

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Laikipia County

Our Vision: An Inclusive County With Sustainable Quality of Life



www.laikipia.go.ke



Commissioning of Water Distribution System for Oljabet Town, Nyahururu Site Phase II



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

This year's breast cancer awareness campaigns focussed on mobilising families and communities to embrace early screening so as to take advantage of

page. 4

MASHUJAA DAY 2023

THEME: UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE - UHC

This year's main Mushajaa Day celebrations were held at Mwihoko Primary School grounds, Ngobit Ward, Laikipia East.

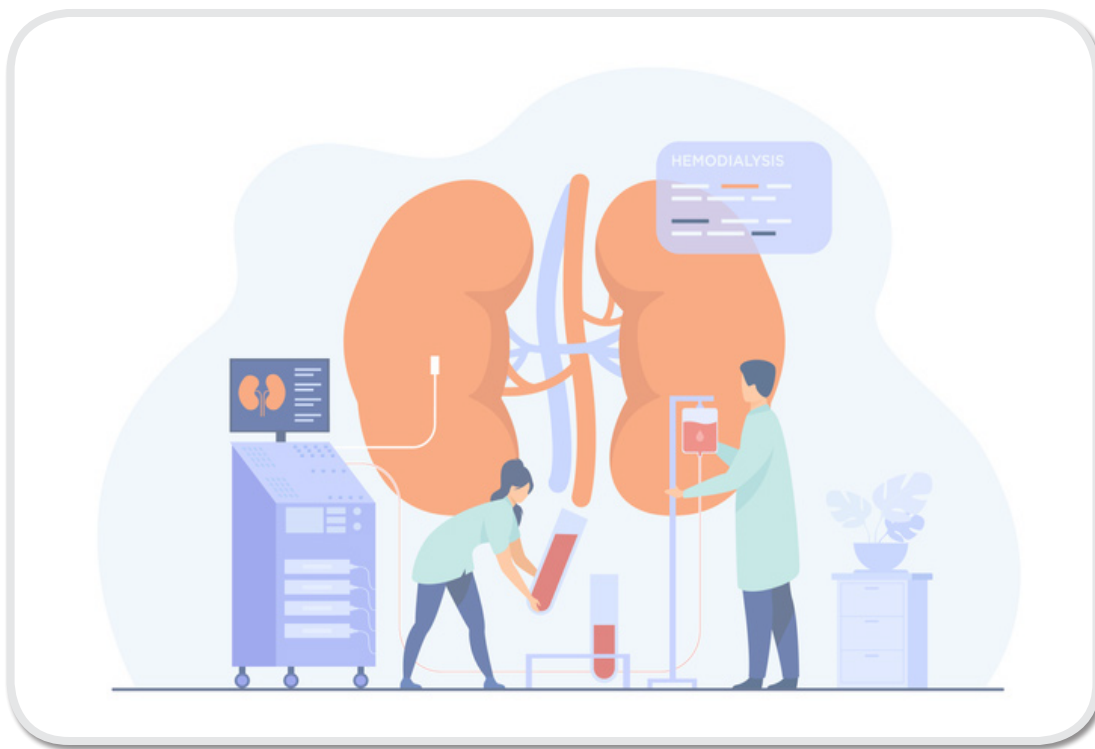
The theme of this year's celebrations being Universal Health Care, HE. Governor Joshua Irungu EGH elaborated his administration's key interventions that are set to reform the health sector in Laikipia, while also appreciating the health workers in Laikipia for their dedication to duty.

page. 14 & 15

NCRH RENAL UNIT

NYAHURURU COUNTY REFERRAL HOSPITAL - NCRH

Just to remind you



DIALYSIS CLINICS
MONDAY, TUESDAY,
THURSDAY & FRIDAY

1st Sessions 6AM - 10AM
2nd Session 11 AM - 3 PM

Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Program Kicks Off in Laikipia



Over 1,300 residents of Maina Estate in Laikipia West, actively engaged in a comprehensive three-day plot verification process from October 16th to 18th, 2023 as part of the Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Programme, KISIP.

The activity was carried out by the Laikipia County Government, under the Department of Land and Physical Planning, Housing, Energy, and Urban Development, in collaboration with the National Lands Commission (NLC).

The goal was to identify challenges related to land tenure systems in informal settlements, analyze issues concerning inadequate land documentation and ownership, assess existing planning policies, and propose solutions to address the problems. This in turn, will enhance the living conditions of informal

settlement residents.

The verification process involved collecting information about property size, phone numbers, ID copies and allotment letters or registered documents to ensure that the data in the County's database accurately reflected the situation on the ground.

During this exercise, Chief Officer for Lands and Physical Planning Mr. Kenneth Kibaara, emphasized on the importance of the exercise in ensuring the accuracy of information before granting title deeds to residents.

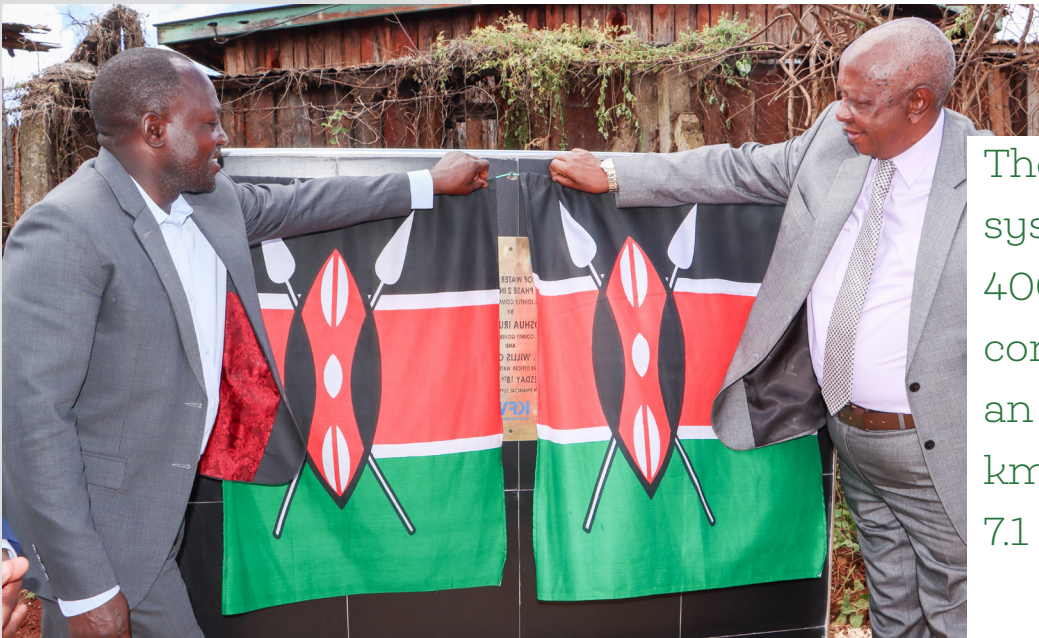
"For an extended period, the residents of Maina estate have grappled with challenges in securing their title deeds and proper land documentation. It is of utmost importance that the residents embrace the opportunity and participate in the ongoing free plot verification process," said Mr. Kibara, adding that the government's commitment extends not only to Kia Maina but to all informal settlements across the county.

