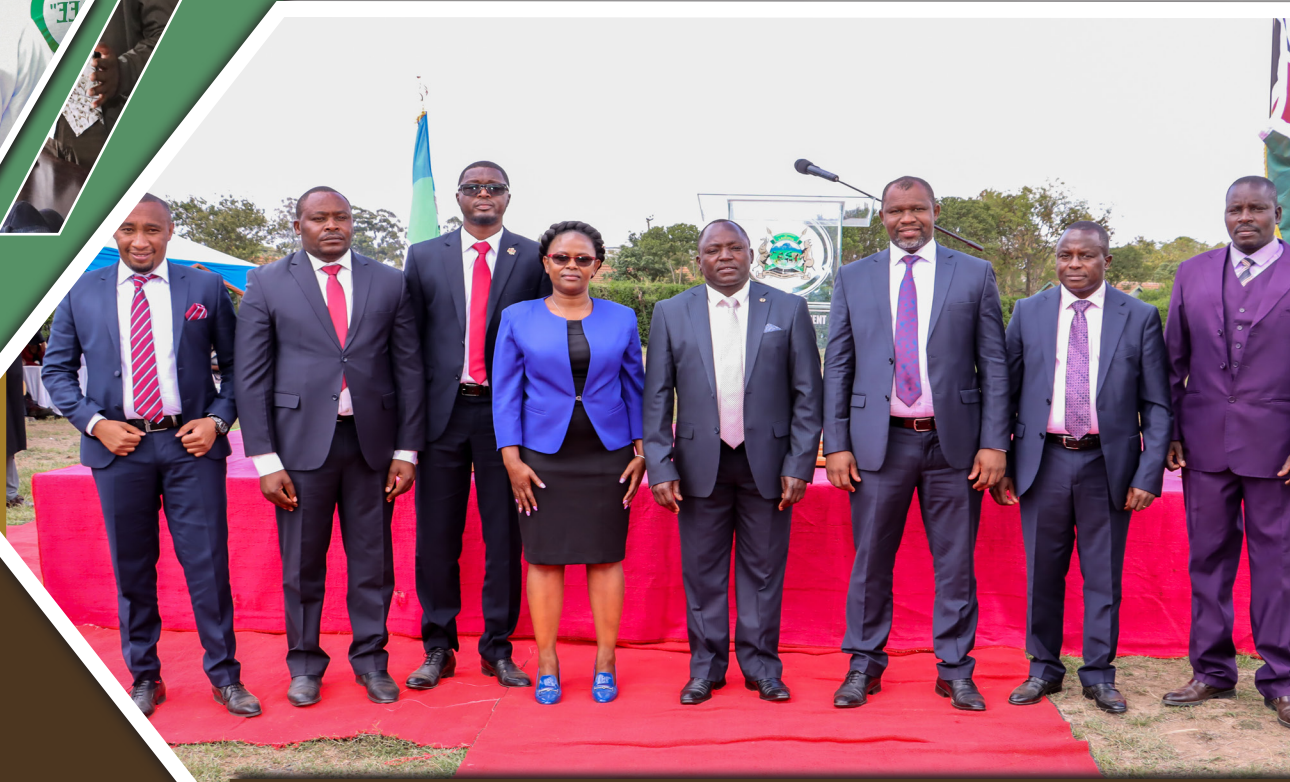


Laikipia County

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Our Main Story

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health is a conversation full of stigma, in family setups, in friend groupings, and in the community at large. Its mere mention means INSANITY, to further soil the stigma, Swahili name gives it a taboo judgmental overtone, MWENDA WAZIMU or KICHAA.

Laikipia County Cabinet

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **CECM TRADE**
- **CECM INFRASTRUCTURE**
- **CECM AGRICULTURE**
- **STANBIC SMEs TRAINING**



NCRH ENT CLINIC

NYAHURURU COUNTY REFERRAL HOSPITAL - NCRH

Just to remind you



The ENT Surgen, Dr. Valarie Salano

Clinical Officers: Patrick Waruingi and Geoffrey Mwangi

Normal Check-ups:

Daily: 8am - 5pm

Consultant Clinics:

Tuesday & Thursday:

8am - 5pm

Surgeries:

Monday



Dr. Valarie Salano

By Esther Muthoni



Laikipia County CECMs



◀ **HE. Governor
Joshua Irungu**



**HE. Deputy
Governor** ▶
Reuben Kamuri



Gachigi Wachira Samuel - Finance, County Planning and Development



Leah Njeri – Water, Environment and Natural Resources



Edwin Denis Kasoo - Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries



Stephen Biwot Kisorio - Trade Tourism, Co-operative and Enterprise



Ekwam Martin Nabos - Infrastructure, Land, Public Works and Urban Development



Albert Wagura Taiti - Health and Medical Services

IMAGES: KIPKEMEI RUTTO





We've Been Called To Serve

.....
**CABINET COLLE-
GUES, WELCOME
TO THE SERVICE**
.....

Early November this year, Laikipia made a big step towards the formation of government. We witnessed the swearing in of six, talented, diverse, seasoned and committed leaders who have been called to serve our great county as County Executive Committee Members , CECMs.

I applaud the Laikipia County Assembly for their speedy confirmation of the seven nominees. The team that has come on board was subjected to rigorous suitability scrutiny by an independent consultant, and subsequent vetting by the County Assembly and was deemed capable of bringing forth the desired change the electorates yearn for.

This county is blessed with diversity and richness, a land full of promise for



Laikipians have so much expectation from us leaders. They expect me to speedily deliver the promises I made. My team, I bring you onboard to help me in this mission of making Laikipia great.

its people. It is this richness, this optimism that our CECMs must tap and enable our people realize their dreams. Ahead of our CECMs lies a weighty task of restoring hope and dignity to our people. The people of Laikipia have so much expectation from us leaders. They expect me to speedily deliver the promises I made before the elections. I bring this team of CECMs to help me in this mission of making Laikipia great.

