



## Fruitful Citizens Engagement to Inform Next LHS Investment Plans



*First Lady Maria Mbeneka during a recent citizen engagement on matters health*

By David Serem

Residents across the vast Laikipia North and East sub counties have expressed optimism over the sustained stakeholder engagements on matters health, as LHS concluded the first round of the exercise in the expansive region Thursday last week.

The citizens, who turned up in large numbers, hailed the ongoing reforms in the health sector, and promised full community support.

Governor Ndiritu Muriithi, who led the health management team during the exercise, reiterated the government's commitment in walking the public through the journey of reforms, and promised accommodation of the divergent views in shaping the next investment plans.

From the colourful commissioning of a new LHS Lekiji, to the delivery of tens of goats to graduate Traditional Birth Companions in the far North, to the testimony of successful take off of the Sample Referral System, the unveiling of the trailblazing innovations in health have won the hearts of Laikipians. In one way or another, there have been dozens of beneficiaries of the new healthcare delivery system at each of the facilities.

Communities, especially those in Laikipia East, have already expressed the relief that the Medical Outpatient Clinics outreaches have brought to those living with non-communicable disease such as diabetes and hypertension. The LHS Kalalu community, for instance, whose patients have for the longest time had to endure the expensive to and fro journeys for re-

views and drugs refills for management, were thrilled by the new-found, cost effective and convenient way of accessing the regular medical attention.

### **New Investments**

The announcement of mega infrastructural and human capital investments in the region also became the highlight of the feedback from the community. For instance, reaction to the 500 million shillings upgrade to LHS set to be implemented this financial year dominated the feedback from the community. The prospects of having a facility LHS Kimanjo handling most of their medical needs could not be more welcome.

The widespread investments on maternity facilities in the region was good news for mothers. The ease of access to safe motherhood without having to travel to long distances is something the communities are proud to share. ....Is the mega shift by the conservative Laikipia North communities in embracing modern, skilled deliveries, with the step having tremendous success in safe deliveries.

Overall, community confidence in the facilities is on the rise since the efficiencies introduced by Laikipia Health Service. For instance, LHS Mugumo has registered a 33 per cent rise in patient visit since September last year.

## Laikipia CECs Approve Guidelines for Rebates on Electricity, Distribution Costs For Local Manufacturers



*Locally produced breads by Glacier Bakers in Nanyuki town. Some of the local manufacturers will enjoy rebates on electricity and distribution costs of their product*

In an unprecedented move, Laikipia County Executive Committee has approved guidelines for supporting the local manufacturing sector by giving rebates on electricity and product distribution costs.

The move is aimed at supporting the manufacturing sector in Laikipia to become globally competitive to be able to grow the economy and create more employment opportunities.

The committee chaired by Governor Ndiritu Muriithi last week identified 18 manufacturing fields

that will benefit from the rebates programme whose objective is to lower the cost of production for locally-manufactured goods.

The manufacturers will enjoy a rebate of 30 percent of their monthly electricity bills with a ceiling of KShs 100,000 and 50 percent on annual bills with a ceiling of Kshs 50,000.

According to Finance Executive Murungi Ndai, the county government will also foot 30 percent of the permit and other multiple licenses that local manufacturers are charged to distribute their

products in other counties.

“These guidelines are in line with the Public Finance Management (Laikipia County Business Legislative Supplement No. 4 – the regulation) and the Programme-based Budget for 2021/22),” Mr Ndai said.

The sectors targeted for rebate include manufacture of textiles, apparels, food, beverages, tobacco, leather and its products, wood and wood products, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and botanical products, rubber and plastic products.

Others are manufacture of non-metallic products, fabricated metal products, electronic, optical products and electrical equipment, machinery and equipment, motor vehicles, trailers and other transport equipment, furniture, other manufacturing, mining and quarrying.