This initiative is part of Laikipia's land tenure regularization process as the county advocates for inclusion of the settlements in the State Department of Housing's KISIP Programme. The programme seeks to enhance land use planning, bolster tenure security in informal settlements, and boost residents' living conditions through infrastructure development based on community-developed plans.

The activity is in line with H.E Governor Joshua Irungu EGH manifesto that seeks to facilitate issuance of title deeds for plots in urban centres and streamlining the land registry in accordance with the law, to ensure land owners can develop commercial buildings confidently while also weeding out unscrupulous land owners, fraudulent officers and land merchants.

By June Yator

Commissioning of Water Distribution System for Oljabet Town, Nyahururu Site Phase II



The project distribution system has installed 400m pipeline connections, covering an extensive 17.1 km-10 km of Oljabet town and 7.1 km of Nyahururu Site Phase II.

H.E. Governor Joshua Irungu EGH commissioned the water distribution systems for Oljabet town and Site Phase II in Nyahururu on October 18, 2023 marking a significant stride towards addressing the critical issues of water supply in the county.

This project, worth 20 million, was funded by the German Government through the Water Sector Trust Fund (WSTF), a state water corporation under the Ministry of Water mandated to finance water and sanitation services in marginalized and underserved areas.

The financial support allowed Nyahururu Water and Sanitation Company (NYAHUWASCO), the implementing organization,

to successfully augment the water distribution system by installing 400 (meter) pipeline connections, covering an extensive 17.1 km-10 km of Oljabet town and 7.1 km of Nyahururu Site Phase II.

Implementation of this project also involved the upgrading of pipelines including the expansion and extension of water pipeline, thereby increasing accessibility of water to the target community and stabilizing water supply.

"This water distribution system marks a leap forward in our commitment to ensuring water access within one kilometre for all Laikipians. It is, indeed, a testament to transforming the lives of our people," H.E Governor Joshua

Irungu EGH said.

The county boss also acknowledged the invaluable role of the WSTF emphasizing that their unwavering support has been instrumental in ensuring the successful implementation of this vital project, contributing significantly to the development of the said areas.

The CECM Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change Ms. Leah Njeri noted that the augmentation of water distribution system for Oljabet and Nyahururu Site Phase II has greatly reduced non-revenue water from 62% to 57%, within two months since the completion of the project. NYAHUWASCO aims to achieve a 47% non-revenue water by the end



of FY 2023/24.

Mr. Isaac Kega, Programs Manager - WSTF, stated that the cooperation help address the water and sanitation needs of the communities in line with the transformative bottom-up agenda of making essential

services more accessible at the grassroots level.

"The partnership between the WSTF and Laikipia showcases the power of collaboration in addressing pressing water and sanitation needs. We remain committed to enhancing infrastructure and fostering sustainable solutions for the communities we serve," Mr. Kega noted.

Mr. Bernard Mwaura, MD NYAHUWASCO disclosed that the company had a saving of one million shillings from the project which they plan to utilize for extension of pipeline to serve residents of Nyahururu.

By Ann Ngunjiri

Mutanga Dispensary Marked for Upgrade as Health Centre

County Government of Laikipia continues with its countywide renovations and upgrade of the health facilities in efforts of ensuring that health Mashinani is of quality standard and mwananchi-centred.

Mutanga Health Dispensary in Marmanet ward is one of the earmarked facilities for upgrade.

While on development tour in Mutanga Dispensary, Governor Joshua Irungu EGH said that these upgrades are informed by citing continuous increase of patients flocking the health facility and its proximity to referral facilities in Rumuruti and in Ndindika.

A health centre status means the facility will have a laboratory for basic lab tests which a dispensary level facility does not have.

Governor was accompanied by Marmanet Ward MCA Hon. Simon Kanyutu, County secretary Koinange Wahome, CECM Trade, Cooperatives, Tourism and Enterprise Development Stephen Kisorio area MCA Simon Kanyutu Chief officers and other senior Government officials.



Groups Receive Two million from Enterprise Fund



Laikipia County Enterprise Fund on October 18, 2023 disbursed loans worth Ksh 2 million to 10 groups in Marmanet Ward to enable them implement various economic projects as the government steps up efforts to spur economic activities across the county.

These groups are: Mbega Farmers Self Help Group (table

banking), Mukenda Welfare Group (chicken farming), Arahura Women Group (chicken farming), Gúthie Na Mbere Water Project (table banking), Muthaiga Self Help Group (livestock farming and table banking), Gatundia Smart Ladies Women Group, Mutarakwa Farmers Self Help Group (poultry farming), Tia Wira Agriculture Youth Group

(table banking), Colombus Self Help Group (table banking), and Gituamba Tumaini Women Group (table banking).

The disbursement of the loan fund was necessitated by the fact that micro, small and medium enterprise development initiatives have the biggest impact on creation of jobs and livelihood opportunities.

“We have ensured this time round that all wards across the county get allocation from Enterprise Fund and for those successful applicants, we assure them of timely disbursement,” Joseph Maina, Enterprise Fund Board Chairperson, said.

He added that the board will lobby for increase of funds allocated to the Enterprise Fund kitty as it addresses an integral intervention in uplifting the livelihood of youths, women, PWDs and SMEs.

