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Own Source Revenue increases in Laikipia and the secret behind the rise

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Governor Assents Laikipia County Community Engagement and Resilience Bill 2022

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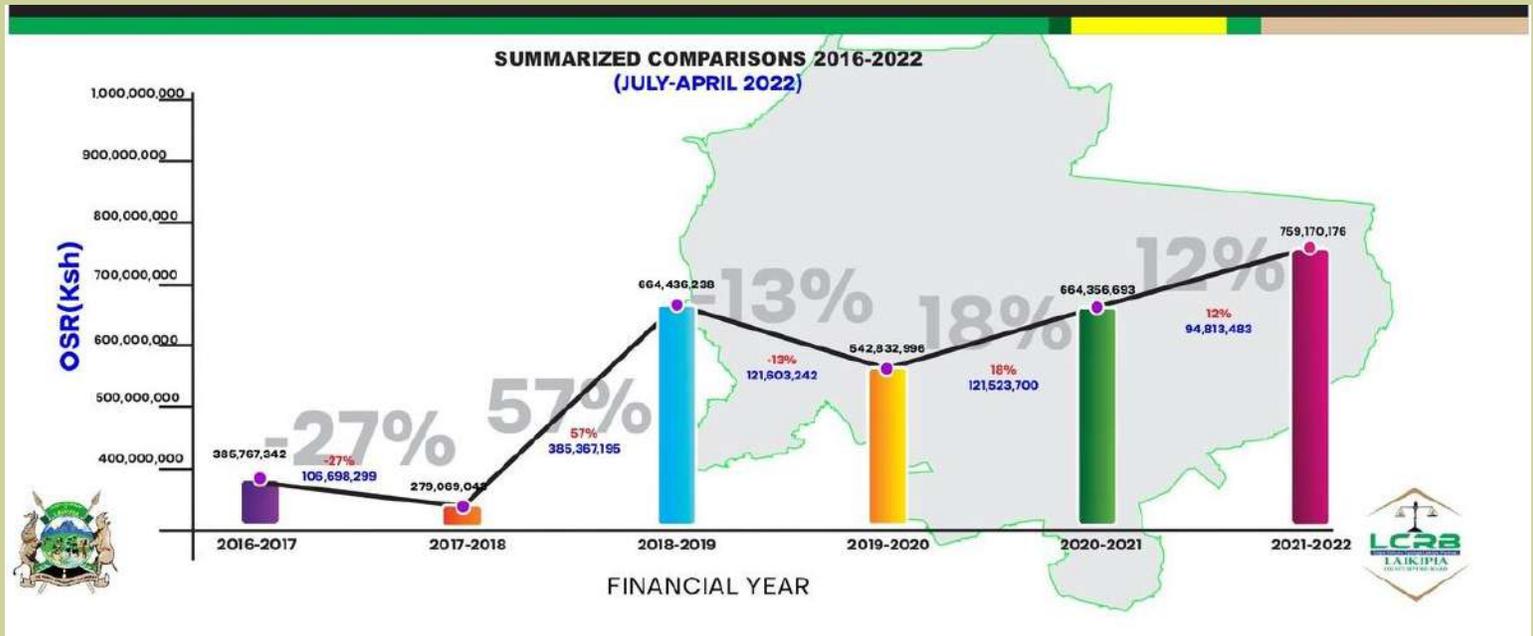
World Hypertension Month: LHS launches blood pressure testing across outlets to address rising hypertension concern

Improved Dryer Warrants Food Security



A Laikipia Innovator has come up with an improved version of cereal dryer, putting to an end aflatoxin problems, and consequently ensuring proper maize storage standard is guaranteed, especially in Laikipia West. The machine has capacity to dry 6-8 tonnes per hour.

Contributors of Increase in Own Source Revenue in Laikipia



Laikipia County has grown own source revenue (OSR) by 97 per cent from Ksh. 385 million in the 2016/2017 financial year to Ksh.759 million by end of April of 2021/2022 financial year. This is growth by Ksh. 373 million.

The exponential growth is credited to self-reliance by Laikipia tax payers, sensitizing the community, on matters revenue, and having a committed Revenue Board workforce.