To enjoy the rebates, manufacturers will be required to provide proof that the content or materials for their production is obtained locally, the external competitors, among other parameters. They are also expected to demonstrate the outcome of their requested rebate in terms of lowered prices of their products, market penetration, sales or revenue growth and job creation projections or any other positive outcome.

# Warwick Hotel: Game Changer in the Hospitality Sector

By Muriithi John

There is nothing that attracts investors more than a secure, political goodwill, and general conducive environment- Laikipia is a witness to this reality.

Several businesses have opened up in the last five years, ranging from financial institutions and supermarkets to Hotels and Industries.

The most recent and one-of-a-kind investment is The Warwick Hotel Nanyuki which has brought new life to the town.

Opened on the New Year's Eve, the hotel has seen more customers visit to have a taste of their unique products and services.

According to the General Manager, Wallace Chege, the hotel the reason for customers wanting to visit the restaurant is because of the fair prices they are charging compared to the standards of services available.

"We are offering five-star services at a three-star rate," said Mr. Chege.

Situated just around 50 metres from the famous Equator signage as one enters Nanyuki, the high-end enterprise provides a clear view of Mount Kenya, especially from the top floor which is covered in clear glass to allow the customers to enjoy the view without any hindrance.

Another thing making the enterprise more appealing to even the



locals is the fact that they are buying their products from the local markets and slaughter houses a mantle that is being promoted by County Government of Laikipia. Through Buy Laikipia Build Laikipia, the county is encouraging consumption of products and services from within the county.

This is in the spirit of believing that Laikipia products are of high quality and thus one needs to only import what Laikipia lacks.

The 78-roomed hotel has four mega conference rooms, three medium ones, and four smaller ones-used as boardrooms.

"The largest conference room holds up to 100 people sitting following the COVID-19 regulations, while the medium ones hold 50, still while following the guidelines," Mr. Chege said.

On the ground-floor is the main restaurant named Hibiscus and a rooftop bar called Ikwetta Sky Lounge with a DJ.

A SPA area with modern gym also exists with a trainer to help people keep fit and a massage parlour. Alongside this is a swimming pool with a pool garden and a poolside choma zone.

The Warwick Hotel Nanyuki has created direct job opportunities to 40 individuals, 80 percent of whom come from Laikipia. The aim is to reach at over 80 employees in the near future as the business keep growing.

During the construction, 150 people at any given moment relied on the enterprise, only unique expertise was sourced. Also, majority of the products came from the local hardware, not from the city.

## Promoting Industry Experience in Vocational Training Institutions



*County officials led by CEC Ndai receive training donations at NVTC from Simba Foundation*

By Janet Wambaki

**N**anyuki Vocational Training Centre (NVTC) on January 24, 2022 received a kind donation from Simba Corporation through the Simba Foundation. The Simba foundation, through 'Unda Future' program, focus on education to provide technical and entrepreneurial skills training for youth in vocational training institutes.

The program is very essential as it provides students with opportunity to gain industry experience mostly in the field of automobile. The aim is to help VTCs across the country and NVTC is the first beneficiary in Laikipia.

The Program Manager of Simba Foundation Emmanuel Oduor, together with other Simba Corp officials brought in some motor vehicle tools and equipment which are pivotal for the school motor vehicle technology training studies.

These include: Clutch Booster, FE

Injector Pump & Fit Pump, Crown Wheels, Pinion, Differential housing, Differential bearing, FI 3 Way Exhaust Valve, FI Brake shoe return spring, Jack, Alternators, FJ Starter, FI Starter, FI Clutch servo-booster, FI Injector nozzle and Gear box synchronizers.

While accepting the contribution, the institution's manager said that it was going to help immensely in their undertakings. Under the County Leasing Program, Simba Corp has collaborated with Laikipia county for two years to ensure modernity in all things concerning motor vehicles by provision of equipment.

"The institution has 52 students in motor vehicle technology out of the total 243 with 22 being on attachment. They are committed to be successful in this filed," the HOD said.