The Fund offers group loans, LPOs/LSOs financing, 80 percent asset financing and agri-business financing at six percent per annum, with a repayment period of up to 24 months.

“As a group we are very happy to receive our cheque. The money will help us buy more chicken and also their feeds. The loan has low interest rate and well spread-out repayment period making it favourable for us,” said Hannah Wanjiru, a member of Arahuka Women Group.

Wealth creation is one of Governor Joshua Iungu’s promised deliverable. Availing capital to Laikipia trader and creating favourable business environment for them scales higher the efforts of job creation sustainable agribusinesses.

By Nahashon Maina

Climate Action Program Partners With Ombudsman's for Complaint Management



“Today’s engagement with the Commission on Administrative Justice marks the start of a collaborative partnership that will strengthen our capacity to ensure that every resident has easy access to information as well as an express way to effectively present their complaints,” said Governor Irungu.

Mr. Washington Sati, the Vice Chairperson of the commission, emphasized their commitment to providing technical support, including capacity building

In its effort of entrenching social justice in its project implementation, the Financing Locally-Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) program has partnered with the Office of the Ombudsman.

The Commission on Administrative Justice, Ombudsman, will set a complaint infrastructure in Laikipia where member beneficiary of the FLLoCA program and the general public can register their complaints, if any, for redress or recourse.

This is in appreciation that the FLLoCA program, a locally-led climate resilience initiative, is poised to face public scrutiny, and the commission’s commitment to establishing robust complaint management mechanisms will effectively resolve criticisms and

facilitate access to information.

The setting up of the infrastructure will also involve the development of a County Complaints Policy to help mainstream existing public complaints management and promote access to information on public investments, all with the goal of enhancing service delivery in Laikipia.

Speaking during an engagement meeting with the commission’s representatives, H.E. Governor Joshua Irungu EGH expressed confidence that the residents of Laikipia will have a streamlined channel to voice their concerns, with an assurance of an effective resolution process. The team had paid a courtesy call to his office on October 26th, 2023.

for county staff such as the Climate Change Unit (CCU) officers, on matters handling public complaints.

“As a commission, we are dedicated to supporting Laikipia through capacity building and technical assistance, ensuring a proficient approach to addressing and managing public grievances,” said Mr. Sati.

This collaborative partnership between Laikipia and the Commission on Administrative Justice for the FLLoCA program signifies a proactive step towards nurturing a more responsive, inclusive administration in pursuance of climate resilience and a sustainable future for Laikipia.

By Ann Ngunjiri

Reviving Fish Farming In Laikipia



The County Department of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries has embarked on a journey to revive fish farming by launching a program to provide fingerlings to fish farmers. This includes stocking of farmers' fish ponds and dams across the County.

The countywide fish fingerlings stocking exercise was officially launched by the Chief Officer Livestock and Fisheries, Mary Gichuru in Chuma village, Tigithi ward on September 28, 2023. A total of 31,000 fish fingerlings were distributed on the same day with each farmer being supported with 1,000

fingerlings.

This was the first bunch of the 200,000 fingerlings procured for distribution and stocking of fish ponds and dams across the county. The exercise prioritizes on youth and women groups.

The Chief Officer emphasized on the governments' commitment in reviving fish farming in Laikipia to boost rural income and provide food and nutrition security.

"We will support the farmer in all the fish rearing stages, help them form cooperatives and once their fish are mature for market, train them on marketing their products and in market linkages," Ms. Gichuru said.

The farmers have been trained and the extension officers will be visiting them regularly for advice and other services needed to ensure that they make the most harvest in nine months.

The practice of providing fingerlings to farmers and promoting fish farming in Laikipia County holds the potential to transform rural livelihoods. It not only offers an additional source of income but also improves food security, promotes sustainable agricultural practices, and contributes to environmental conservation.

Mollin Wanjiru

Central Bloc to Launch Economic Blueprint in March 2024



Central Region Economic Bloc (CEREB) is at an advanced stage of rolling out the blueprint and Domestic Resource Mobilization Strategy following a two-day inception meeting involving all the 10 member counties

The inception meeting happened on 14th and 15th of October 2023 in Nyeri County. The CEREB counties include: Laikipia County, Nakuru, Nairobi, Embu, Murang'a, Nyandarua, Meru, Kiambu and Kirinyaga County.

The blueprint that is set to be launched in March 2024 will benefit the bloc in exploiting the economic potential and economies of scale in the 10-counties economic bloc.

“These joint efforts will also liberate our people from poverty through job creation and businesses, as well as help promote and market our produce and products locally and internationally as a pact,” H.E. Governor Joshua Irungu EGH, who is also the Whip in CEREB said.

Critical sectors, for example, Health, Tourism, Education and Agriculture ICT, Financial Services, and Infrastructure will be given the priority in the plan. Other sectors to be included are; Gender, Youth, Climate Change and disadvantaged groups.

“The goal being to improve the economic status through enhancing production and productivity in the agricultural sector, promoting regional industrial and manufacturing investments, as well as developing an infrastructure network to facilitate the socio-economic development. We have agreed on the need to share resources to improve people's livelihoods in these counties,” Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga, and the Chairperson to the bloc elaborated.

John Muriithi

DG lauds Thriving Partnerships with Development Partners



Government continues to initiate partnerships and friendships with development partners in effort of helping achieve its County Integrated Development Plan.

These partnerships and collaborations are rooted in the principle of people-centred developments, appreciating that government has limited resources to roll out all mwananchi much needed developments projects and as such, alternative financing and partnership becomes complementary.

This position was again affirmed Deputy Governor HE. Reuben Kamuri on 13th of October when he joined friends and supporters of St. Martin in Nanyuki. The Deputy was in company of Purity Gitonga, the CECM for County Government

Coordination, Administration, ICT & Public Service.

“Promotion of mental health is a pressing issue that both St. Martins support, and so do the government. We are leaving nothing to chance in strengthening mental health clinics with specialist psychiatric doctors in major referral hospitals, aiming to provide a ray of hope for those suffering in silence,” the DG explained.

The DG further painted the picture of a holistic approach to youth empowerment citing invigorated effort by government in initiating youth-centred and talent-supporting intervention which he said will go ahead in stabilizing youth’s economic and social lives, and by extension, their mental wellness.