Our health sector was almost on its knees and I promised to restore it. I am confident that Mr. Albert Taiti is equal to the task. He will help me ensure that nobody in Laikipia will have to travel for more than three kilometers to access a fully equipped health facility.

With proper leadership and facilitation, our people have the capacity to kick poverty out through agriculture. It is with this same conviction that I want our CECM Agriculture, Mr. Dennis Kasoo, to help me in my plan to promote irrigation for production, promote agro-processing and value addition, subsidize farm inputs for farmers and link farmers with market for their produce. The CECM must also ensure promotion of adequate livestock fodder production as well as initiate livestock breed improvement programme. My administration is investing

heavily in agriculture because we are convinced that this sector will be a game changer for Laikipia.

My administration recognizes that water is life, and this precious commodity must be availed to all Laikipians at the closest point possible. Our mothers have been going to fetch water for kilometers and it is for this reason that I nominated Leah Njeri who will ensure that nobody in Laikipia goes for more than three kilometers in search of water.

We have an ambitious grand plan in energy and infrastructure and in Mr. Ekwam Nabos, I found the right man to help us realize this plan. The CECM has an uphill task that he must work hard towards accomplishing this plan.

On enterprise development and wealth creation, we promised our people access to affordable credit and to strengthen enabling environment for business. Any effort to uplift the lives of the people of Laikipia must pay special attention to those at the bottom of the economic pyramid. The new CECM for Trade, Tourism, Cooperatives and Enterprise, Stephen Kisorio will ensure that “hustlers” benefit the most from my administration.

Our success in various government

departments will be largely determined by how prudently we utilize our finances. CECM for finance, County Planning and Development, Gachigi Wachira will facilitate in this realization. I expect the CECM to also help me deliver on my promise for economic development, wealth and job creation for the people of Laikipia.

My fellow cabinet members, I have appointed you because I believe you have the capacity to achieve great things on behalf of Laikipians. But the baseline is, we must constantly continue listening to and engaging the people. I will continue to insist that we need to provide services that address their core needs at all times.

To achieve better service delivery, more coordination among government departments with effective communication is highly encouraged.

Good luck to all the County Executive Committee Members. You have my blessings and my support. All the best in your service.

HE. JOSHUA IRUNGU,
EGH
GOVERNOR
LAIKIPIA COUNTY





The Task is **NOBLE** but **TOUGH**

OUR CECMs, WELCOME TO THE SERVICE

I am elated that we have finally gotten a cabinet in place. I welcome each one of you to this noble service. It is a sacred call, I am glad you answered.

Constitutionally, HE. Governor Joshua Irungu and I were limited to what we could do without you. Kenya's 2010 constitution appreciates that the nation's leadership needs collective wisdom of her children.

Thus, Chapter Eleven on Devolution elaborately explains the formation of counties, branches, and organs that govern a devolved unit. Specifically, section 179 (1) on County executive committees directs that, "The executive authority of the county is vested in, and exercised by, a county executive committee."

We therefore could not do much without you. But trust me team, your work is properly cut out, and it is not an easy one. Let me paint a picture.

Global pandemic of 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic, inflicted a lot



It is an intricate task that demands creative, innovative, inventive, and highly adaptive leadership. This is what Governor Joshua Irungu and I seek from you.

of pain to our economy, disrupting movement of people and goods, imports, exports, local trade, literally holding the nation and the world hostage. Most businesses are still struggling to recover to date.

Currently, we are on a dry spell that has occasioned four failed consecutive seasons. Animals have died in thousands, our school going children affected, and rivers have dried up, no water for people and animals.

We are not immune to external disruptive economic factors. A nine-month long war in Eastern Europe, 5,403km from Kenya in Ukraine, has weighed heavily on our grain supplies and oil prices. Economic war in western nations motivated by this war directly sparked unprecedented inflation to our local market, sullyng our already struggling Kenyan economy, and by extension, our economy here in Laikipia.

Against this background, we must agree, these are extraordinary times, TEAM. We got questions to answer on how we are going to resuscitate our economy.

Like, how do we revitalise trade? How are we going to rejuvenate agriculture which is our economy's backbone? What innovative health policies are we going to adopt to be more receptive to our people? How

My support is unequivocal. I wish ALL OF US, the very best.

are we going to support our youth, inspire and encourage them, and, how are we going to realign our infrastructural programs to be a perfect economic enablers to all industries and sectors?

The call is profoundly huge therefore. It will tax all your genius reserves, to innovatively develop policies that are inventively precise to Laikipia's problem, without stretching our budget which is lean, and currently rigid.

It is an intricate task that demand creative, innovative, inventive, and highly adaptive leadership. This is what Governor Joshua Irungu and I seek from you.

It is instructive to note though, we are not starting from zero. Laikipia Public Service is a skilled, energetic, able, and directive-ready, service. Your ability to tap into this vibrant human resource is direly paramount. From most senior to the junior officers, each is invaluable to the service, and their talents must be deployed and aligned to our

manifesto. Of course, underline this, #MtumishiWako is Governor's mantra, and we all, must adjust to it, accordingly.

Our financial regime must undergo a paradigm shift. Innovatively, resource mobilisation, policy development, laws and regulations, and importantly, funds utilisation, must demonstrate our resolution to financial prudence.

Remember, this financial year, Laikipia County got 5.1 billion from exchequer. If you minus recurrent expenditures in salaries and in debt obligations, development budget is strained, hence calling upon each one of us to bring in, their A game to the service. The professional expertise, your experience, your network, your souls and mind, into the job.

Remember, you get what you give, you treat staff and people with respect, and they will reciprocate. You show commitment and dedication to work, that energy will reverberate back, even stronger.