The motor vehicle Technology offers courses such as mechanic, electrical, spray painting and driving. They offer level 1,2,3 for NITA and Arti-

san for KNEC.

Apart from Simba Corp, the institution also collaborates with BATUK, 13 Kings, Flamingo Flowers and Toyota Kenya in offering industrial attachment opportunities, training aid, coveralls, motor vehicle technology and also school fee assistance for the less privileged students. The faculty of motor vehicle technology has trained over 600 students since its interception.

The CO Education, James Mwangi, is hopeful that the Corp will be interested in penetrating the other nine VTCs in the county in the near future.

"There is more in store for you as we continue to forge this partnership." Mr Oduor said assuring of the countinuity in working with the county government.

Education Ag. CEC Murungi Ndai reiterated the county is keen on innovation and is working on improving enterprises to help in selling Laikipia's products globally.

# Quenching Thirst in Kinamba Town



*Digging of pipe trenches in Kinamba town Below: Offloading of pipes for Kinamba water project*

By Vivian Wachira

**K**inamba water project is one of the major projects implemented by the County Government of Laikipia. Survey conducted by the Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resource found that water table in Kinamba is not that deep therefore fit for boreholes drilling.

In the run to eradicate scarcity of water in Kinamba, four boreholes were drilled that is in Karungu B, G.G primary, Munanda and Nga'rwā areas. After drilling of the boreholes, it was seen that the Karungu B borehole is nearer to Sipili and therefore costly to pump water to Kinamba hence it was left to supply water in Sipili, Phase 1 of this project included drilling and equipping of the boreholes, which is complete already. On Phase

2 set to be completed by mid-February includes doing the trenches and laying of pipes thereafter connecting water to the population in the area. Contractors are expected to do 29 km of laying pipes.

“We expect to connect 5000 people with water for consumption and irrigation in Kinamba,” says CEC Water, Environment, and Natural Resources Peter Matunge.

Based on the fusibility assessment, the amount of water required to be supplied in Kinamba is around 550cm<sup>3</sup> per day but with the three boreholes supply 290cm<sup>3</sup>.

“Currently we have implemented phase 2 of the Kinamba water project and we have signed an M.O.U with Nyahururu Water and Sanitation Company to procure, implement and supervise the project,” added CEC Hon. Peter Matunge.



## Laikipia Transforming Towns Through Well-Thought Out Planning



*Tarmacking of the Ol-Jabet Smart Town by the County Government of Laikipia. Other nine towns will get such treatment*

County government of Laikipia is implementing smart town projects across the county with 10 towns identified for major transformation. The Department of Lands, Housing, Energy and Physical Planning has been in the forefront in ensuring timely delivery of the smart town initiatives. The initial stage has been planning for these projects to provide an overall integrated physical framework for urban development.

These roads in these urban areas will be tarmacked, and others developed using long lasting cobblestones

In Laikipia, the contractors working on houses or roads must adhere to the set plan to the letter so as to receive payment at the end of the work. All roads must include pedestrian walk-ways to avoid congestion on the main roads. This in turn has greatly reduced the number of accidents, especially in the urban areas.

The county government is integrating the GIS system in these smart towns for better registration and knowing the exact position of the different structures. NAWASCO for example is using this digital method to locate all their metres and pipelines.

Proper planning also will facili-

tate towns that can expand as population grows. It is the lack of a well-planned town that brings about villages that were never thought of.

Town plans also include public utilities where schools and hospitals may later be built as required by law to have these amenities as the population grows.

These plans will also help investors from locating their businesses in the riparian land, along sewer lines, or in a land dedicated for public park.

Plans also provide basis for development control through identifying which areas are for commercial use and for residential. Thus, an investor using these plans will have easy time making an informed decision to invest wisely.

During plan development, there is also inclusivity of the lighting system to facilitate a 24-hour economy in any developed area. Street lighting also helps in increasing the security levels as many heinous acts happen in darkness. The government is taking advantage of the ample sunshine in the county to install solar-powered lights in the streets, which makes the correct usage of the taxpayers' money.