“We continue to strengthen even our vocational training to ensure our people can train and be self-employed. We understand that



depression has desperation and hopelessness as among its triggering factors and we alive to this. That is why we are arresting this through policies, legislation and through financing,” DG Kamuri expounded.

CECM Purity Kendi building on DG ‘s submission added that “there is also need for gender-responsive programming that empowers all genders without discrimination, so that as we empower the girl, the boy is not left behind. And this, we all can agree Governor Joshua Irungu is quite clear with this matter.”

The two organizations, County Government and St. Martins agreed to formalize their working relationship through a Memorandum of Understanding. The MoU will have its focus on the most vulnerable in the community.

By Jackline Mariga

NTRH Introduces Back School to Help Staff Physical & Mental Wellbeing

Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital (NTRH) has stepped up efforts to boost staff wellbeing with the introduction of the back school program.

The new development, the fruits of the grand orthopedic camp held early this year, seeks to expand the current back school for the public to accommodate the staff who tend to ‘forget’ about their wellbeing while attending to others’.

It seeks to address the rising prevalence of the conditions among healthcare workers, with this trend attributed to their nature of work while attending to patients. It is also in line with the Governor’s Manifesto to sustain training and capacity building of health personnel.

This initiative offers group therapy to scores of staff in need of preventive, curative and possibly rehabilitative services for back pains much more efficiently as opposed to attending one case at a time. More importantly, this initiative targets to sow the seeds of embracing physical exercise in the society.

This trend is consistent with efforts to fight the unnecessary dependence of drugs to relieve pain, a practice that leads to other complications like antimicrobial resistance.

“It’s not a requirement for any hospital in the world, but we prefer to set standards on our own,” Dr. Samwel Ndanya, Consultant Orthopedics and Trauma Surgeon at the



Ideally, back school is a training health intervention that seeks to treat or prevent low back pains that is commonly caused by, among others, “sports injuries, standing or sitting for prolonged periods, poor posture, lifting in awkward positions and inactive life style. Inactive lifestyles may translate to desk-bound jobs like those of some clinicians, ICT officers, graphic designers, accountants, bank tellers among other professions.

hospital says.

Beneficiary staff have voiced their optimism with the exercises, terming it a welcome development that is long overdue.

Head of the Rehabilitative Department Nicholas Macharia says the weekly exercise will be done

progressively, with each edition climbing a notch higher in rigor to optimize outcome.

As the country rallies to firm up primary healthcare, NTRH is charting the way to entrench physiotherapy to manage ailments such as non-communicable diseases through physical exercise and education.

By David Serem

Laikipia Primary Care Networks: Bringing Healthcare Closer to the Communities



Laikipia Health Service is implementing a more mwananchi-centred healthcare structure. The new structure leverages on Primary Care Networks (PCN), a community of public, private and faith based health facilities operating within a common geographical area on a synergized, collaborative platform for better health outputs.

The new structure is set to focus on prevention, protection, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care, building a competent referral system to cover the full scale of key services and bringing down the cost of public healthcare spending.

The referral system and requirements will change. For instance, a PCN will have one lead facility (Spoke), which will handle referrals from the lower level facilities (hubs and sub

hubs).

From 2nd to 4th October 2023, teams from Laikipia Health Service, the Ministry of Health and USAID Tujenge Jamii visited several health facilities that would guide the formation of the first ever Laikipia West PCN that will be coordinated at Rumuruti Sub County Hospital - the spoke.

The visit sought to assess the status of health facilities in readiness for the rollout of the program, with key focus on catchment sizes, accessibility, infrastructural competency, staffing status among other considerations.

All public health facilities have been assessed and assigned either a spoke, a sub-hub or hub status. The hubs and some sub hubs will make their referrals to the County Referral Hospitals.

PCN care approach starts at the grassroots level where Community Health Promoters (CHP) take charge. CHPs will be kitted with essential items for blood sugar and blood pressure tests, weighing scale, and a mobile device for which the Kenya Electronic Community Health Information System (eCHIS) is installed. CHPs will use this device to undertake full household registration in the respective area of coverage.

At the family level, every household will be registered by a Community Health Promoter (CHP), who will link them to the nearest primary healthcare facility (spokes). Only hubs will refer to the County Referral Hospitals.

By David Serem

Celebrating World Food Day

On October 16, 2023 in commemoration of the World Food Day, the Deputy Governor H.E Reuben Kamuri led the County in celebrating the day in Mukogodo East Ward, Laikipia North.

This day is dedicated to address global food security issues and mark the International Day of the Rural Women.

The theme of this year is ‘Water is life, water is food, leave no one behind.’ The event was organized by the department of Agriculture in collaboration with the Listen project, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UN women.

Farmers, agricultural experts, different organizations and local leaders gathered to discuss and educate each other on innovative farming techniques, water management and climate smart agriculture methods to ensure a steady food supply for residents of Laikipia.

The day began with a series of informative sessions in the exhibition stands and farm. Over 30 exhibitors showcased their produce and equipment to ensure that the participants acquired practical skills on the different equipment and products.

The event also featured food stalls that offered organic produce and foods that had been prepared by



different farmer groups emphasizing the significance of supporting local farmers and ensuring food nutrition security at the household level.

The Deputy Governor reiterated the government’s elaborate plans of enabling farming in Laikipia. Among them; high-yielding and nutritious crops viable also for market.

“It is the reason why we have constructed Kinamba and Mutanga warehouses, to ensure farmers’ cereal produce is safe and while at it, ensuring their produce also act as collateral for credit in

banks and in other accredited financial institutions. This is by operationalizing the Warehouse Receipt System.” CECM in charge of Agriculture, Dennis Kasoo, added.

Other leaders present included: CECM Administration Purity Gitonga, Mukogodo East MCA Hon. Paul Leshuel, Mukogodo West MCA Hon. Nicholas Lempaira, CO Governor Office Stephen Lopian, CO Youth, Sports and Social Services Jecinta Koree, among other county and community leaders.

Mollin Wanjiru

Mashujaa Day Celebrations in Laikipia



This year's main Mashujaa Day celebrations were held at Mwioko Primary School grounds, Ngobit Ward, Laikipia East.