On mid-March this year, the revenue board staff members were on a one-month training exercise at the Kenya School of Government (Embu Campus) on revenue enhancement. This plays a vital role in ensuring the Laikipia meets the target this year.

Other contributing factors for OSR increment are; more invest-

ment coming to the county because of political good will and establishment of working infrastructure, extending deadlines for payment of single business permit, offering waivers for interests and penalties for existing land rates, among others. For instance, the extension period for payment of single business permit, liquor license and land rates end on 31st May 2022.

The growth in revenue has directly translated to major developments which include Infra-

structure and water for production projects, improved health facilities and Smart towns initiatives. When Laikipians see more development projects being implemented, they are even more willing to pay the taxes.

Going digital in revenue collection has also facilitated in ensuring every coin paid is accounted for. Today, not even parking fees or paying for medical cards is done using paper money; all is now through wiring for a clear trail.



Improved Cereal Dryer Assures Food Security in Africa



Improved Maize dryer made by a laikipia Innovator in partnership with Dekut

By Muriithi John

Food security in Laikipia County is set to greatly improve after the making of a state-of-the-art drying machine for cereals by a Laikipia innovator.

This has been realized following a partnership between David Burii of Mwireri Engineering, the County Government of Laikipia and Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKut).

The new machine has a capacity to dry 6-8 tones per hour, an improvement from the older version that dries half a tone in 3-4 hour. Further, the latter uses maize combs and diesel to generate the heat for drying, which is not economical.

"I am glad that we now have made a machine that is more fast-

er drying, and uses diesel and electricity to function," Burii said, adding that it has taken them 13 weeks to come up with the advanced maize dryer.

The innovator is hopeful that the subsequent machines will take less time as they have already gained experience and knows where the delay came from.

The County Government of Laikipia has been hand-holding the innovator all along and has helped in marketing of the same, even outside the country.

"We have no business importing machines. We should be able to make our own machines. The way to improve productivity of Agriculture is to ensure that the farmer is able to use machines that we make here," said Governor Ndiritu Muriithi.

Praising this noble course, DeKut Vice Chancellor Prof. Ndirangu Kioni said the partnership between the government and the institution has worked towards ensuring solving problems facing

the society.

"To get to where we are, we have had a partnership with the Laikipia County with the view of using the University Knowledge to help the SMEs improve their manufacturing capabilities," Dekut VC said.

The first three machines will be installed at the cereal storage facilities in Kinamba, Sipili and Mutanga This will fix the perennial maize storage problems, where farmers suffer hefty loses due to afro toxins accumulation in their maize when stored in normal warehouses, thus reducing the post-harvest losses.

The announcement of the making of such a machine has attracted other customers, especially those who had experience with the older version.

"Currently I have five orders; from Rwanda, DR Congo, Uganda, Trans Nzoia and from one individual," the entrepreneur said.



David Burii of Mwireri Engineering with the older version of the maize dryer.

Governor Muriithi Assents Engagement and Resilience Bill 2022

Laikipia Governor, Ndiritu Muriithi (seated) signs Laikipia County Community Engagement and Resilience Bill 2022 on Tuesday last week



By Ian Sawe

Governor Ndiritu Muriithi on Tuesday 17th May 2022 signed the Laikipia County Community Engagement and Resilience Bill 2022 into law to curb radicalization and violence amongst the youth within Laikipia county. This has provided an elaborate measure to pull down the vices.

The timing of the bill is critical as we are living at a time when radicalization is rampant. Therefore, it has been necessitated by the need to solve problems affecting the society.

“The law is not static. There are structures that exist in law but are not strong enough to address various issues. The implementation of the Bill goes a long way in delivering to the security of our citizens,” commented Governor Muriithi.

It has been a quest by both the national and county governments to eradicate violence and

extremism in the society via a strategic action plan.

The bill was created by nominated member of the county assembly of Laikipia, Hon. Chris Mark in response to the ever growing cases of youth radicalization in Kenya.

“We are facing a time where there is a lot of radicalizations in our youth which from it, creates violence and therefore I saw the need to come up with a bill through a county action plan that will directly engage the community and besides aid in monitoring its implementation in counteracting the vices through rehabilitation,” said The MCA during the signing of the bill.