My support is unequivocal Team. Let's get to work. I wish ALL OF US, the very best.

Godspeed, Team.

**HE. REUBEN KAMURI
DEPUTY GOVERNOR
LAIKIPIA COUNTY**



Meet Waziri Ekwam

Undoubtedly the tallest person amongst his peer cabinet members, the natural son of Turkana culture of a like , Waziri Ekwam Nabos. misses on some teeth, a canine and maybe a scissor, evidence of a ruthless nyama-cho- ma lover. That is not all, he dresses to kill, decently like a boss he is, sharp and keen, and the bit-by-bit speaking gentleman met our Public Communication Officer, NANCY MUTHONI, and in depth, they talk- ed about his life, from home to school, to work- ing across the nation, and finally, here in LAIKIPIA COUNTY.



Where were you born Waziri Nabos?

I was born and nurtured in Mutara, in the Northern parts of Laikipia County in the 80's. Mutara calls me Martin while the corporate world goes by Ekwam Nabos.

Is there a cultural meaning to your name?

Yes! Ekwam is a name from the Turkana Community meaning current, like the wind, always in motion.

Tell me about your family, and how you spend free time.

I am a son and a brother, a family man and a father to

three beautiful children; two daughters and one son. When not on official obligations, I am a livestock farmer. I love to decompress while watching football, I am an Arsenal fan and enjoys cycling too.

Your education background?

Allow me to summarize for you: Primary school I went to Mutara and I emerged the best student in Rumuruti Division; my O levels at Doldol Secondary School; Undergraduate and Master's Degree at Moi University. Masters in Strategic Management. I am also a holder of a Senior Service Management Course from Canada, To-



I have seen friends and community lifting me up. Looking back, that is priceless memories that I'll treasure all my life.

ronto Institute of Public Service.

What is that single characteristic in you that was consistent during your school life?

I'd say, leadership; I was head boy in both primary and secondary school, and even in college, I was the Student Chair at Moi University.

Tell us about your professional journey in summary.

I started my career as a Management Trainee to a Quality Service Manager with Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), later as a Chief Officer (CO) in the Department of Trade, Tourism and Cooperative Laikipia County and also appointed as an Ag. CO Finance. I've worked too at County Service Board of County Assembly in Laikipia as a member, and ended at Ministry of Devolution as Deputy Director in charge of Capacity Building and Technical Assistance.

And here I'm, CECM Infrastructure, Lands, Public Works and Urban Development at Laikipia County Government.

Highlight a few moments in your life that have shaped who you are today.

I'd say I'm a product of community and my culture. I've been to bottom-low, I have seen friends and community lifting me up. Looking back, that is priceless memories that I'll treasure all my life. Appreciating that people have played a role to your life and success, and you can only give back, and respect them all. Campus is another beautiful memory that I count among many, leading 18,000 students was a singular privilege. I sat at the university council interacting with university chancellors and professors amassing great experience and diverse knowledge.

What is that singular thing that you believe community should adopt?

Education. Definitely education. I would not be much if I wasn't educated. That I intend to give back to the

community, to inspire and be a role model. I remember back in 2015, I was able to ensure Mutara primary school, through the help of HE Governor Joshua Irungu was moved closer to the town centre. The school was situated 7km deep into the forest, risky for the pupils and attacks from the elephants. Parents would do shift escorting about 300 children to and from school.

How will your past work experience help you deliver your objectives in Laikipia?

I've diverse accomplishment in policy formulation around government delivery in my previous engagements. I am well vast in project implementation through my attachment with the World Bank program KDSP. For me its plug and play.

What is your plan for the Department in line with Governor's manifesto?

My vision for the Department of Infrastructure is the creation of efficiency in delivering of services across other departments and to the people of laikipia.

Matters affordable housing, land issues are amongst the list of goals we need to actualize. Inclusive opening up of county road networks. I envision a county where accessibility to water points, health facilities, schools and markets shall be less to 2km in rural areas. In the urban areas; drainages systems, bus parks, security lighting, parking slots and amongst other civil works shall be effectively tackled.

How would you describe your style of leadership?

I have regard for leading by example. My leadership is people based. In my opinion, no one has the monopoly of knowledge and that everyone in the team has something to float.

Your parting shot

I call upon everyone to defend the cause, to be optimistic and know that we are set to deliver on this mandate.



Why 7, not 8 CECMs

Article 179 (3), “The number of members appointed under clause (2) (b) shall not exceed— (a) one-third of the number of members of the county assembly, if the assembly has less than thirty members...”

On 10th November 2022, six County Executive Committee Members, CECMs, took their oath of office, but they were less one, to total to seven constitutional number.

The seventh CECM appointed to County Department of Education, Youth and Sports, coincidentally, was appointed as Permanent Secretary in State Department of Wildlife while waiting for her swearing in. Laikipia doesn't regret that, infact, is proud of her, Hon. Silvia Museiya Kihoro.

But, the previous administration had eight CECMs, unlike now seven. So why seven, and not eight?

Kenyan 2010 constitution is instructive on composition of a County Cabinet, the County Executive Committee. The number of CECMs are predicated on the total number of the County Assembly members.

Article 179 (2) directs that, “The county executive committee consists of— (a) the county governor and the deputy county governor; and (b) members appointed by the county governor, with the approval of the assembly...”



FROM LEFT: CECM AGRICULTURE, FINANCE, ROADS, WATER, GOVERNOR, DEPUTY, HEALTH & TRADE. *IMAGES: KIPKEMEI RUTTO*

It further directs, at section (3), “The number of members appointed under clause (2) (b) shall not exceed— (a) one-third of the number of members of the county assembly, if the assembly has less than thirty members...”