The celebrations were led by HE. Governor Joshua Irungu EGH and Laikipia County Commissioner, Joseph Kanyiri.

Similar celebrations were held in other two Laikipia sub-counties. In Laikipia West, celebrations were held at Karandi in Marmanet Ward while Laikipia North's fete was at Kimanju, Mukogodo West Ward.

The theme of this year's celebrations being Universal Health Care, Governor Joshua Irungu elaborated his administration's key interventions that are set to reform the health sector in Laikipia.

Upon assumption to office the first order of business was reinstating of specialist doctors.

"In just two months after doctors' reinstatement, the number of patients in October 2022 to November of the same year shot from 13,800 to 17,700. This was living evidence of the trust the health system had attracted from Laikipians and neighbours within a very short period," Governor Irungu noted.

Installation of the Renal Unit at Nyahururu County Referral Hospital was another highlight of a strategic intervention that is actualising UHC in Laikipia.

"After we installed the unit, saving our people from Laikipia West the high cost and tedious activity of seeking this critical healthcare from

A Shujaa is not defined by the largeness of their wealth or size of their muscles but rather by their genuine efforts, pureness of their intentions and standing up to be counted when others are unavailable.

HE. Governor Joshua Irungu EGH

all the way to NTRH in Nnayuki, the demand went up at NCRH that we had to double the five-bed clinic to a 10-bed within one year," Governor said amidst applause from the Mashujaa enthusiasts.

Another plausible intervention was the visible countywide health facilities renovations and equipping.

"We are increasing the bed capacity for each of our major hospitals by at least 60 beds. These beds will be modern hospital beds to see to it that the renovations and improvements matches up with the best private sector facilities," Governor explained.

Further, "plans too are under way to ensure that every sub-location in Laikipia has a functioning dispensary. More to that, we are in the process of equipping and operationalizing two new radiology units in Kimanjo and Rumuruti to

The National Mashujaa Day Theme: Universal Health Care

provide digital X-ray and Ultrasonography,” the County Boss reassured.

The congregants were excited to hear that services that have always prompted Laikipians to neighbour counties of Nakuru and Nyeri will soon be offered in Laikipia.

“My administration has doubled our specialist capacity in critical care to enable ICU services to be offered at Nanyuki within this calendar year and Nyahururu in 2024. Introduction of neurosurgery specialty will be offered in Nanyuki next year and Nyahururu in the year 2025. Note, CT scan and MRI services are in the pipeline to ensure our referral system is holistically complete, within our county borders,” the County boss further explained.

While winding up, Governor Irungu implored Laikipians to never forget in whose shoulders they stand on, that the founding heroes and heroines of Kenya’s freedom must never be forgotten, even more importantly, they appreciate that independence struggle was rested, and that the post-independence struggle has morphed;

“In these modern times, our enemy is no longer the colonial masters. The main adversaries facing us today include among others diseases, hunger, illiteracy, ignorance, drought, negative ethnicity, climate change, inflation and corruption,” the Governor keenly observed.

And as such, County boss encouraged that post-independence and present days heroes and heroines are no longer in the bush, but are living within communities, spread across all disciplines; as farmers, traders, health workers, teachers, engineers, masons, religious leaders, sportsmen and sportswomen.

“To our modern-day heroes and heroines, we might not know them by names, their graves might not be well marked or not marked at all, but their sacrifices within the community should forever inspires us. May their acts of selflessness be honoured through generations,” The Governor ended his Mashujaa Day Speech.

By Kariuki Stevejackson



Building Resilient Environmental Systems for Profitable Agricultural Production



Laikipia County is on the verge of a significant transformation as the government embarks on a journey to unlock the potential of nature-friendly farming practices.

On 17th October 2023 Pelum Kenya hosted officials from various county departments led by the CECM Agriculture on nature-blending farming practices discussions (Agro-ecology and Agrobiodiversity).

The forum aimed at raising awareness about sustainable agricultural practices that respects plants, animals and the environment.

It was agreed that a Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) dedicated to Agro-ecology be created to bring together various actors in the Agro-ecology sector

and foster seamless collaboration and engagement with Laikipia County. This initiative will be guided by the County Agriculture Sector Steering Committee (CASSCOM) to ensure the effective implementation of Agro-ecology policies within the county.

CECM for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Dennis Kasoo proposed the integration of agro ecology and biodiversity into existing policies.

“The department of Agriculture currently has a minimum of eight key priority policies which we are working on such as the food and safety policy, Laikipia extension service policy rangeland policy and the Agriculture and Livestock strategic plan. Agro ecology strategies and plans can be

incorporated in all these,” CECM Kasoo suggested.

Mary Irungu, representing Pelum Kenya, emphasized the urgency to re-evaluate high-input, resource-intensive farming systems, often referred to as the ‘Green Revolution’.

“While these systems have indeed increased food production since the 1950s, they are increasingly viewed as unsustainable,” Ms. Irungu observed.

The county is embarking on a comprehensive plan that incorporates sustainable practices while empowering its farming community. This transformation encompasses the promotion of irrigation, agro-processing, value addition, subsidizing farm inputs, and reinvigorating extension services, all tied to the principles of agro-ecology.

Also present at the forum were Chief Officer Agriculture Elizabeth Mwangi, CEO LCDA James Mugambi and officers from the department of water, agriculture livestock and fisheries, energy, environment and officials from ISAAF Forum.

By Pauline Mwiyeria

Watering Laikipia, One Borehole at a Time

The promise of bringing water closer to households has kicked off in earnest with the rolling out of the 300 water projects spread across all the 15 wards.

By end of October 2023, the county's state-of-the-art drilling rig had successfully struck water in the following strategic sites: Kiahuko and Kibubungi in Tigithi ward, County Aggregation and Industrial Park and Rehabilitation sites in Sosian Ward, and Ndindika Sub County Hospital in Githiga Ward, marking a significant achievement towards H.E. Governor Joshua Irungu's goal of 300 water projects by 2027.

Let us understand the drilling process

Site analysis

The heart of a successful drilling process commences with a site analysis, in which the hydrogeological team utilizes the indispensable technology of a terameter for underground water exploration to determine the ideal drilling sites. So far, over 60 areas in Laikipia have been surveyed and sited for drilling.