Generally, a well-planned urban area not only solves immediate conflicts, but also those that may occur in coming decades.

# County Linking COVID-19 Affected Businesses to Funding

By Paul Ole Kimiri,

Measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 have disrupted informal labour markets and led to significant income loss for many low-income households. Few will have the financial resources to weather this storm, let alone provide additional care for loved ones in need.

The County Government of Laikipia through the Directorate of Tourism and Film, and in partnership with Laikipia Tourism Association has helped to link affected tourism related businesses especially in the Beadwork Value Chain; and employees who lost their jobs in the hospitality industry across the county to a three-month COVID-19 stipend under the Kenya Emergency Cash Fund created by GiveDirectly in partnership with the Shikilia initiative.

*The snapshot summary on the enrollment for the Cash Relief Program is as follows;*

Enrollment Stage	Number of Beneficiaries
Ineligible	7
Pay	228
Refused	3
Registration	2
Written Off	73
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>313</b>



*Director Paul Kimiri leads in promoting beadwork business in the county*

Shikilia is a collaboration between Culture.

Kenyan private sector and non-profit organizations to raise funds and provide emergency cash transfers to low-income Kenyan communities to replace lost income due to COVID-19 and prevent a widespread humanitarian crisis. Partner organizations include Black Butterfly, Busara, Dalberg, Endeavor Kenya, FSD Kenya, GiveDirectly, JoyJet, Mercy Corps, NCBA, Oxfam, Pesalink, Safaricom, Sokowatch, and Sun-

**Ineligible:** individual either previously enrolled in to a GD program/enrolled during this phase but had their phone number fail name verification against Mpesa database

**Pay:** individual successfully enrolled and currently receiving / awaiting funds

**Refused:** individual did not give enrollment individual did consent and therefore dropped

**Registration:** individual had not been fully enrolled before the enrollment period lapsed out in December 2021

**Written off:** individual did not respond to the enrollment SMS survey or phone calls from the call Centre after multiple attempts

Payments started on the month of December 2021 which runs for three months.

*Mr. Kimiri is the Director Tourism and Film Services*

# Song and Dance meet Opening of LHS Lekiji Outlet



*The newly opened LHS Lekiji Outlet*

By Andrew E. K. Maina

**T**here was joy and jubilation as the Laikipia County Government, in conjunction with the Laikipia Health Service, opened a new facility in Lekiji. Residents broke into songs of jubilation as Governor Ndiritu Muriithi and First Lady Maria Mbeneka cut the ribbon on the facility and staff house for the resident medical officer serving the community at this facility.

The communities have since independence relied on services from the dispensaries in the neighboring conservancies which are quite far and not readily available especially at night. Other times, they were forced to travel to LHS-Naibor and LHS-

Muramati which are miles away.

“We have suffered for a long time. When a person gets sick, we find a way to get them to Mpala Research Centre. The conservancy has been of great help to us, and we thank them for helping us out. We can’t believe that we finally have our own facility in this village. We are very grateful to the government for remembering us,” Mzee Lesiani explained.

Mzee Lesiani narrated how at times they would brave attacks from wild animals as they took their loved ones to hospital.

The facility opening marked the climax of the first day of a 13-day exercise of citizen engagements, through which the Governor, together with the leadership of Laikipia Health Service, also visit-

ed Laikipia Health Service Muramati and Laikipia Health Service Naibor earlier on the same day. The governor’s tour will see him visit over 40 Laikipia Health Service outlets in the county interacting with members of the public and informing them of the various changes that are being affected under LHS.

Two more outlets shall be opened to the public in the next two weeks. The outlets shall enable Laikipia Health Service attend to more people who are in need of medical services but have been unable to access them due to long distances. Laikipia Health Service is committed to offering quality health services to all across the county and beyond.