



Inside Laikipia's Big Plan to Transform Health Sector



Governor Ndiritu Muriithi with staff of Ngobit health Centre where he broke the ground for a laboratory block in March

All the 84 public health facilities in Laikipia were last week finalizing the process of developing respective business plans to guide their operations for the next five years. According to the new Health CECM Rose Maitai the government is committed to improving service delivery by reforming the health facilities into well thought-out businesses-although not necessarily to make profit but by focusing of their growth and sustainability.

"We want to ensure that our facilities are running effectively in terms of resource management as it is the only way to be sure that the investment made is in tandem with expected returns," Ms Maitai said.

Laikipia County could be the first county to take the business model approach as nation

works out a practical UHC model. This is a major step towards the realization of a county with the best quality of life by providing affordable and healthcare to all Laikipia citizens.

The county has the highest life expectancy of 71.9 years which is five years higher than the national average of 67 years.

The business plans will inform where each of the public facilities is and where it wants to be in terms of service delivery as well as how it will get there in the next five years from June.

Well Thought-out Models

"Each health centre, for example, must have a vision outlining its ambition to provide quality healthcare, so it must plan around human resource infrastructure, equipment, commodities and the financing of that growth," explains Dr Donald Mogoi, chief officer Health. The business plans which will become operational from

June 2021 will be unique to each facility as they experience different scenarios depending on their location and level. They'll transform service delivery by adopting models aimed at improving operations in all health facilities by setting clear projections to achieve consistency. The business plans will be a reference point on what they have set to achieve as well as guide the investment in the facilities.

The plans include availing resources to train citizens on preventive health issues such as hygiene, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. Health facilities are able to plan how generate their own income. In case a facility has extra piece of land they can develop it and carry out economic activities. The facilities will be able to operate in a sustainable manner and effectively utilize the resources available to them. This will be done without pushing the financial burden to the citizens.

OL MORAN WARD

Planting Sorghum in Wangwaci, Ol Moran

By Priscilla Chumo, Olmoran ward

Agricultural extension officers taking farmers in Wangwaci, Ol Moran ward through the planting of sorghum under the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Programme (KCSAP).

Three groups of farmers from Kabati sub-location who are in the programme were involved in the demonstration.

Sorghum is one of the value chain products under KCSAP.

Six wards in Laikipia county; Olmoran, Salama, Rumuruti, Tigithi, Ngobit and Segera are currently undertaking the five-value chain products that includes beans, dairy cows, sheep, sorghum and poultry.

KALRO Katumani is the marketer. Such initiatives are geared towards making farming a profitable business.



Base Pay on Quality of Our Animals, Pastoralists Tell KMC



Livestock keepers in Laikipia demanded better prices and timely payments for their premium beef during their meeting with Kenya Meat Commission management, the county government and other stakeholders.

They asked the KMC not just to determine prices based on animal weight, but also through consider other factors such as the quality.

Stakeholders in the meeting the Kenya Railways, Ingwesi, Musul, Olaramat, Tiamamut, Murpusi; group ranches, NRT trading, Melau Naiyeu, Oloingok, Laikipia Livestock Marketing Cooperatives as aggregators; Classic Meat Centre and livestock ranchers Oldonyo and Ol'len-tile.

Laikipia County, being the ideal home of

the world-acclaimed Borana cattle, is among high-quality beef in the region. It also exports frozen Borana embryos to several countries.

"Pricing by only looking at the weight disadvantages Laikipia farmers who produce better quality beef," Governor Ndiritu Muriithi said.

The KMC has been moving across country trying to win back the confidence of skeptical livestock keepers as it seeks to satiate an increasing demand for animal protein.

KMC committed to pay within three days after delivery for the farmers to be in business.



*Top: Government, KMC, KR and livestock sector stakeholders inspect wagons that will be used to ferry animals to Athi River slaughterhouse.
Above: A typical beef cattle at Laikipia's Ol Pejeta Conservancy*

"We will be paying for deliveries between 48 and 72 hours from the time we receive them. We are making arrangements to start the payment process immediately after getting the deliveries," assured Dr. Cyril Cheruiyot, the Manager in charge of Livestock at KMC. The brought rekindled hope among livestock farmers as the KMC deal presents a ready market should it live to its expectations. In the short term the KMC will use the revamped Nanyuki-Nairobi railway line to transport the purchased animals to its main slaughterhouse in Athi River.