The Laikipia 2017 – 2022 County Assembly had 24 members, 15 elected members and nine nominated members. The current 2022 -2027 County Assembly has 21 members, 15 elected, and six nominated.

With article 179 section 3 (a) directing that County Cabinet must be a third of total number of the county assembly, it only mean that Laikipia can only get seven members, a third

of 21, unlike last administration which had eight, a third of 24.

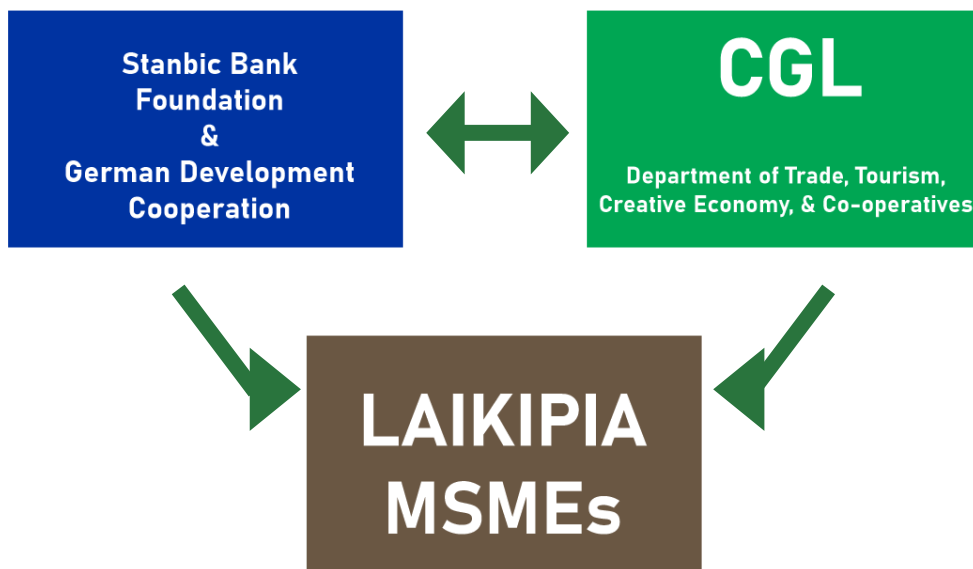
That said, the search for the seven CECMs was not a simple task. Governor and his Deputy needed experts, experienced and passionate individuals who would help them fulfil their manifesto to Laikipia.

A total of 480 applicants applied for the seven advertised posts and 69 were shortlisted and were subjected to a rigorous seven-day interview session, which narrowed the number to fourteen, and only seven were vetted and approved by the assembly.

By John Muriithi



Stanbic Bank's E4D Program To Benefit Laikipia SMEs



The training will commence early next year in Marmanet, Rumuru-ti, Kinamba, Nyahururu, Nanyuki, Wiyumiririe, Ilpolei and Doldol, with 35 SMEs at each centre, for eight weeks.

A total of 265 Small and Medium Enterprises in Laikipia are set to benefit from capacity building training under the Employment and Skills for Development in Africa (E4D) Program.

The program aims at bridging the skills gap of micro and small entrepreneurs, transition the informal enterprises to formal, and enhance opportunities for MSEs to access affordable credit. It also seeks to accelerate SMEs recovery post COVID-19 pandemic through access to loan credits.

The program is spearheaded by the Stanbic Bank, Stanbic Bank Foundation and German Development Cooperation through the Depart-

ment of Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives Development.

Target sectors are trade (small traders), agriculture, manufacturing, services providers and construction. Apart from capacity building and access to affordable loans, the program will facilitate linkages of SMEs to market.

Continuous capacity building for SMEs is expected to create additional jobs, increase income for beneficiaries and increase business turnover.

The training will commence early next year in Marmanet, Rumuru-ti, Kinamba, Nyahururu, Nanyuki, Wiyumiririe, Ilpolei and Doldol

with 35 SMEs at each centre for eight weeks.

“We are already in partnership with Stanbic Bank- for SMEs to access loan facility of Ksh 5 million, a total of Ksh 4.1 million has been issued to several SMEs since October 2022,” Trade CECM Stephen Kisorio said.

The SMEs are accessing the loan of up to Ksh 50,000 at 2% interest rate payable in six months with a grace period of two months from the day of issue.

The CECM notes that the E4D program will help to equip the SMEs with necessary skills and capacity to access more loan facilities in future.

