



# Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

WEEKLY  
BULLETIN

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New Café in Nanyuki town with a Jamaican touch.

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Cashless Transaction at LHS Nanyuki

## Laikipia Smart Towns Development Attracting Numerous Business Opportunities



Developing the 11 towns into modern urban areas through the infrastructure bond is a deliberate move by the county government to ensure more investments in the areas.

# Laikipia Attracts Jamaican Investment as Jamrock Café Opens Doors in Nanyuki



*The inside look of the new Jamaican Café in Nanyuki town. The firm is offering a new type of food and drinks with a Jamaican culture*

**By Victor Waiganjo**

Laikipia residents and those from the surrounding areas have been treated with new variety of foods and drinks from Jamaican Origin. On the ground floor of the majestic Bemwaki Towers in Nanyuki town, sits Jamrock Café- a restaurant that provides an exclusive array of Jamaican Cuisines on its menu.

It is owned and operated by "Jamaican Man" as he prefers to be called, a native Jamaican from the country's capital Kingston, who is married to a Kenyan lady. The entrepreneur explains that he decided to set up shop in Laikipia County due to the blossoming business environment, occasioned by progressive business policies and also the diversity of people

and cultures in the county.

The design of the place is inspired by renowned reggae musicians like Bob Marley and black liberators like Marcus Garvey, whose pictures, quotes and paintings dot the interior of the cafe. The wooden seats and tables are all draped in green, red, gold and black table clothes denoting the traditional Rasta colors.

The cafe's menu includes vegetarian dishes, chicken dishes, fish dishes, beef dishes, soups, and plain dishes, all part of the Jamaican food culture. One of the most famous dishes is the Jamaican Jerk chicken. A well-seasoned, grilled chicken with Jamaican jerk marinade, that has a perfect balance of heat and sweetness, slow cooked to perfection. It is

amazingly tender, moist and juicy bursting with savory flavors on every bite. Very tasty.

For fish and beef lovers, you will experience an explosion of flavours with every bite from the perfectly and divinely authentic prepared dishes on the menu.

A variety of cocktail drinks also feature in the menu, with some drinks bearing quite intriguing names such as the Dirty Banana, a Caribbean classic made from bananas, coffee, cashew nuts and rum. Names notwithstanding, the drink invigorates the body giving lots of energy, tastes absolutely delicious and quite refreshing.

As you take your bite and your sip, the cool reggae beats and rhymes emanating from the CD-player serves to sooth and cool you down creating an ambience which the owner describes as "good vibes only".

Barely two months into existence, Jamrock Café has witnessed an increased intake of customers whose curiosity and adventure into a different cultural experience, have been satisfied by the Rastaman.

Laikipia is certainly the destination for food which epitomizes the flavors that local Jamaicans crave. Visit Jamrock Café and experience the irie vibes.

# Laikipia Government Providing Business Development Services to Over 1,600 MSMEs



*A past Business Development Officers (BDOs) training session in Nanyuki*

**By Muriithi John**

Medium and Small Enterprises in Laikipia county have benefitted with various business development services courtesy of Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development Programme (LIEDP).

Two years since LIEDP became a department, under Chief Officer, Winnie Mwangi, mobilization has been aimed at helping the small firms to become large and self-reliant enterprises.

Confirming the good news, the Chief Officer Winnie Mwangi, termed it as just a step towards handholding more businesses in the county as Laikipia aims at becoming a manufacturing hub.

"A total of 1,633 MSMEs have benefitted so far from various types of business development services. In turn, these beneficiar-

ies are supporting 22,137 jobs across the county," said Ms. Mwangi.

Profit making firms, whether large or small, require interventions for them to survive in a competitive market. The ones in Laikipia benefit directly from the set Programme that has dedicated staff that ensure businesses have met necessary skills sets, and business legal requirements, to operate and compete at an advantage point.

So far, 322 small and medium enterprises have been provided with working spaces. These are some of the firms that were previously located in very remote areas that hindered their customers' accessibility. The working spaces provided are such that they are where clients may easily find what the business offers.

At the time LIEDP was established, many small firms did not have business plans. This means they ran businesses without strategy, and hence their dismal trading performance. The program has since developed 264 business plans on top of the necessary guidance on how best to keep records of transactions in a business.

Through the enterprise fund, 46 groups and five individuals have been funded a tune of Ksh. 12,010,000. This has enabled many businesses to remain afloat despite the economic strains that has been occasioned by COVID-19 pandemic. Further, 359 businesses have been funded with Ksh. 176,860,650 under ESP.

These efforts have not been in vain as 156 made-in-Laikipia products have been certified by KEBS and other national and international bodies. This has seen a total of 724 products manufactured in Laikipia penetrate local and international markets.

Sixty-four business development officers (BDO) have been trained on the rebate programme.

Sensitization of Laikipia Manufacturers on power and business rebate programme is ongoing.

# Opportunities in the Development of Laikipia Smart Towns

**L**aikipia-based contractors are scrambling for business opportunity as the county government gears up for development of 10 urban centres into smart towns.

A month ago, Laikipia County announced tenders for the construction of seven out of the ten urban centres earmarked for development as smart towns.

The centres which will be developed through proceeds of an infrastructure bond that is expected to hit the market this month include Karuga, Doldol, Nanyuki, Kalalu, Naibor, Mouwarak, Kinamba, Matanya, Pesi, Nyahururu and Wiyumiririe.

Kinamba town in Nyahururu sub-county has attracted the highest number of bidders with seven contractors lining up for the job.