The Actual Drilling

Once the site is set, the county's drilling unit takes center stage to



actualize the drilling process. The rig is carefully positioned at the designated site, where it navigates through the rocks and soil layers until it strikes the water aquifers.

Casing Stage

Upon reaching the desired depth, the newly drilled borehole is cased and graveled with specialized materials to reinforce its structural stability, not only prevent it from any potential collapse but also to promote its standard for years to come.

Flushing Water Process

Following the casing phase is the flushing process, which is critical for eliminating drilling debris and other contaminants. Flushing takes two to three hours until all particles are cleared and a clear stream of

water is pumped out of the borehole.

Test Pumping

A 24-hour test pumping process then follows to determine the borehole's potential yield. Along the process, water samples are collected to analyze the chemical, physical, and bacteriology parameters, guaranteeing that the water is potable for consumption.

Equipping the Borehole

The completion of the test pumping process initiates the equipping phase, which includes the installation of a pump with all its accessories, storage and reticulation of water.

By Ann Ngunjiri

County & Rotary Club in Partnership to Boost Maternal Health Care in Rumuruti

The County Government of Laikipia has signed an MoU with the Rotary Clubs of Nairobi Muthaiga North, Lang'ata, Nanyuki and Laikipia Highlands, to upgrade Maternal and Neonatal care at Rumuruti Sub County Hospital.

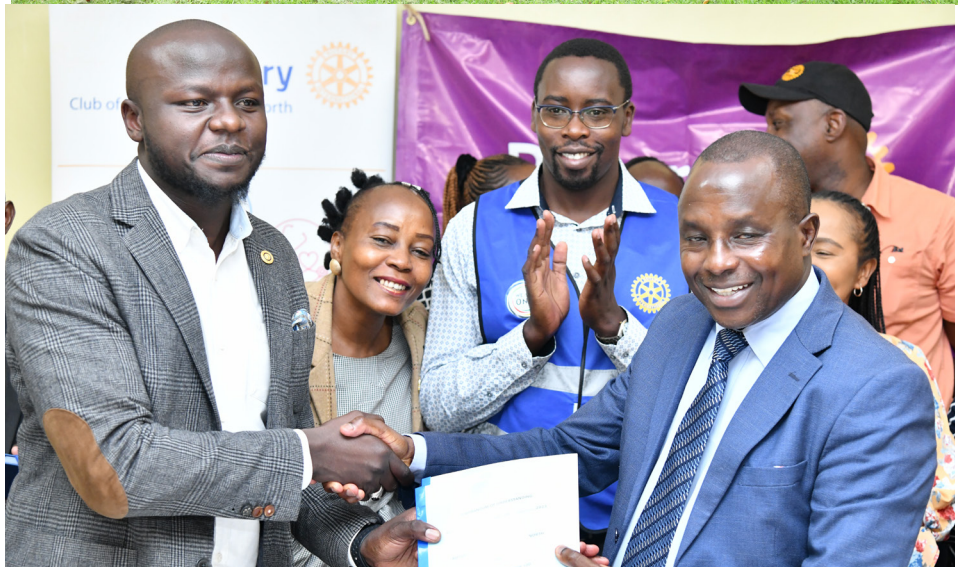
Presiding over the ceremony on 10th October 2023 at Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital, Health CECM Mr. Albert Taiti applauded the team for partnering with the Laikipia County in its transformational healthcare program.

Rotarian Clubs team selected Rumuruti Sub County Hospital after an extensive selection process that saw the team shortlist 16 facilities nationwide, and conduct visits to nine of the shortlisted facilities, to assess where their involvement would make the most impact.

The support from these Rotary Clubs will complement the County Government of Laikipia's program of upgrading the Rumuruti Sub County Hospital to a Level 5 facility in line with Governor Joshua Irungu's manifesto.

Other projects earmarked for the hospital include upgrades to the male in patient ward, and the building of a modern incinerator and funeral home.

By Kimemia Maina



Improving Household Income Streams through Climate Smart Agriculture



Laikipia county government continues to diversify innovations to navigate around adverse climatic conditions.

In partnerships with several women groups, the government has launched modern poultry and bee-keeping interventions.

Under the auspices of Women's Economic Empowerment through Climate Smart Agriculture (WEE-CSA) program, some eight women groups have benefited from 30 beehives.

UN Women Country director UN Kenya Ms. Anna Mutavati and the Country Director KOICA. Dr. Jang Hee Im in October expressed their satisfaction with project implementation saying farmers have diligently applied resources that have been afforded in uplifting their lives.

At the same time, the team later visited four groups in Umande and Mukogodo East Wards in a joint field visit

to monitor and draw lessons that will inform decision making affecting the project. Among the groups visited was Faith Ruai, a women-led self-help group that was recently supported with an incubator to boost their chicken farming business among other equipment distributed to farmers' groups under the project.

"Our lives have truly changed, the incubator has helped us make money and improved our living standards. We are truly thankful for this project," Agnes Wambui from Faith Ruai group said.

The project has successfully supported 2708 beneficiary farmers and established 108 farmer groups in the counties the program has presence in; Laikipia, West Pokot and Kitui counties.

The two-day activity brought together representatives from the UN Women, FAO, Hand in Hand East Africa and the County Governments of Laikipia, West Pokot and Kitui under the WEE-CSA Project that is supported by the Korean Government through KOICA Kenya.

Chief Officer Agriculture Elizabeth Mwangi and Chief Officer Livestock Mary Gichuru hosted the delegation promising them their departments' commitment to the success of the project.

Mollin Wanjiru

Laikipia Traders Trained on Branding and Quality Improvement by KEBS



Laikipia County Government has embarked on training traders and innovators on improving the quality of their products and branding their innovations to build market confidence.

In collaboration with Kenya Bureau of Standards KEBS, the government has rolled out training program on product certification and verification to improve competitiveness of Laikipia brands in the market.

Through facilitations of Department of Trade, Tourism, Cooperatives and Enterprise Development on 12th October 2023, over a 100 traders enjoyed an interactive session with KEBS team in what they deemed as an-eye-opener training.

The traders were drawn from Laikipia East and North sub counties.

The training aimed at equipping entrepreneurs with knowledge on the step by step process of getting

certified by KEBS. The training event was organized by

Entrepreneurs got an opportunity to engage with KEBS officials on the application process, assessment and testing of products, quality assurance process, product labelling and branding, and mandatory permits given by the statutory body.

