100,000	312,376
TOMATOES PRODUCED(Tons)	3000	7,680
REVENUES TO THE FARMERS	153,600,000	307,200,000
JOBS CREATED	16,425	32,850
GCP	153,600,000	1,996,800,000
ILPOLEI DAM		
ACREAGE UNDER IRRIGATION	0	20
NO. OF FARMERS(H/H)	0	20
WATER STORAGE CAPACITY(M ³)	5000	92000
CABBAGES PRODUCED(Tons)	0	160
REVENUES TO THE FARMERS	0	1,920,000
JOBS CREATED	0	900
GCP	0	13,440,000

From political promises to action...

Pillar VIII: Protection of Life and Property



Governor Ndiritu Muriithi inspecting a quarter guard mounted in his honour by Police Reservists when he presided over their graduation ceremony at Laikipia North TTI at Mowarak in 2018

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) Light-up of homes and Markets, (x) Upgrade of roads and Building bridges, (xi) Develop Smart and Green Towns, and (xii) Destination Laikipia.

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

(viii) Protection of Life and Property

The county government of Laikipia has made deliberate efforts to protect life and property of Laikipians.

Under this pillar, a total of 411 persons were trained as NPR. These people helped in maintaining peace and restored order.

Since 2017, invasion of private land by pastoralists from neighbouring counties has ceased. Immediately after his election, Governor Ndiritu Muriithi brought together all elected leaders from Laikipia, Baringo, Samburu and Isiolo to discuss how the region could move in step in developing the region. From the talks, Amaya Triangle Initiative was born, as a bloc to champion uniform development of the four

counties. A lot has been achieved through ATI. It recently got a boost from the EU which will be implementing Sh600 million worth of projects within the region.

Amaya sought to uplift socio-economic status of the region through embracing modern technology of livestock production, education and infrastructure development. ATI has promoted community cohesion and peaceful co-existence.

The government has also constructed four major fences that prevent the wild animals from invading the agricultural farms and also harming citizens. The fences also protect animal and plant habitats. In Solio, the people are thankful to the government after completion of the Solio Conservancy fence. Residents had been complaining of animals invading their lands and destroying crops. Citizens living around Ngorare Conservancy have also expressed their gratitude to the County Government of Laikipia for constructing a fence around the conservancy.

Governor Muriithi also promised to create stra-

tegic pasture reserves in partnership with land owners. To achieve this, the government has distributed 67 Feed pulverizers, 45 manual balers, 45 Motorized grass cutters; 7240kgs pasture seeds and 5040 kgs of assorted fodders. Availability of enough pasture also minimizes conflicts for grazing grounds for the pastoralists. The government is encouraging feedlot to further minimize long walks with animals in search of grazing grounds. In ensuring that all public land is secured and used for public interest, the government has renovated Kanu Grounds which used to be muddy, by planting grass and teers for the public to visit for a park experience. Public gatherings also take place after the government fenced the grounds to have specific entry and exit sections. To prevent encroachment of public land, the government has also fenced Kararu Stadium, Lamuria Juakli, Makutano market, and Nanyuki and Thingithu cemeteries.



A modern hay shed at Matanya with a capacity to store 25,000 bales of hay

Kalalu Catholic Youths Clean Up Maili Nane Market Centre



A group of 100 youths from Kalalu Catholic Parish demonstrated love for their town by cleaning Maili Nane Market Centre in Umande ward.

Accompanied by one of the Parish Priests Fr Karatu, the youths collected garbage and burned it. It was also their way of giving back to the community. Attending was the ACC Daiga Division (Madam Muthoni), Public Health Officers (Ms Rose and Mr Wamutitu) and also Mr Leonard a police officer at Maili Nane, the work was commendable ,many thanks to the organizers (the priest and the group officials) whole team and may God bless the whole team for the job well done . That's the way to go.



