



Citizens Have Their Say in County Spending



By Nahashon Maina

The County Government of Laikipia conducted a week-long public participation in all wards for County Fiscal Strategic Paper (CFSP) 2022-2023 that ended on January 21 2022. About 60 public participation meetings were organised by the Department of Finance to set the final sector ceiling for county government expenditure in the next FY.

The CFSP is one of the requirements of the budget making process where the public gets an opportunity to propose projects that the county government should prioritize in their wards. The CFSP guides the county government by specifying strategic priorities and policy goals when preparing its budget for the next FY

and also medium term.

It acts as the primary financial policy document by indicating how the government will prioritize allocation of resources in financing its programmes and projects.

Laikipia has highlighted five key areas that will take priority in the 2022-2023 FY. The areas are enterprise development, increased productivity, Laikipia health service, Smart towns and public reforms.

In enterprise development, the county intends to Support Vocational training centers mandate to incorporate production and manufacturing units, enhance capacity building on entrepreneurial skills and implement business regulations for a condu-

cive business environment, market the county as a tourist destination through the Twende Laikipia Initiative and Destination Laikipia in collaboration with players in the tourism industry. For increased productivity, the government will focus on mega water harvesting, storage and irrigation infrastructures and equipment, supporting farmers access quality and affordable agriculture through feedlot systems to improve the quality and quantity of beef produced.

Laikipia Health service will focus on increasing access to quality and affordable healthcare through increasing countywide enrolment to NHIF, renovation, refurbishment and branding of all health outlets to reflect the vision, mission and values of LHS, embrace leasing of medical equipment to improve services.

In public reforms, there will be continuous implementation of results-based framework to raise staff productivity and meritocracy, strengthening of iCOMs, and staff capacity development through training and other skill development programmes at all job levels.

Laikipia County Revenue Board Makes History in the 1st Half Year, 2021/2022



Transformation of Oljabet town through the Smart Towns Initiative. Laikipia experience direct transformational projects in the county, thus are willing to continue paying taxes

By Jackline Mariga

Laikipia County has realized the highest revenue collection in the first half of 2021/2022 FY since devolution. During the period from 1st June to 31st December 2021, the county accumulated a total of almost Ksh. 400 million. The revenue department projects to hit the one billion target mark by end of this financial year.

So far, they have achieved 39% of their target which is good progress. The CEO Revenue Board Prudence Waithera points out that this is a great improvement compared to the previous years.

“According to how we performed there is an improvement of 22.2% compared to the previous financial year- first half which was estimated to have an increment of 11.4%.”

Since devolution, the revenue being realized is almost doubling as in the 2015/2016 FY revenue realized was Ksh 482,151,083 while in 2020/2021 there was a total of Ksh 840,396,633 collected.

In 2018/2019, which has the second highest revenue collection at ksh 815million, the first half year collection stood at Ksh 285.7 million, indicating a 38.8% improvement compared to the current financial year 2021/2022.

Governor Ndiritu Muriithi termed it as “an excellent performance considering that it is at the backdrop of covid 19.” He is thankful to the Revenue Board and Laikipia residents of for the cooperation towards the success of the County.

This incredible performance of

continuous growth of OSR is credited to a continuous engagement with stakeholders, reforms within the County Public Service, and embracing Technology. There has also been tangible translation of OSR to various developments within the County; infrastructure, improved health services, water for production among others.

Laikipians are motivated to pay taxes out of the fruits they are enjoying from the County Governments work. In the past years it was hard to convince residents to pay taxes and business licenses since they felt their money will end up in specific individual’s pockets.

The county government of Laikipia has proven right its residents by utilizing their revenue in an accountable way. The government has put up an economic stimulus program in place to boost and revive businesses, which have suffered a major blow, brought about by the impact of Covid 19 pandemic. There are development programs running across the whole county which vividly show the economic impact of the revenue accumulated, for example the smart town initiative where towns like Oljabet, Rumuruti among others are enjoying.

Laikipia North Residents Mesmerized by Timely Garbage Collection

By Muriithi John

Residents of the northern part of Laikipia County are unable to hide their joy after what has been troubling them for long became a thing of the past. The main problems came from the poorly handled waste in the area. It was very common to find broken beer bottles all over the place, posing a great hazard to the locals.

However, the residents are happy for the county government's efforts to collect the waste and also train them on how best to treat different kinds of waste.

According to Jane Kamwaro, a business woman in Kimanjo, one of the happiest moments is seeing all the waste taken away from the town from time to time, rendering the town one of the cleanest in the region.

"I am very pleased to see that county truck come and collect all the waste here and take it away. The waste has been troubling us for long," said Kamwaro.

Another resident, also a businessman from the same locality, comments the county government's efforts to create employment for many in efforts to make the towns clean.

"Since the beginning of this exercise, many people have gotten jobs that help them earn their livelihood. Were it not for this noble cause, maybe they would be



engaging in some illegal activities," commented Jilius Mamaiyo.

Samuel Maina, the Laikipia North Sub-County Environment Officer attributes the success of this programme to the corporation of majority of the people in the region. He has been conducting training exercise for the local across all the towns in the area for better waste management.