"We are hopeful that a number of them will come for registration for their products testing and certification," Simon Chomba, Quality Assurance Officer at KEBS said after the training.

"I used to fear when I hear of KEBS but now after attending this session, I have a better understanding of their role and I look forward to taking my product sample for testing," a jovial Miriam Wangechi said after the training.

"All my concerns have been settled and I am happy that I did not have to go all the way to Nyeri for the information I have been seeking,"

Wangechi added.

"If you go to any retail shop or supermarket, goods and products sold there have gone through KEBS certification and standardization process. That is where we want our goods and products," CECM Trade Stephen Kisorio said.

KEBS certification is an innovation and enterprise enabler because it weeds out unregistered and uncertified products in the market creating fair ground for competition amongst traders.

"The training is also key in removing hurdles that many innovators and producers experience while seeking certification and standardization by KEBS. Such interventions will be carried often so that we can improve the competitiveness of goods made in Laikipia, outside Laikipia and abroad," CO Trade Samuel Njuki explained.

By Nahashon Maina

Phase I of Affordable Housing Planning



Affordable Housing project finally got off the ground after the Joint Technical Committee (JTC) held its inaugural meeting in Nanyuki to deliberate on its implementation.

The first phase targets 200 housing units within Nanyuki Municipality - to be completed within one year.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the County Government of Laikipia, the State Department of Housing, and private contractors. The meeting addressed a comprehensive agenda and outlined significant milestones, emphasizing the commitment to affordable housing and community engagement.

"The people of Laikipia will derive not only the benefit of

affordable housing but also gain access to employment opportunities, as this initiative is projected to create a significant number of jobs." CECM Infrastructure, Lands, and Urban Development Ekwam Nabos stated.

This commitment aligns with the National Government's goal to deliver 200,000 affordable housing units annually to Kenyans. Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) will ensure that housing units of decency and affordability are accessible to low and middle-income households.

By June Yator

Mutanga Market Upgrade



Laikipia County Department of Trade, Cooperatives, Tourism and Enterprise Development is murraming Kinamba Market in Githiga ward to facilitate more trade in the market

A market is one critical infrastructure to any economy because this is where farmer's toil all converts to money in the pocket.

This appreciation hence, is pushing the government to do upgrade of all markets in Laikipia as sister Department of Roads fix the road next works and lighting up markets to ensure farmers' produce reach the market and trading hours are extending as well security enhancement.

On October 19, 2023, Governor inspected the ongoing works at the market accompanied by Githiga Ward Administrator Priscila Chumo among other county officials.



Governor Hosts Launch of Rumuruti Rehabilitation and Sports Complex



disabilities,” remarked the Country’s Second Lady.

The Governor applauded Pastor Dorcas for choosing Laikipia County as the host of such an important project, citing that Laikipia will benefit immensely from the initiative. He termed the project as answered prayers asking the people of Laikipia to recall his promise in the manifesto for a rehabilitation centre.

“It pains me to see young lives wasted by drug abuse and alcoholism. Dreams are shattered, innocent lives robbed of their dignity and families broken. This center will help restore the dignity of such lives,” said the County boss.

The dedication service was led by dozens of fathers and mothers of faith led by Bishop Pius Muiro who gave an inspiring and challenging sermon drawing from the story of Moses that demonstrates the challenges faced by the boy child and how God intervenes to save and redeem the boy child.

The Deputy Governor H.E Reuben Kamuri, the County Secretary Mr. Koinange Wahome, CECs, Chief Officers and a host of other top government officials were in attendance.

By Njoroge Thuku

On October 11, 2023, H.E Pastor Dorcas Rigathi presided over the ground breaking ceremony for the construction of a Rehabilitation and Wellness Center at Kandutura, in Sosian ward, Rumuruti Municipality hosted by H.E Governor Joshua Irungu EGH.

The center will comprise a rehabilitation facility, hospital, sports academy, vocational training centre and a prayer center, all geared towards healing and wellness of the society.

HE. Pastor Dorcas praised the Rumuruti Centre as a unique model with various facilities housed under one roof.

“This facility will contribute greatly to my vision of a Dignified Future for vulnerable populations grounded on chaplaincy and family values, with the main focus groups being the boychild, orphans, widows, and persons with

Breast Cancer Awareness Month: Families Urged to Embrace Early Screenings

This year's breast cancer awareness campaigns focussed on mobilising families and communities to embrace early screening so as to take advantage of life-saving interventions before it is too late.

In an interview on breast cancer menace, Dr. Margaret Macharia, Consultant Radiologist at NTRH said that early diagnosis presents the best prospect for intervention and positive outcomes.

However, Dr. Macharia said that majority cases are presented late when they are too advanced and challenging to arrest clinically.

Dr. Macharia blames the slow uptake of early screening on lack of awareness or some perceived misconceptions about screening.

“The perceived discomfort during screenings and the feeling of privacy intrusion is keeping ladies from doing early screenings,” Dr. Macharia observes.

“But even more concerning is the fear, ‘what if the doctor confirms the worst?’”

Dr. Macharia likens this fear to the proverbial ostrich burying its head in the sand. The radiologist says postponing a problems eventually catches up with someone when it is too late.



“For breast cancer for instance, it is bad news to have a palpable mass. It means we have missed an opportunity to detect this problem at the very early stages that would have enabled prompt interventions.”

The medical imaging expert says cancer is widely misunderstood. Far too many people think cancerous growths are painful from the onset, but that comes much later in advanced stages. At the initial stages, the condition is always not associated with pain. Consequently, people will wait even when they have palpable lumps or growths, and only turn up when they are already at advanced stages.

The medical imaging specialist urges the community to take advantage of

the available capacities at NTRH to make early diagnosis way before there is palpable (substantial) mass.

Mammograms offer reliable imaging that will detect suspicious calcifications way before lumps form in the breast, with minimal discomforts. Calcifications are calcium deposits that can be a sign that you're at risk for developing breast cancer.

NTRH is the only hospital around Nanyuki with a digital mammography machine. The presence of two radiologists at the hospital makes the diagnosis for breast cancer even more efficient.