From political promises to action...

Pillar VII: Opportunities and Talent Development for Young People



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 sixth installment of 'From Political promises to Action' we are focusing on Pillar number Seven.

(vii) Opportunities and Talent Development for young people

The government has created opportunities for the youth to develop their talent and expand their opportunities. It has 200 business development to help the youth and other entrepreneurs to develop their businesses.

The Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development Programme is handholding over 500 enterprises, guiding them to upscale their production. Majority of these entrepreneurs are within the youth bracket. The government has also partnered with various banks to initiate a stimulus fund to revive business following the negative impact of Covid-19 pandemic. At least 237 groups and 163 individuals have benefited from enterprise fund.

In Rumuruti, the government has established an IT hub to facilitate the youth in their research works and online jobs.

In the sporting activities, the government has ensured that the youth. Through the leased equipment programme it has been improving sports grounds across the county. Wiyumiririe Primary and Il-Polei Sports Ground were the first beneficiaries.

Nanyuki hosted the 2019 Safaricom Chapa Dimba tournament. Laikipia teams qualified for the national finals and Janet Njeri was picked to play for the Harambee Starlets.

Late last year as Nanyuki was celebrating its anniversary, the government organized skating and cycling events as part of developing youthful talents.

Skating is now taking shape even in Kinamba and Sipili towns because of improved infrastructure. Early this year, the government sponsored some Athletes to Nakuru for the Regional South Rift Championships in partnership with the Athletic Kenya Branch.

Further, the department of Education and Sports assisted in payment of participation for top four football teams from Laikipia to play in FKF league Division 2 Eastern Zone. The teams are Nanyuki Youth, Lysa Sport FC, Griffons Nyahururu, nd Nyahururu All Stars.

In partnership with Football Kenya Federation FKF Laikipia County sent four referees for a two days training in Nakuru County on April 2019.



MUKOGODO EAST WARD

Relief As 11-Member Team Selected to Manage Kijito Borehole



The recent stakeholder meeting at Kijito in Mukogodo East ward

By Denis Lomany, Mukogodo East Ward

Kijito borehole in Mukogodo East Ward, Laikipia North Sub-county is set for major rehabilitation as a solution to critical water challenges facing the residents.

The borehole serves residents of three community ranches namely Makurian, Maunishoi and Murpusi.

A consultative meeting held on April 21, 2021 comprising members of community ranches and their leadership, representatives the County Government, KWS, local administration (Senior/Assistant chiefs), CWCC and Naibunga conservancy climaxed with selection of the team that will manage the borehole after its rehabilitation.

The rehabilitation work will entail repair of the borehole, erection of

a perimeter fence, repair of livestock and wildlife troughs development of a maintenance plan and formation of the borehole management committees.

The KWS will train two selected youths to be in charge of maintenance and operation.

Mukogodo East ward is prone to human/wildlife conflict. Elephants have destroyed many boreholes in the area. These include Bokish, Loiragai intake, Makurian and Kijito.

Breakdown of the water sources also often resulted in acute water shortage for both domestic and livestock use.

Meanwhile drilling of Doldol borehole is underway. Once complete the borehole will serve the general community of Doldol town and Doldol primary school. (see the photo below).



MARMANET WARD

Rehabilitation of Munyu-Njoguini Road Will Transform Marmanet



Photos by Alice Mbaki



Roads are economic enablers. They facilitate the commerce. Movement of logistics is key to economic growth.

Once the Government constructs or improves a road or provides an enabler project like water, it is upon the citizens to take advantage by starting economic activities which should improve their quality of life.

For instance, the Munyu- Njoguini road in Marmanet will facilitate farmers in the area to transport their milk, maize, vegetable and tomatoes to Ol Jabet, Sipili, Nyahururu, Kinamba smart towns,.