The Bill brings together all levels of governments in a state where they are able to engage the community directly and prevent radicalization through monitoring and rehabilitation.

The newly signed bill will oversee the sealing of loopholes of margin-

alization, vulnerability and minority factors, as a key step into eradicating radicalization and violent extremism by airing of grievances through county community engagements. It will also enable creation of agendas resembling that of the national government which can be domesticated and absolutely help in tackling the issue of prevention of counter-violence extremism without bypassing the mandate tasked to counties by the constitution.

Last year, the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) conducted a training session for all the journalists and online influencers on reporting violent extremism-related stories, which equipped the scribes and bloggers on the sensitivity of reporting on terrorism-related attacks.

UN, 9th Africities Summit - Kisumu



By Kariuki Wangechi

This year's Africities Summit was held in lake side city of Kisumu. HE. President Uhuru Kenyatta opened the five-day conference that has run from Tuesday 17th, to Saturday 21st, May 2022.

The theme was: The Role of Intermediary Cities of Africa in the Implementation of Agenda 2030 of the United Nations and the African Union Agenda 2063.

In special panel discussing "How Counties and Cities can Raise and Manage Own Source Revenue," the Council of Governors, COG, was represented by Laikipia Deputy Governor, Hon. John Mwaniki.

Moderating the special panel was Dr. Jane Karangai, Chairperson of Commission on Revenue Allocation. The panel appreciated that, especially in Kenya, the nation's largest population by

2030 will be living in urban centres. These urban centres, especially County headquarters, will be cities.

"How these to-be cities shall thrive and sustain themselves is predicated on how we manage towns today. How efficient we collect revenue, how responsibly we utilise revenue, and how wisely we shall choose infrastructural projects that are futuristic," Dr. Kirangai settled. Echoing CRA's Chair sentiments, Laikipia Deputy Governor John Mwaniki noted that before devolved system of government, economic and social growth of most municipal councils was dismal, and such was their tax regimes and management.

"Municipal council managers were uninspired to dream of their towns as cities, and thus, collecting and misappropriating taxes collected. As urban population grew, infra-

structure to sustain that mass got suffocated, because no one imagined such influx of people," DG reminisced.

The advent of 2010 constitution, and in it, creation of 47 counties, and their headquarters, has invigorated economic growth, people have owned their towns.

The 9th edition summits therefore, couldn't have been timelier, in Kenya - to speaks to Kenya's tax regimes and town's infrastructure.

In the panel, Spain's expert on municipal tax management urged Cities, and especially county towns near cities that:

"When cities overflow, excess people spill to the nearest towns. Social and economic dynamics of these towns get distracted. It would mean, infrastructural approach and designs by towns neighboring cities must be cognisant of the growth of the city near them - and ready their towns for that futuristic social economic growth."

Submitting in the panel, DG Mwaniki proffered that going forward, it would be important to have a performance-based incentives to the tax collection by the counties - to appreciate and encourage counties and their managers who perform better.

As of now, Kenya has four cities, Nairobi; Mombasa; , Kisumu; and the recently conferred city status, the Flamingo city, Nakuru.

New Face of Rumuruti fresh produce market stalls

By Victor Waiganjo

Tantalizing prospects are in the offing for traders and residents of Rumuruti Town after the conceptualization of the New Rumuruti Market stalls initiative was completed, and work on the project poised to commence in earnest.

The upgrading of the Rumuruti Fresh Produce Market project idea was envisaged by H.E Governor Ndiritu Muriithi as a fulfillment of one of his core pillars of establishing smart towns free of street trading and congestion. The objective is to upgrade the market stalls into modern hubs that will appeal to a broader and more diverse audience, by providing a greater range of high-quality produce and services.

The stalls are developed jointly and owned by the private stall owners and the Laikipia Government's Department of Trade with the latter tasked with developing common-user facilities such as ablutions blocks, stairs, drainage (external works) while the former will bear the expense of stalls construction to finality.

The over 170 stand spaces will serve as an integrated commercial center with modern stalls and plenty of trading space for a variety of businesses. They will offer ultra-modern facilities and an efficient and stimulating trading atmosphere for new-age traders.