By Nahashon Maina

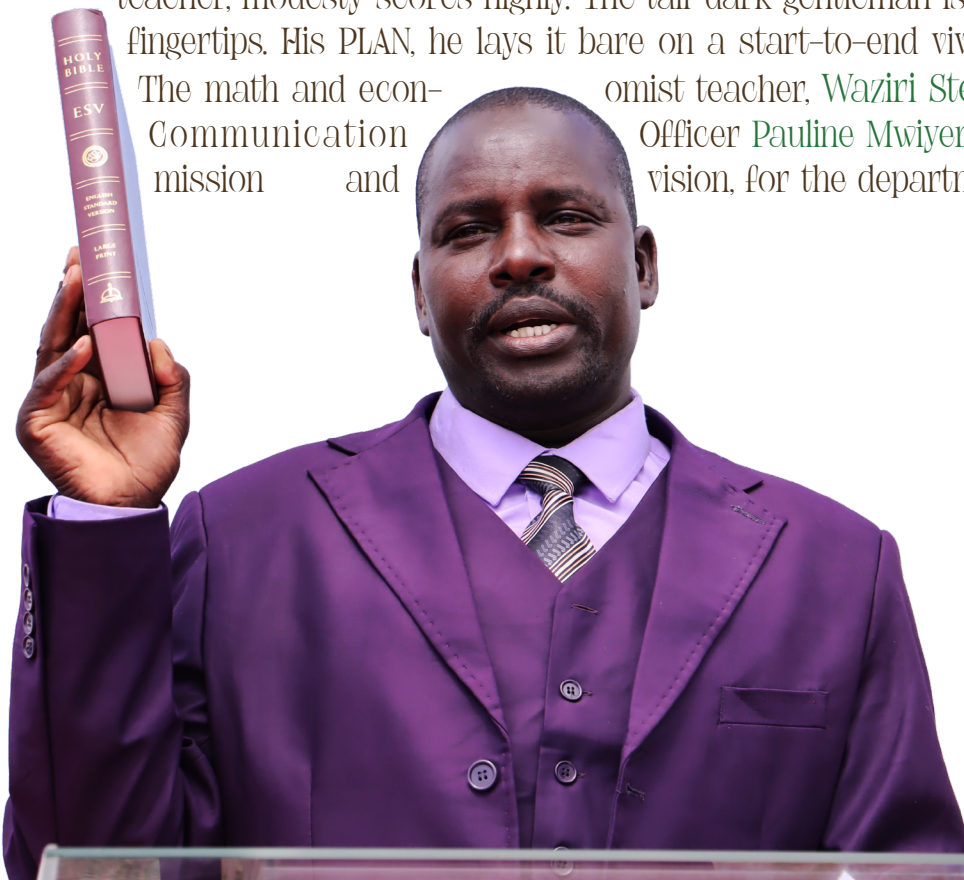


Meet Waziri Kisorio

At Department of Trade, there is a man on a mission. A modest man, not the flashy type. In clothing, he appreciates his local tailor, you can tell. While talking, he is not a man of jargons, he keeps it simple, and it's deliberate and intentional because as we found out, a community trainer, and a teacher, modesty scores highly. The tall-dark gentleman is incredibly sharp, facts are on his fingertips. His PLAN, he lays it bare on a start-to-end vivid picture, as he sparingly smiles.

The math and economist teacher, Waziri Stephen Kisorio, inspired our Public Communication Officer Pauline Mwiyeria, as she tried to understand HIS mission and vision, for the department.

Waziri Stephen Kisorio, inspired our Public Communication Officer Pauline Mwiyeria, as she tried to understand HIS vision, for the department.



Tell us about yourself.

My name is Stephen Biwott Kisorio a teacher by profession. I was born and raised in Laikipia, Marmanet ward. I schooled in Kinguka Primary, proceeded to high school in Baringo and later took my undergraduate in Education at Moi University where I specialised in Maths and Economics.

Briefly, tell us about your professional life

I am a double edged professional, an economist and a teacher, with a particular focus in business. When I left university, I went to work in Kakuma Camp which is a UN Refugee camp located on the outskirts of Kakuma

town in Turkana County.

That is interesting, what was your role in a refugee camp?

During my time there, I worked with refugees fleeing fightings and isurgencies in their nations. All was in effort to realize their economic potential through entrepreneurship, by providing training and support to develop their entrepreneurial ideas into workable business opportunities that enabled them to meet their basic needs and create employment for their fellow refugees in the camp.

And how did you circle back to teaching?



We have over 15 different ethnic communities spread across this vast county all with unique traditions and practices. Literally, *Laikipia ni Kenya ndogo*.

I would say it is passion meeting fate. After working at the camp for 7 years, I joined the TSC as a teacher where I served passionately until my appointment to the CEC position.

What is your vision for your department in line with Governor's Manifesto?

One, providing a conducive environment for MSMEs to grow and thrive. My first directive will be to reclaim market stalls across all towns within the county grabbed by unscrupulous people. Secondly, Capital support through the Enterprise and Cooperative fund, business development and financial training; marketing and promoting growth of local markets. The cooperatives section within the department is doing really well you can even predetermine the way they work.

You seemingly sound passionate about cooperatives, Sir.

Yes I am. There is need to upscale Cooperative fund to provide more funding to increase their capacity as lending facilities. I really urge the common mwananchi in Laikipia to embrace cooperative societies which will allow them to pool their resources in order to improve their quality of life and enhance economic opportunities.

Tourism is on your docket. What is your plan Waziri?

If we must feel and appreciate Laikipia, local tourism should be everyone's plan. I want to encourage local tourism such as school educational tours, weekend trips and family packages. COVID-19 knocked the industry off its feet, but we are bouncing back strong.

What is the leverage for the sector?

Laikipia is a cosmopolitan county, richly endowed with diverse cultural resources that can be developed for cultural tourism. We have over 15 different ethnic communities spread across this vast county all with unique traditions and practices. Literally, *Laikipia ni Kenya*

ndogo.

How will you deploy that cultural resource into a viable economic enterprise?

Deliberate investment, money and human resource, to promote, develop, safeguard and preserve this cultural heritage by developing cultural centres where local communities showcase and conserve their ancestral traditions and practices in Laikipia. To offer immersive travel experience by blending cultural aesthetics of a local community such as Turkana, Meru, Kalenjin, Samburu, Kikuyu, Pokots and Maasai, with all the modern facilities that you'd typically get from a high-rise hotel.

What should Laikipia residents expect to be done differently from your department?

Inclusivity. I will ensure that my department effectively serves the people of Laikipia by encouraging active participation in my department's activities, welcoming opinions and focusing on the needs of every resident of Laikipia.

How would you describe your style of leadership?