Ideally, with better planning that factors in industrial and processing zones, the smart towns will attract more residents. They'll become urbanized.

The farmers served by Munyu-Njoguini road should take advantage this and focus on feeding residents of these emerging urban centres.

While the government has provided the infrastructure to ease in the transportation of the produce, the farmers should focus on increasing the productivity of their farms.

Through the innovative Equipment Leasing Programme, the County Government of Laikipia has been improving rural roads as well as modernizing the county's urban centres. This has enable the government to deploy three brigades to work on the roads in three sub counties simultaneously.

Guest Page



By Mwai wa Kihu

S ometime in October 1970, the Kenya Navy recruitment officers came to Kagumo School. They gave us (form 4's) a career talk. The force was a new one, just as old as the republic. They had a very enticing presentation, showing us how we can end up very senior officers in the fullness of time if we joined the navy as officer cadets after form 4.

They had application forms for those of us who would feel inclined to be military defenders of our republic. If we filled the application forms then, the short listed would be invited for interviews at Mtongwe Navy Base early 1971.

"Muru wa Kihu reke turangire bururi witu (Son of Kihu, let us guard/defend our country)". That was Kinyua s/o Kanyotu (Admission number 2569), one of my best and trusted friends/classmates.

I did not have to think much about it. The thought immediately warmed the Mau Mau blood in me. A very clear vision broke like a January dawn to me. I clearly saw myself commanding Kenyan navy boats, ships, submarines and aircraft carriers somewhere mid-way between Mombasa and Bombay (as Mumbai was called then).

I promptly agreed with Kinyua and we filled the application forms. Some other boys did so too.

In mid-January 1971, I received a letter congratulating me for being shortlisted to attend a recruitment interview on February 9 for navy officer cadets. Wow! No jokes, my country needed me and I was not about to let her down. I knew there was a Field Marshal hidden in me. I planned to let him out.

This was the most important mail I had ever received from the post and I treated it with the respect it surely deserved. I would not let anybody else touch it; I would read to anybody who had time to listen. It was amazing how an official letter made one proud.

People had no telephones those days and so, the following morning I trekked to Kinyua's home. I needed to know whether he had been invited for the interviews. He lived at a place called Gathumbi near Unjiru, about 6-7 kms from my home.

It was total joy when I arrived and he told me that his letter had arrived that morning. We were to report at a place on Mombasa Island opposite the Mtongwe Navy Base by 8 am on the appointment day, from where we would be picked and taken to the base.

This was huge! It meant going beyond Nairobi for the first time in my life. I had seen Nairobi only 3 times and now I am going to Mombasa by train – to be a navy sailor. We would travel by the overnight train and arrive at 7 am. Of course, in a day or two, the whole village knew that son of Kihu is going to join the navy.



Some Kenya Navy soldiers at their Mtongwe base

Not Yet A Field Marshal.....

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

Kinyua and I left Karatina by a bus we called *Kiriiko* (promise or agreement) because of its punctuality and trustworthiness, conducted by a man called Ndethi. We left very early since we had to give ourselves enough time to find out how you got to the railway station from Machakos Bus Station.

On arrival at the railway station, we found that we were not that special after all. Most of the people on that train were going for that interview. From Kagumo, we were 8 candidates invited. We would not allow that revelation subdue our excitement. We were into new life experiences and discoveries – like the fact that first and second class train passengers were in small rooms.

Cadets

Our place was third class; some unkind, hard, wooden benches. It was also the place where you made very many friends quickly. A friend I made called Birgen from Kericho was very knowledgeable. He warned me that the interviews we were going to will be tough. He knew somebody in the navy and he had been told that the competition was very stiff.

He even had some numbers. We were 320 candidates invited and they needed only 24 of us. Why on earth would one mobilize a whole crowd of 320 to pick only 24 (7.5%) of them? Three hundred twenty is a whole (double stream) school! Although the train had a lot of candidates, I told Birgen I did not believe him and we had better discuss other things.

He closed that discussion with "That is why we have been advised to buy return tickets because most of us will return pretty fast".