Laikipia North Stakeholders Contribute to Community Conservancies Bill



On Friday, there was a public participation to give Laikipia North citizens a chance to contribute

to the Laikipia County and Community conservancies Bill. The Bill had been tabled by former nominated MCA Peter Matunge who

is now CECM Water, Environment and Natural Resources. Present were Hon Simon Kanyutu, chairman Agriculture committee, Net representative, Amaya Triangle representatives, Laikipia North KWS boss, Laikipia conservation Association coordinator, sub county administrator, KFS representative, Laikipia North and Mukogodo East ward administrators, Iingwesi 1-Maiyanat community Land/Kurikuri group ranch representatives. Contributions were made to the bill that will boost and shape/better conservation in our community/our larger county. The bill is expected to go for the second reading, then back for validation before being signed into law. This is the greatest gift. Congratulations our CECM Hon. Peter Matunge
Courtesy of Joseph Lerina

Guest Page



By Mwai wa Kihu

I know I owe you this part 2. A promise is a debt and I always repay mine. Sequels must be consumed in the order they are dispensed. So, if you have not read part 1, you must fetch and read it first.

The friendliness and humility of our navy hosts expired on landing at Mtongwe Navy Base. It was shocking how fast this happened. As we stepped out of the boat both those who were delivering us and those receiving us on land started shouting commands as if we were prisoners that they had just captured. They just came short beating us up.

We were ordered to walk in twos side by side and march in a straight line following one of them while others walked along on either side of us, all the time shouting orders and making nearly insulting comments.

We were frog-marched about 200 meters and led into a big empty rectangular hall. Once in there, we were ordered to squat and not utter a word to each other. They went for more (prisoners) as one of them was left to ensure that the squatting and silence orders were followed to the letter. It was extremely quiet for a while until we heard the next batch being ordered the same way as they approached the hall.

The Interview

Those who came early into the hall really suffered a lot staying in that squatting position for more than an hour, until all of us had arrived. We started wondering whether we had come for torture or interview. You wondered alone and silently since talking had been banned.

Then somebody who appeared more senior came and announced that the morning session was for medical and fitness tests and that it had already started. The squatting was part of the interview. Next we were told to stand and march to another house in a straight line.

Kinyua was in front of me while Birgen followed me. We entered the house and in the first room there were two officers who simply ordered us to remove our shoes and all clothes and drop them on the floor on our sides apart from the underpants. Somewhere behind me a boy who hailed from Kwale was reluctant to remove his trousers.

An infuriated officer asked him whether he had heard the orders. He very reluctantly removed it and it turned out that he did not have the inner garment. His interview ended there. I felt very sorry for him. Not too long before that I would have failed for the same reason.