By David Serem

National Treasury Commends Laikipia Climate Action Program

National Treasury audit team gave high marks to Laikipia County Climate Action program during an evaluation exercise conducted in October.

The objective of the audit was to assess the utilization of the County Climate Institutional Support (CCIS) Grant under the Financing Locally-Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) Program.

FLLoCA is a locally-led climate resilience program jointly funded by the Government of Kenya, World Bank as well as the governments of Denmark, Germany, Netherlands and Sweden to strengthen communities' resilience to climate change.

To implement the FLLoCA program, CCIS grants for FY 2022–23 were disbursed through the National Treasury to support counties in the establishment of county climate institutions, including county climate change units, as well as conduct Participatory Climate Risk Assessment and Action plans for the county and ward levels.

The disbursement of CCIS grants necessitated an internal audit, delving into critical aspects



of financial management and governance to ensure accountability and gauge the level of preparedness of the county in the execution of FLLoCA's climate change projects.

CECM Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change Ms. Leah Njeri commended the audit team, saying, "This audit was more than just a financial check; it served as an opportunity to capacity-build our officers, with the goal of furthering the climate change resilience objectives". As part of the audit, two Ward Climate Change Planning Committees (WCCPCs) of Nanyuki and Thingithu wards were visited, allowing for an engagement that painted a picture of the level of social inclusion and community participation at the grass-roots

level.

"We are dedicated to ensuring prudent management of the CCIS Grant, and this internal audit will bolster the county's readiness to effectively implement climate action initiatives, furthering our commitment to local climate change resilience," said Mr. Samuel Abraham Lemanyishoe, CO Water, Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change.

The outcomes of this audit will provide crucial insights into the progressive utilization of the CCIS Grant, ensuring that every resource is expended with the utmost responsibility and in alignment with the broader goals of climate action and resilience.

Laikipia County Takes Full Control of the County Library Services

The National Government through the Kenya National Library Services (KNLS) has officially handed over all Library Services functions and assets in Laikipia to the County Government.

Library services are a devolved function under the fourth schedule of the Constitution but transition of the function to counties had dragged for a long time.

The handing over exercise took place on Wednesday 4th October 2023 at Rumuruti County Hall, presided over by the County Secretary Mr. Koinange Wahome and overseen by a team from the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee, IGRTC.

“The national government will be allocating resources for library services as equitable share in a phased approach,” the CS said. “Thank you IGRTC and KNLS for facilitating a smooth handover exercise,” explained during the handover meeting.

He further underlined the commitment of the County Government of Laikipia to not only safeguard the KNLS functions, but also to improve it in an effort to promote literacy and to inculcate a reading culture in the county.

Chief Officer Education and Library



Services Mr John Gichuki noted that Laikipia County has two functional libraries including; Rumuruti and Nanyuki. He further announced that a list of assets handed over to the County had been harmonized and agreed upon by the County

Government of Laikipia, IGRTC, and the Kenya National Library Services.

By Njoroge Thuku

Laikipia County Eye 300 000 Metric Tone Bean Market

The County Government of Laikipia has rolled out a farmer training program to scale up production of beans to meet the national rising demand of the produce.

According to official data, Kenya imports 300, 000 metric tones of beans every year to meet market deficit in local production.

County Government in partnership with the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) and Equity Bank rolled out a training program of County Agriculture extension officers on early maturing bean varieties to take advantage of that market gap.

These early maturing varieties developed by KARLO are meant to mitigate against climate change rain disruptions. These varieties include, Soya beans and other bean variety including Nyota and Angaza.

The training covers various aspects of the production of soya beans, Nyota and Angaza beans, processing and market linkage to ensure that the county will be food secure starting at the grassroots level.

“This initiative will ensure that farmers have access to certified seeds, support to intensify seed production, set up adaptive trials in the county, quality extension services, and financial support,” H.E Governor Joshua Irungu EGH stated.

The training supports the Governor’s manifesto to ‘Promote productivity of staple food and high value crops in the county’. It will also aid in processing and market linkages of the produce.

On 24th October 2023, Governor Joshua Irungu, the Deputy Governor H. E. Reuben Kamuri, County Secretary Koinange Wahome, CECM Agriculture Dennis Kasoo, Chief officer Agriculture Elizabeth Mwangi, Chief officer Livestock and Fisheries Mary Gichuru, Equity Bank representatives among other senior officers from KARLO visited the Ntumot Yeeseeriack Kisiriri self-help group which grows soya beans in Kisiriri for a practical experience.



HE. Pastor Dorcas Visits Rumuruti GK Prison

On October 12, 2023, HE. Governor Joshua Irungu EGH joined Spouse of the Deputy President HE. Pastor Dr. Dorcas Rigathi in her maiden visit to Rumuruti GK Prison.

The visit was in line with Pastor Dorcas's boy-child intervention program that is geared towards uplifting, encouraging and empowering the boy child in the Country; it was therefore a compassionate surprise visit to affirm her affirmative program

"Do not despair because you are incarceration, "She encouraged the calm but face-radiating inmates, "you matter to God, to your family and to this nation," she reaffirmed them.

"And do not be weighed down by your past actions, God forgave you, and that is all that matters. Prepare your mind positively, to re-join the community after here in providing for your family and in nation building," Governor Irungu advised the inmates.

Pastor Dorcas and Governor Irungu were accompanied by, Deputy Governor, Reuben Kamuri; Deputy Commissioner General of Prison, Florence Omondi; Prison Commissioner Rift Valley, Barnabas Keino; DCC Riungu Laikera; ACP Peter Chege incharge Rumuruti prison; Gerald Mutembei, incharge Nyahururu prison and Lydia Mwangi incharge Nyahururu women prison. The clergy were led by Bishop David Muriithi, Mama Rukia Yusuf Supkem National Women Representative among others.

By Kariuki Stevejackson



Editorial team

Gakuu Mathenge - Director
Njoroge Thuku Ass. Director

John Muriithi
Irene Ndiritu
Kariuki Stevejackson



Our Vision

An Inclusive County with Sustainable Quality of Life

Our Mission

Facilitate Integrated Development for Socio-economic Prosperity of People of Laikipia

**For contribution or feedback, write to the Publication Supervisor,
Director Public Communications at: mathenge.g@laikipia.go.ke**