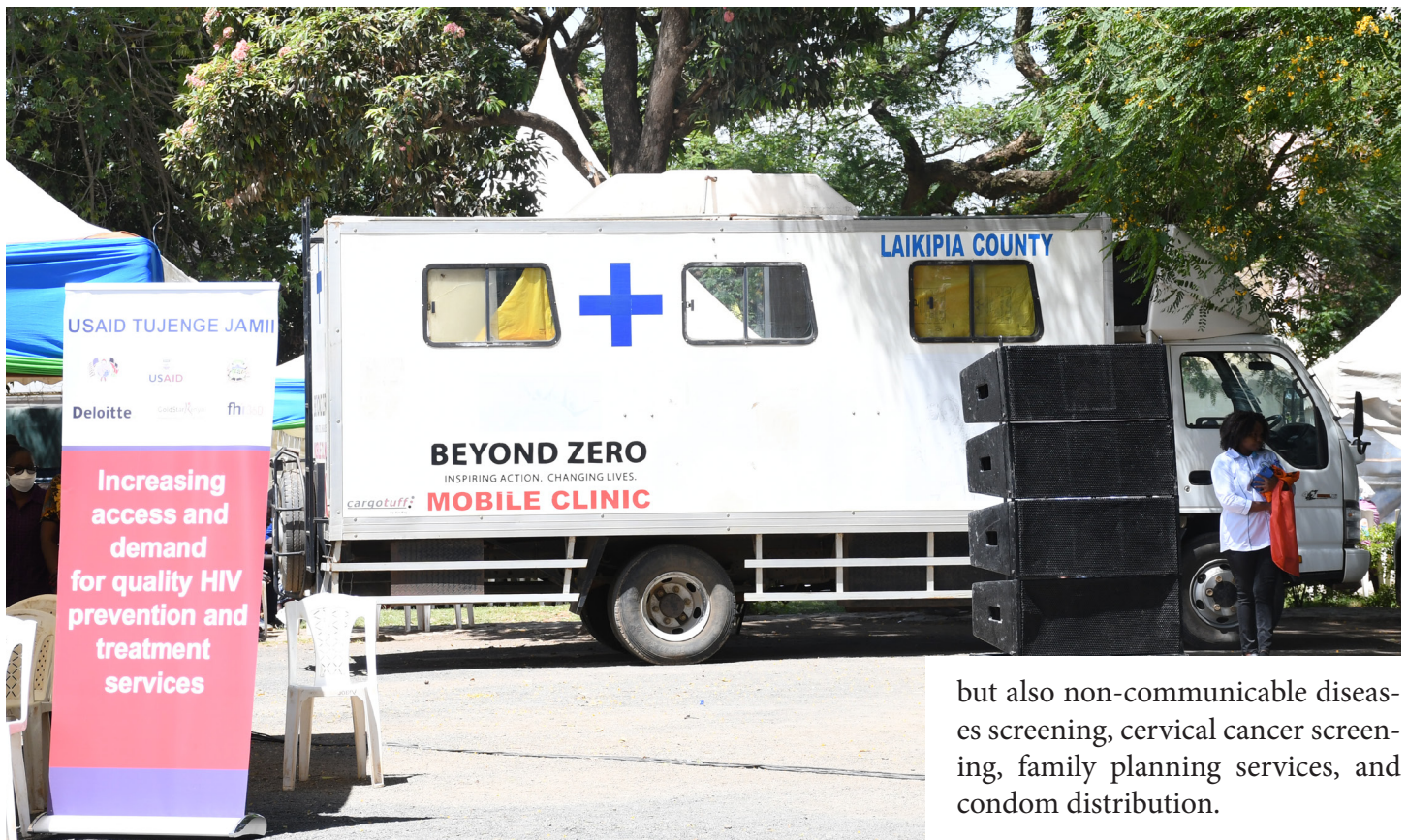
My type of leadership is centred on team work. My experience in the NGO sector has taught me the value of participative leadership. I will provide a conducive work environment where my staff have clear goals/objective, roles and work plans, listen to their ideas, promote communication and provide an opportunity for them to be actively involved in the planning and decision-making process.

Parting Shot

My Governor was elected on servant-leadership mantra, and overwhelmingly, his manifesto was endorsed, I will endeavour to be a servant too, keen, firm, effective, and accommodating. To my department TEAM, I'm a team player, let's do this, TOGETHER.



World Aids Day Medical Camp



On World AIDS Day, the Laikipia Department of Medical Services and Public Health, in collaboration with several partners, served more than 80 people at a medical camp held in Nanyuki's Central Park.

The medical camp was inspired by County Government's World AIDS Day celebrations, using the platform to sensitize, advise and encourage people stay vigilant. Various stakeholders were asked to collaborate in an "intergrated fashion" to address

issues that were not only related to the World AIDS Day theme.

To that end, the camp not only provided HIV testing and counseling,



CECM HEALTH, ALBERT TAITI

but also non-communicable diseases screening, cervical cancer screening, family planning services, and condom distribution.

Thirty nine people were tested for HIV and counseled at the camp, 79 were screened for Non-Communicable Diseases, 17 were screened for cervical cancer, 30 were given a Covid vaccine jab, and five were given family planning services.

The Kenya Red Cross Society, Hope International, USAID Tujenge Jamii, NEPHAK Kenya, and the National Syndemic Diseases Control Council were among the partners involved in delivering the camp.

By Andrew Kimemia

Rabies Vaccination Campaign



IMAGES: MOLLIN WANJIRU

Laikipia County is among the first and most consistent counties in rabies disease control. It is the leading county in Kenya towards achieving rabies-free country by 2030.

The Laikipia Rabies Vaccination Campaign (LRVC) is an annual collaborative project between the Laikipia County Government’s Department of Agriculture, Mpala Research Institute, and other partners to conduct mass dog rabies vaccinations in the County.

Rabies is a zoonotic disease that affects both humans and warm-blooded animals. Domestic dogs are the primary carriers of virus-causing rabies and are responsible for the vast majority of rabies transmission.

Humans contract rabies primarily through bites from infected domestic dogs; thus, vaccinating them prevents the spread of the disease to humans and other animals.

The 2022 rabies vaccination campaign began in October and has reached approximately 60% of the dogs in the county. Laikipia County is working to reach 100% rabies vaccination coverage.