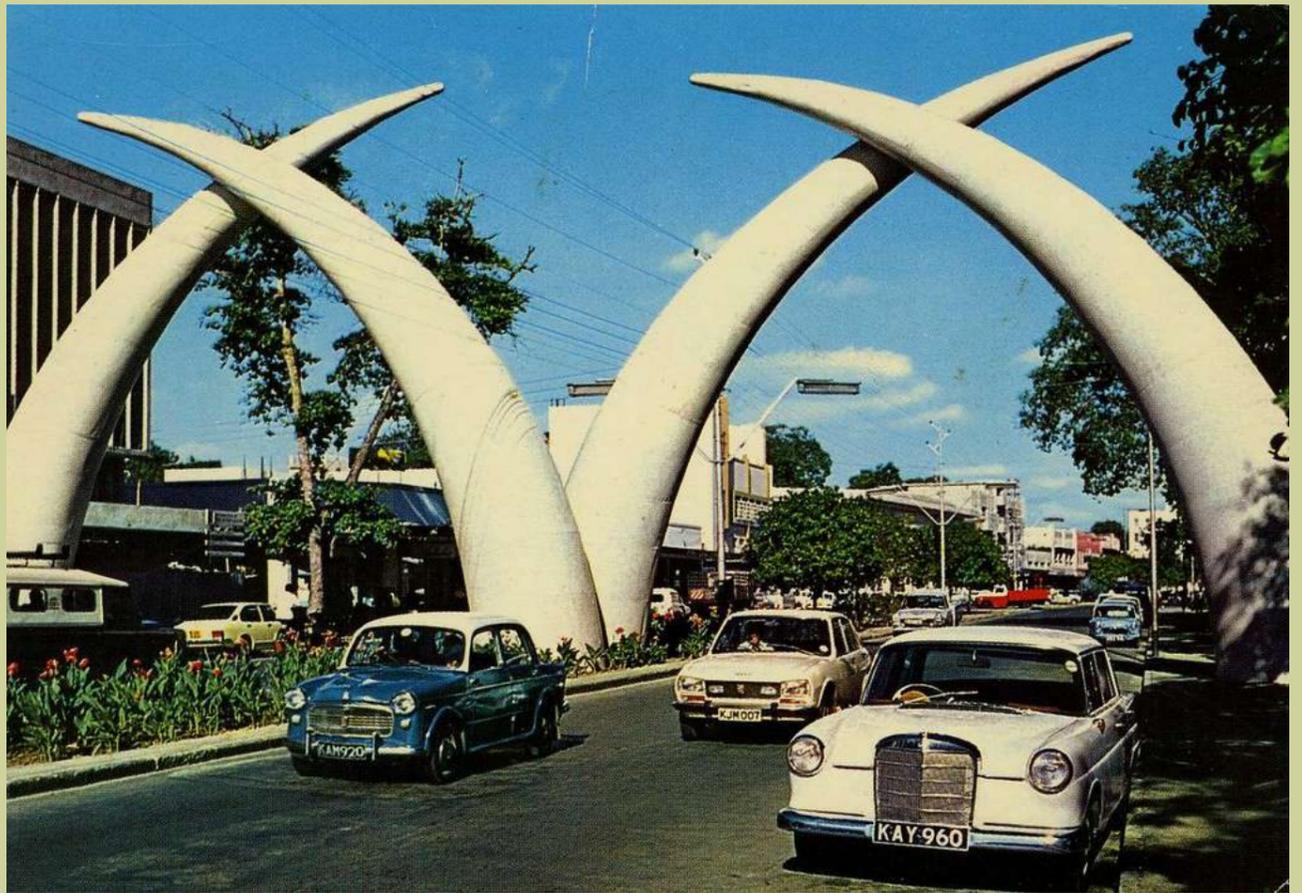
We were now sweating even in our nakedness. Apart from the Mombasa climatic heat, there was some other heat coming from the belly.

We then walked into the next room and I noticed a ruler on the wall, with a red mark. I cheekily whispered to Kinyua, "*nawe ugukinya haha* (this is as far as you will go)". He was a short man and I could see he came short of requirement. I was right. Even before he reached the ruler, he was ordered out.

This interview was turning out to be cruel. In the next room, we were asked to pull down the remaining garment half mast. At that point, I was wondering why they chased away the boy who did not have one if we were going to remove them later anyway. The examination was becoming detailed and embarrassing.

I was then given a small plastic bottle and shown a room in which I would fill it with my urine. After returning it, an officer took me to a window and asked me to look outside. He asked several questions about what we were looking at outside. I thought my answers were satisfactory.

Next he asked me to look at him and close and open my eyes one at a time as fast as I could. I was never good at that and as I made the attempt, the man told me very harshly, "I told you to close and open your eyes, not to twist your lips. Collect your clothes and follow the oth-



A 1970 postcard image of Mombasa Town

Not Yet A Field MarshalPart 2

.....I Was a Navy Officer for Two Hours

ers"

Believe it or not, that was the end of my interview. The next minute I was on my way collecting and putting on my clothes. As I stepped out of that infamous house, there was an officer who gave me a letter and instructions to go via the cashier's office for the reimbursement of my expenses as promised in the interview invitation letter and proceed to the boat.

The next thing I heard was a very noisy Birgen shouting at me and calling me a witness of something I did not know. He explained that he had failed the interview two steps before me (at the half-mast stage, he did not reach the urine stage like me). An examiner had accused him of having been involved in an unholy/unclean act the night before.

"But Mwai we were with you all last night, and now I am accused of things I have not done this year", he complained. I told him off for violently complaining and involving me in his matters while mine were also elephant to me. I told him that this was not a place for witnesses and alibis. I reminded him that he was the one who had warned me the night before that some of us might go home pretty early. "Let us go to the cashier my friend", I counselled.