Their layout plan will also allow for the establishment of well-designed pathways to reduce



Front, Back and Aerial Views of Rumuruti Market Stalls

overcrowding and optimize exposure, while encouraging human traffic, and allowing businesses to thrive.

This initiative's objective is to offer a modern, secure and clean environment which will translate to improved profits for the traders and spur an increase in economic activities in Rumuruti.

The shops will be built in two phases, allowing for a smooth transition of traders who are already operating at the specified kiosks that will be upgraded, as well as a faster completion of building works with minimal disruptions to trading activity.

Architectural designs and plans, together with a bill of quantities have been authorized, and the next phase of identifying the contractor is ongoing. Procurement guidelines and processes for sourcing the contractor will be provided by the County Govern-

ment.

The project is estimated to cost between Ksh. 55-60million, with construction costs for common-user facilities apportioned to the devolved unit, while the remaining will be split evenly among the individual stall owners.

To guarantee that the project runs smoothly and that effective adherence of set standards are met, the resources will be pooled into one account. Then, arrangements will follow to source a project financier, to assist stall owners who are unable to cover the construction costs all at once.

This revolutionary initiative will offer the residents of Rumuruti an opportunity to develop a vision for the market that will enhance and give smaller businesses and sole proprietors opportunities to test and launch new ventures in a low risk environment.

World Hypertension Month: LHS Launches Blood Pressure Testing Across Outlets to Address Rising Hypertension Concern

By David Serem

Laikipia Health Service has commenced free blood pressure tests for clients in all of its outlets across the county, as it steps up efforts to reverse the rising burden of the condition in the communities.

The development comes in the wake of mounting public health concern owing to the steep rise in hypertension in Laikipia, and the need to contain the situation early enough. This will see scores of clients go through tests, education and monitoring of persons whose cases need follow-ups.

May is the World Hypertension Month, and is dedicated to raise the awareness of the need for regular checkups to enable early diagnosis that is key to the success of the treatment plans initiated. The step is in line with the global blood pressure day theme this year—**measure your blood pressure accurately, control it, live longer.**

Latest statistics paint a grim picture on the rise of hypertension in the county. For instance, the number of hypertensive patients rose from about 20,600 in 2017 to over 38,000 in 2019, according to Laikipia County Statistical Abstract 2020.

And far from the widespread public notions, hypertension is



A health officer at LHS Likii takes blood pressure readings from a client at the facility. The service has stepped up efforts to scale up hypertension monitoring and health education across its outlets.

not a preserve for the old. Healthcare providers are now concerned as the condition finds its way into the younger population, mainly due to unhealthy lifestyles and even poor mental health.

Hypertension is a silent killer. Globally, adults with hypertension are unaware of their condition, with less than 42 percent being diagnosed and treated.

Having no major symptoms at the early stages, the condition only manifests when damage to critical organs and functions have been destroyed. Damage to the kidney is one of the life-threatening complications, with expensive dialysis or even transplant to save life. High blood pressure could strain liver functions as well, which may in turn affect insulin production that leads to diabetes.

The condition significantly raises the risks of heart, brain and eye problems.

In Kenya, a quarter of people between the ages of 18-69 is estimated to be hypertensive, with urban women being the most affected in this category. This is mostly compounded by unhealthy lifestyles in diet, alcoholism, poor mental health and lack of exercise.

The entry of mass blood pressure monitoring is a boost to the outcomes of the Medical Outpatient Clinics, one of the most successful packages under the new LHS plan. Under the new plan, healthcare providers take the periodic monitoring to the clients at the lowest health outlets to cut the cost of access for the clients.

Veterinary Borehole Now Operational



Residents of Veterinary area in Sosian ward, Laikipia West now have more reasons to smile after the completion of equipping of their borehole.

The borehole now directly benefits 300 households with water for production for both domestic and animal use. These also include social amenities like the area ECDE and dispensary.

The solar equipped borehole with a storage tank saves the area residents from the huge expenses of diesel use. It produces water at a rate of 7m³/hr.

The county government has also constructed a security fence to safeguard the solar panel and the storage tank for purposes of ensuring longevity in of the project without it stalling any time soon.

Availability of clean and adequate water plays a vital role in curbing water-borne diseases, while increasing sanitation levels.