Others are Nanyuki three, Kalalu two, Matanya five and Mouwarak four.

Construction of Karuga smart town has already started while Nation Youth Service (NYS) will soon start the development of Doldol following the signing of contract last month.



The project scope includes, upgrade of roads to bituminous standards including 1.38km of asphalt paving around Doldol centre complete with vehicle parking spaces, drainage system, 1.8 kilometres of pedestrian eco-cabro walkways along the road and concrete drainage structure draining into the existing river course.

The contractor is also expected to install a total of 46 stand-alone street lamps to light up Doldol town.

Under the programme to revamp the small urban centres, the devolved unit hopes to attract more investment in processing and manufacturing for additional jobs and higher incomes.

"This will improve business environment, attract more investment as part of efforts by Governor

Ndiritu Muriithi to create more jobs and higher incomes," the chief officer, Roads, Public Works, Lands and Energy, Eng. Duncan Mwangi said, adding that the bid evaluation for the rest of the towns is going on.

It is evident that investors put their money where there is infrastructural development. In the last five years, Nyahururu and Nanyuki towns have seen more investors flocking to take advantage of the infrastructural growth.

Developing the 11 towns into modern urban areas through the infrastructure bond is a deliberate move by the county government to ensure more investments in the areas.

"The purpose of any government is to create an enabling environment for businesses to grow," reiterates Governor Ndiritu Muriithi.

# Final Salute as Late President Kibaki is Laid to Rest in Othaya



National and county leaders led by President Uhuru Kenyatta yesterday joined thousands of mourners for the State Burial of former President Mwai Kibaki at Othaya Approved School Grounds. The late president was eulogized as an astute statesman who transformed Kenya's economy during his tenure.

# Agriculture Department's 87 Newly-Appointed Staff to Facilitate Service Delivery

*Extension officers from Department of Agriculture in Laikipia county marking livestock with electronic tag.*

*The department has employed 87 more officers this year*



**A** total of 87 new officers have joined the Department of Agriculture to aid in the delivery of vital services to the people of Laikipia County.

The increase in the number staff members in the department is fortified as Laikipia's main economic activity is in agriculture and agribusiness.

The new staff members have already been posted to the various stations and units of the County and started working towards bringing a better county with healthy

animals, better farming methods, and using the necessary seeds for planting.

The team are under the categories of Veterinary Officers, Leather Development Officers, Assistant Animal Health Officers, Assistant Agricultural Officers, Animal Health Assistant Officers, and Assistant Livestock Production Officers.

They join the existing agricultural officers, to add even more impetus in the department –towards better service delivery to Laikipia farmers.

In the new appointees, there

are 25 Animal Health Assistants II, 18 Assistant Agricultural Officers III, 18 Assistant Livestock Production Officers, 12 Veterinary Officers, 8 Leather production officers, and 6 Assistant Animal Health Officers III.

According to the Laikipia County Statistical Abstract 2021, the county had 308,662 cattle, 573,460 poultry, 566,362 goats, and 357,361 sheep. From the numbers shown in the statistical abstract, the department will meet the demand for services in Laikipia.

# LHS Nanyuki: Boost to Transparency, Accountability as Hospital Enters Third Year of Cashless Transactions



**By David Serem**

In early 2020, LHS Nanyuki officially moved payment for services to a cashless platform, effectively transitioning from the previous clumsy cash-based payment option that was marred with inconveniences, slow downs and unclear accountability.

Two years down the line, the efficiency of the platform is something the hospital is proud of, as it brings previously imagined efficiencies into reality, boosting hospital operations and service delivery to its clients.

With the integration of clinical service records, billing and cashing transactions on a single platform, the hospital is progressively moving away from tedious paperwork to more efficient automated transactions -saving time and resources in the process.

The platform enables for the integration of the information management system with that of the mobile payment platform to

deliver a seamless process in cash management.

Hospital accounts manager Nahashon Ngunjiri is proud of the development, terming it one major leap in streamlining efficiency in revenue management and general staff administration.

"It is a revolution in accountability for every transaction we make here, easing our work when reconciling figures for our periodic," Mr. Ngunjiri says. "This convenience means I have more time to perform better coordination among the teams I work with. This has brought more transparency and auditable transactions. We can resolve challenges easily when they arise."

## Reliability and efficiency

For the accountant, it has been a journey of explorations, working with the technology support team to explore the vast capabilities that the system has to offer in line with the dynamic needs.

"The far we are is as a result of continuous gradual improvement

that has seen us progressively seal one gap after another. It has taken a collective effort but most importantly, the immense support from the management has been monumental in the implementation of the system," Mr. Ngunjiri says.

Thanks to the platform's efficiency, the system allows for a very elaborate trail, allowing for the closest monitoring of payments and even the patient trail throughout the service points. Boosted by clear separation of duties that makes it extremely hard for any coordination of any dishonest transactions.

"The elaborate audit trail enables us to flag any mischief at the exact service point, as compared to the old cash-based payment that was almost impossible to provide concrete evidence of wrongful payment," the accounts manager observes.

## Future of possibilities

The successful transitioning to the cashless payment platform has unlocked immense possibilities in utilizing technology in general hospital administration, from clinical work to patient flow management, record keeping among other areas.

These initial successes provide for even bigger scale up to addressing revenue and administrative challenges in public institutions.

## Transformed Looks of the Ongoing Smart Town Initiative in Laikipia County



*Ongoing construction of Karuga Smart town in Laikipia West subcounty. The project is funded by the Infrastructure Bond.*

*BELow: The new look of Ol-Jabet Smart town*