Strategy

By 10.30 am, the queue in front of the cashier was longer than the one to the interviews house, which we had already aptly nicknamed the 'torture chambers'. By the time I joined the queue, Kinyua had already been sorted out by the cashier. He came and whispered to me that the money was not too bad, as if he was talking about a salary he had just been paid.

By 11 am, we were sailing again, now towards the island; our career in the navy having ended that unceremoniously, we were now being expelled much like illegal immigrants. Donald Trump would have admired our navy's efficiency in getting rid of the undesired. I was on the second boat of failures. Five of the eight Kagumo old boys had failed by then.

That second boat ride of the day would have been a boring and very sad affair were it not for the hilarious stories of how people had failed. To me, the winning story was Bir-

gen's, especially because of the way he told it.

On docking on the island, we bid each other farewell as we called ourselves gallant navy veterans.

Kinyua and I found a nearby restaurant where we sat. We were not too much interested in their products. We just wanted a place to sit, think and try to comprehend what had transpired that morning.

Before we left Karatina, we had told every Mwangi and Wanjiku, and their relatives, that we were going for a 3-day interview, after which we expected we would go for training and chances were they would not see us until after graduation.

How would we go back immediately to tell them that we failed in the first two hours of a three days' interview?! We quickly agreed that the truth was untellable. After very serious deliberations we resolved that we were not going back to Nairobi soon.

We put all the money we had on the table and we counted Kes. 187.50, belonging to both of us. This was a lot of money in any currency. The cashier was supposed to reimburse all our costs. He seemed to have given us some bonus. Maybe we were being bribed to leave the navy base.

We came up with a strategy that had traits of Kinyua's genius and my fear of telling the failure story. Here it is. The day was February 9, 1971. The EACE results were usually released any time from February 15 each year; rarely would they come after 20th.

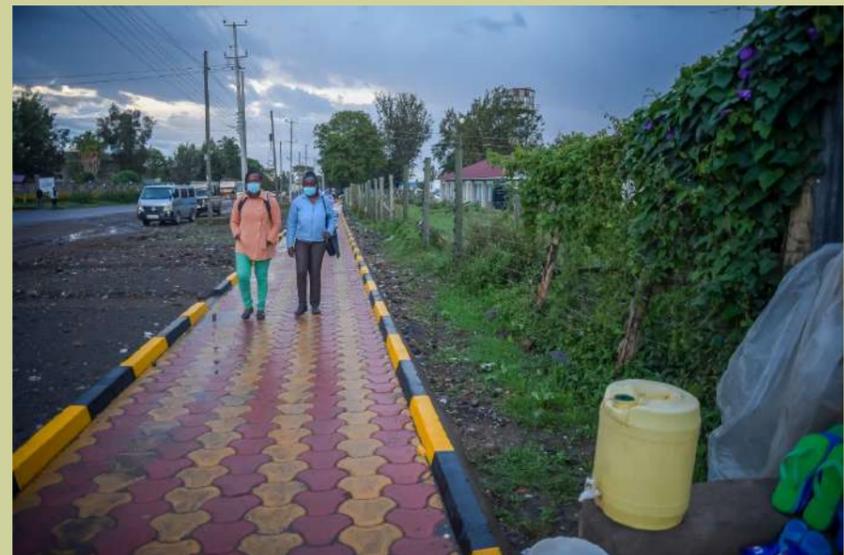
We concluded that we had enough money to live on until the results were out. The probability was very high that we would pass well. In those days, all Kenya's candidates' names were published in the *Daily Nation* and *The East African Standard* indicating how well you had passed.

If we went home after that, we at least would have a story that would (partially) camouflage the navy one. We shook hands and hugged over the brilliance of our strategy and had a drink on it.

In part 3 of this story, find out how this strategy was executed.

Mr Kihu is Investment and Management consultant and CEO, Kenya Productivity Institute
mwaikihu@fechim.com

Yes. This Is Laikipia!



County Government of
Laikipia

PERIODIC MAINTENANCE OF MACHAKOS RD.
NANYUKI WARD

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