I did not know the train was a night club. That is what we called a place that sold beer all night; this one was even better with its discounted (off-

licence) price of shs. 1.60 for a Tusker bottle while it cost 1.80 in the ordinary bars. Kinyua complained about this mobile bar that did not stock our staple drink – *muratina* (or *Karugu*).

Getting to know each other with the other candidates was very exciting. I guess we were also 'sizing up' each other. My high value discovery was Birgen. I still remember what he looked like. He was a super story teller with a gigantic sense of humour.

We had to keep in mind that we had an interview appointment on arrival at Mombasa the following morning. So, from about 1 am, we were trying to steal a wink. Birgen and I decided that we had a better chance of catching some sleep on the train's overhead luggage rack.

We climbed up there and we fitted very well, just like luggage and it was pretty safe. We arrived at about 7 am. There were people to give us directions to the place where we would board a navy boat and sail across to Mtongwe. Soon we were on the boats. They were small and were taking us in batches of maybe 30 people per trip.

"From this moment on, unless or until you are informed otherwise, you are Kenya Navy officer cadets under my command", the cockswain would say as he filled his boat.

They were very friendly and gentle with us as we boarded and during the short journey. They would change very dramatically the minute we landed on the navy base soil. Find out how in part 2 of this memorable story.

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Laikipia First Lady Among 25 Most Powerful Women Impacting Business

Laikipia First Lady Maria Mbeneka has been listed among the Top 25 Most Powerful Women in C-Suite Impacting Business.

A survey done by *Business Monthly East Africa* Edition publication recognized the efforts of women in management positions.

The citation by *publication* reads it part:

As the spouse to the Governor of Laikipia County Hon. Nderitu Muriithi, Maria took to the role of First Lady in 2017 effortlessly. She champions several initiatives within the county such as maternal health with a hugely successful campaign dubbed the "Hongera Mama" initiative which provides an incentive to mothers to deliver their babies at the primary health facilities in a bid to reduce maternal and infant mortality. The initiative promotes the universal health care (UHC) model through the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), incorporates traditional birth attendants as champions of hospital deliveries and ensures mothers and children access pre- and post-natal care at their primary health facilities.

She is the current Chairperson of the County First Ladies Association of Kenya, an organization which draws its membership from the Governors spouses. The organization champions various initiatives around health, women and youth enterprise and empowerment. The most popular of the Association's initiatives are the Menstrual Health Management (MHeM) in partnership with Red Cross Society and the Empower Cancer Clinics projects, which has seen the successful launch and implementation of seven cancer clinics across the country.

Maria holds a Bachelor of Social Legislation (BSL) and a Bachelor of Laws Degrees from Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Maharashtra-India and the mandatory post graduate Diploma in Law from the Kenya School of Law. She is a trained Mediator and holds a certificate from the Mediators Training Institute (MTI). Maria is a Certified FIDIC practitioner (Finance, Development Construction) expert.

The First Lady has been recognized as a champion through her several initiatives within the county such as maternal health "Hongera Mama" initiative.

The initiative provides an incentive for mothers to deliver their babies in health facilities. It envisioned to provide an



incentive for mothers to deliver their babies in health facilities.

"To the young girls and upcoming powerful women, my hope for you is that you get to stand on the shoulders of those who have come before you just as I have had the opportunity to learn from my mentors; and that you aspire more for

your own generation," First Lady says. Congratulations First Lady Maria Mbeneka!

You can read the full citation on:

<https://www.theknowledgewarehouseke.com/top-25-most-powerful-women-in-c-suite-impacting-business-15/>

Sipili VTC Gets Modern Equipment to Teach Various Skills

Sipili Vocational Training Centre has modern equipment that will be used to impart skills to more youth.

The machines which range from carpentry, electrical, wood planer, garment-making and Electricals were donated by Safaricom Foundation. The facility is well-known for quality wood work has been using outdated machines. The new equipment will improve the quality further and also ease the work of the trainers in teaching market-driven courses. The County Government of Laikipia has made tremendous effort to make all the ten VTCs across the county become self-sustaining by engaging in income generating activities. Some VTC graduates have started their own carpentry workshops which is a testimony of the quality training in these institutions.