LRVC model “One Health” approach, meaning, protecting both human and animal health. Controlling rabies among wildlife is one

of the initiative’s primary goals.

Laikipia is well-known for its diverse wildlife species, and through a collaborative approach, LRVC is preserving the valuable heritage, particularly the endangered African wild dog, which is closely related to domestic dog species.

Laikipia County is among the first and most consistent counties in rabies disease control. It is the leading county in Kenya towards achieving rabies-free country by 2030.

By Mollin Wanjiru

IMAGES-CGL-KIPRUTO KIMEI



Meet Waziri Kasoo

Waziri Kasoo looks young. He is young. He is light-skinned too, to almost resemble Moroccan team, as we ponder on World Cup semi-quarter's irony of which team is more African. Waziri loves football. If he can sing, his vocal range would be tenor, but he is assertive, like a Moi-era chief. His eyes speaks of an observant boss, talking to him, experience and wisdom confirms readiness to duty.

Our Public Communication Officer, Mollin Wanjiru met with CECM in charge of Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Dennis Kasoo, and Edwin brought us very encouraging insights.



Who is Waziri Kasoo?

Waziri Kasoo a family man from the great Maasai community. I was born, raised and schooled in North of Laikipia, Mukogondo East Ward. Halafu (*he teases*), I got swimming skills, like a fish, don't mind the irony of an arid and semi-arid son knowing how to swim (*giggles*).

That is interesting. What of your education background in summary, Waziri?

Well, I would call it a beautiful story of Moran boy in school, from up North. I attended Chumvi primary school. Secondary I schooled at Dol Dol secondary school. I passed well, trust me, and proceeded to University of Nairobi where I did Bachelors of Commerce,

Management option. I returned to the same University where I did Master of Art in Environmental Planning and Management.

Tell us one thing about your life that has acted as your life's springboard.

I would say school. I am a pastoralist. Schools in the North are sparsely located. It takes pure resolute spirit to finish school, because if it is not a feet hurting from tens of kilometres walk to school, its hunger punks, or worse, wild animals attack. But the fact that, myself and many others were able to finish school, and even came back to elevate the very community that raised us, that gives me full satisfaction. I am here because of what education has made me.



“It takes pure resolute spirit to finish school, because if it is not a feet hurting from tens of kilometres walk to school, its hunger punks, or worse, wild animals attack. Huh! I’m because of school.”

Mention few success stories in your career life Waziri.

First, working as the project manager in Livelihood for Pastoralist Community, I spearheaded a water project, intake expansion at Ngarendare forest for the Ngarendare residents. Two, in 2016, I developed Revenue System - accounting software for the County Government of Kajiado. Three, Mombasa County has Health Strategic Plan developed by me. I have worked in Somalia, I led a team that did a very successful Meat Value Chain Baseline Survey at Hargeisa Livestock Market, sponsored by FAO, among others.

How will your past work experience help you deliver your objectives in Laikipia?

Let me be brief on areas of concern.

Crop production

Crop encompasses over 50 percent of all agricultural activities in Kenya that means, crop farming literally feeds Kenya, while also translating to the highest employer and household’s source of income. That should be felt here at home. A lot of work has been done by my team, but more need to be done. Appreciating we are in ASAL region, county food and nutritional security is government’s prerogative, and the only way to reduce poverty and hunger. So I will work to increase and accelerate the works, effectiveness and response-speed of our crop extension officer, to advise our farmers promptly especially on suitable crop for specific region, crops that are drought resilient, nutritional, and economically viable.

On Livestock production

Obviously, you cannot separate livestock farmer from a crop farmer in Laikipia, they are joined at the hip. While some regions like Laikipia West and East do crop production hugely, dairy farming complements their farming activities. In Laikipia North, majorly farmers are pastoralists, but we are seeing an interesting trend in private and community ranches where agro-pastoralism

is picking up. It is my intention to encourage and accelerate it, by investing in livestock extension officers, animal health and veterinaries officers, to advice and deliberately inject the region with more drought resilient, hybrid, and nutritional breeds of animals; cows, goats, sheep and camels. We improve on food security, and money in the pockets.

Resource mobilization

All these efforts need resources, which I know our exchequer allocation can never be enough. We need development partners, directly investing into our programs or indirectly participating; like in training, capacity building, or provision of improved animal breeds or hybrid seeds, or even in pest control strategies and inputs. And that is where my resource mobilization skills comes in. Collaboratively too, partnering with Department of Water and Environment, because it’s the chief enabler of our activities.

What is your vision for the Department in line with Governor’s manifesto?

My vision is to ensure that there is effective and efficient service delivery to farmers practicing agriculture. I envision an integrated system and a program for farmers interaction between extension officers and farmers in Laikipia County. All this geared to a food secure county and holistically, agriculture done as an enterprise.

How would you describe your style of leadership?

I intend to initiate a participatory model in policy development and decision making in my department. The team from my department can only expect a team player.

Your parting shot

It is an honour and a privilege to be given this opportunity, I am grateful to the Governor and his Deputy. I will serve Laikipians with utmost dedication, and my team too at DALF, are equally ready to serve with me.



Ngobit Security Meeting

In the recent months, there has been constant reports of insecurity incidences that almost interrupted the daily lives of Ngobit Ward residents.

Governor Joshua Irungu upon receiving the reports, in collaboration with Laikipia County security heads, called an emergency security meeting with Ngobit Ward residents, to listen and understand the status, possible reasons, and remedies to the security lapse.

The meeting was held at Chief's Camp on 29th November, 2022, a multi-sectoral meeting with the security and county leaders led by Governor Joshua Irungu and the DCC Laikipia Central, Mr. Joshua Marete.

In the meeting, one by one, Mwananchi explained how in recent months, armed robbers have terrorized the area, targeting business people, and businesses, with impunity.

It was agreed that security officers will step up patrols and ongoing



investigations will accelerate for apprehension of the said criminals. While at it, Governor Irungu activated the Community Policing Committees to closely work with police in deterrent strategies and reporting of suspicious persons.

As described by the Kenya Police Service, community policing, the 'Nyumba Kumi Initiative,' is an approach that recognizes the shared responsibility of the police and the community in ensuring a safe and

secure environment for all citizens.'

The County Government of Laikipia will work collaboratively with the National Government to ensure proper housing for the police officers so as to create a conducive working environment in various police posts in the area.

The Governor was in company of area MCA Madam Catherine Nyokabi, the County Secretary, top county security officers and other MCAs..

By Magdalene Wangari

Governor Irungu activated the Community Policing Committees to closely work with police in deterrent strategies and reporting of suspicious persons.



Laikipia Signs MoU with Habitat

Governor Irungu assured Habitat for Humanity of his administration's deliberate intentions of creating a conducive environment for development partners to implement their agenda in the County.

The County Government of Laikipia and Habitat for Humanity Kenya have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding that will benefit the two entities.

The MoU signing was done by Governor Joshua Irungu and Mr. Anthony Okoth, the National Director, Habitat for Humanity Kenya, together with Mr. Koome Kiragu representing the Habitat for Humanity



IMAGES: KIPKEMEI RUTTO

board. This event took place at the Governor's office on 15th November, 2022.

The Understanding will ensure a structured way of development, planning and funding for improved quality of life and service delivery in Laikipia.

During the event, Governor Irungu assured Habitat for Humanity of his administration's deliberate intentions of creating a conducive environment for development partners to implement their agenda in the County. The county boss also applauded Habitat for their commitment to complementary interventions that seek to improve the quality of life for the people of Laikipia.

Habitat for Humanity Kenya has

also handed over two new ECDE classrooms and an additional classroom, for class 8 pupils, at Naibor Primary School which were opened by the Governor. The Governor also handed over a house to one of the 12 beneficiaries of improved households for the vulnerable, which Habitat for Humanity constructed to mark its 40th anniversary.

This is part of a joint initiative, between Habitat for Humanity Kenya and the County Government of Laikipia, dubbed 'Improved Basic Infrastructures and Services for Decent Settlement'. The project focuses on water, construction, training of masons, livelihoods training and school infrastructure.

By Njoroge Thuku



‘TUONGEE’ about Mental Health



Dont Hide, Show Us Your Face

IMAGE: ANN NGUNJIRI

Mental Health is a conversation full of stigma, in family setups, in friend groupings, and in the community at large. Its mere mention means INSANITY, to further soil the stigma, Swahili name gives it a taboo judgmental overtone, MWENDA WAZIMU or KICHAA.

On November 30, 2022, Laikipia County Government in partnership with Youth for Change and Charity, YCC, organized an open discussion campaign in Nanyuki – efforts geared at destigmatizing the Mental Health conversation.

The campaign is dubbed “TUON-

GEE,” an initiative on mental health awareness by the Youth for Change and Charity, YCC. The campaign was led by the Deputy Governor, Hon. Reuben Kamuri and YCC Chair, Robert Nyaliya, at the Governor’s office grounds.

Laikipia, especially in major towns, cases of suicide and murder-suicides have hit news media, shocking the residents and begging for an open discussion about mental health, and strategies that can be deployed to have people openly discuss about it. Also, to come forward when affected by extreme stress or depression.

“Siko Sawa, Lazima Tuongee,

Niko Tiyari” is a slogan crafted by YCC mental health champions. To encourage people in expressing themselves freely and to seek professional help. This is in appreciation that speaking up is an important step in the healing process.

Acknowledging the adverse effects on giving mental health a silence treatment, DG Kamuri advised that “mental health is a global issue, and we need to match the magnitude of the mental illness burden to an effective response through collaborative efforts.”

In affirming DG’s policy suggestion, CEC for health, Albert Taiti



Your are not Alone. Ongea na Rafiki Mambo ya Kizidi. Kunyamaza, Brain itazidiwa. Ukiongea na Beste, Uzito Unapunguka. Depression huja ukinyamazia shida.

agreed that “Mental health is now our priority. We intend to develop, implement, and strengthen policies that will enhance our efforts to prevent and promote mental health for all.”

At workplace, Mr. Taiti settled for adoption of St. Martin’s community-based approach. “Promoting mental health at work through psychosocial support, introduction of community intervention measures and the provision of integrated curative services will go a long way towards managing a range of mental health conditions in our county.”

It is shocking that Kenya ranks fifth in Africa in cases of depression, according to The World Health Organization’s 2017 report with evidence of high levels of depression and suicidal behavior, high levels of mental distress and substance use.

On behalf of CGL and County Department of Health, the DG and CECM Health, respectively, appreciated the YCC team, through their leadership, Robert Nyaliya and Dunhum Wangeci, Chair and Coordinator respectively, for their noble “TUONGEE Initiative.”

“Siko Sawa, Lazima
Tuongee, Niko Tiyari”
The YCC Slogan



IMAGE: ANN NGUNJIRI

Let's Get Something Clear

Mental Health is a branch of medicine that deals with our brain, its field is called Psychiatry, ‘dealing with the study, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of mental disorders,’ just like **Bone Health**, known as orthopedics, ‘branch of medicine whose focus is on musculoskeletal system’ – mifupa, or, even **Skin Health**, whose field is Dermatology – branch of medicine dealing with the skin. Neglect of symptoms in either branch of medical care, is obviously adverse effects. “So, Let’s stop stigmatising MENTAL HEALTH, TUONGEE ABOUT IT, PLEASE.”

According to **World Health Organization, WHO**, mental health is a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community.

By Ann Ngunjiri

IMAGES: ANN NGUNJIRI





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