"I have been training the locals on the need to recycle the necessary material, and generally how to handle different types of waste products to avoid cluttering the towns," said Maina, adding that there are at least two people employed for cleaning every town and must be from the same locality.

Maina says the trainings have helped the locals, and especially the business people to well-manage their garbage and disposing it in specific places for easier collection.

"It is our duty as government to offer these services because the tax these people pay includes even garbage collection," Maina added.

In just three months, Maina and his team has collected 40 tones of bottles in Kimanjo area.

A clean environment creates a healthy environment for people to live without health complications. It also attracts more investors and hence faster growth of an area.

Queen's bees Dairy Penetrating Milk Business in Laikipia



Queen Bees was formed in 2019 when it started as a bakery. The startup company later changed the concept. Reason for their commencement of the business is that they had always wanted to do value addition of farm products. When they saw an opportunity in Laikipia, they took the bull by the horn and started a business of dairy products, majoring in yoghurt and Mala.

Their main ingredient is Milk and certified milk cultures with no additives or preservatives. Since the company is still growing, the proprietors like working with minimal suppliers so that the quality is not compromised, hence, two appointed milk suppliers. They are targeting schools but need to roll out a program with the government on how they can go about it since not many schools can afford to buy their students yogurt. They sell at an affordable price of Ksh 20 per cup to stu-

dents.

As far as customer response goes, they are getting positive feedback from customers who have experienced their products. This is triggering the feel and need to take off in a big way.

The choice of Nyahururu was identified because it's the second biggest town in Laikipia and proximity to the upcoming Laikipia Headquarter in Rumuruti. Also, the population is high and the dairy products sold here come from other counties. The town is also very close to where they purchase milk, not to mention their home town hence giving back to the community that brought them up.

In the near future, they are eyeing production of cheese and butter and do their own processing. Their main target customers are Laikipians and Samburu because their cultural food entails milk which made them

focus on value addition of Milk.

Their goal is to bring healthy competition to big players who supply the dairy products in Laikipia, Samburu, Nyandarua and Nyeri. They plan to go national to penetrate in hotels and supply chains, and even export market.

The referral system of customers has helped them in a big way. The organization is in the process of joining the Laikipia Innovation Program that has hand held close to 2,000 innovators.

The team plans to acquire a pasteurizer with minimum capacity of 200 litres.

In December 2021, the County First Lady Maria Mbeneka offered financial assistance through introduction of financial officials which they hope to work on this year.

Fb: Queen B's

Instagram; milkmom_031.

Progress of Near-Complete Makurian Water Project



By Vivian Wachira

Laikipia North is a semi-arid area due to the little rainfall in those areas. Majority of the community living there are pastoralists while others practice small scale farming. the County Government of Laikipia came up with the Makurian Water Project to rescue communities living in the area due to scarcity of water.

Several developments have been carried out on the Makurian Water Project to ensure that the project is a success and that water runs efficiently in the area. So far, two distribution tanks have been completed in chumvi area that is the Loruko and Lekurut tanks. Laying of the racing main pipe has also been completed from the two tanks in Lolmarek and Olkalkar and also laying of trench pipes from Olkalkar to the last tank in Kiwanja ndege.

The contractor working on the project sites has been given additional work that is, to do two balancing tanks; one at Ngusero and the other at Wiyumiririe. He will also lay distribution lines at Osi-tat, Ngusero and Wiyumiririe.

“Contractors have started the work and are doing the trenches; the work is expected to be completed by the end of January



2022. Some people are connected with water using the existing network pipes at chumvi and also embark on the repair of tanks at Olkinyei and Kiwanja,” assured CEC in charge of Water Hon. Peter Matunge.

Some challenges are being encountered with the ongoing project like along the Borana line due to high water pressures, the pipes keep on bursting. Although repairs have been done and also pressure reducing valves installed, the pressure reducing valves are causing only a quarter of water to be pumped to Makurian dam.

The main purposes of the Makurian water project are for domestic use and also to be used by institutions surrounding the area. People are encouraged to use this water also for production both small- and large-scale farming.

Ongoing final stages of the Makurian Water Project in Laikipia North

Effecting Grain Stores Operationalization for Farmers' Benefits



A capacity building workshop to ensure farmers maximumly utilize their grain stores

By Mollin Wanjiru

For sustainable operations and management of the business aspects of facilities, intensive training of the beneficiaries is an integral part of any project. With the completion of the grain storage facilities in Laikipia West, initiatives by the Department of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries in partnership with EU-IDEAS, has been to conduct capacity building workshops to ensure that the warehouses are fully operational. Committee members of the three cooperatives in the area have been trained on warehouse operations and management for three days in Nyahururu. The warehouses will be managed and run by the cooperative societies. Warehousing is vital in promoting food safety and security by

addressing post-harvest losses among small-holder farmers and other stakeholders.

The farmers will also be able to access financial capital and farm inputs through the established stores. The cooperative societies will be able to source for affordable inputs because they can directly source inputs from accredited stocks, manufacturers and distributors.

The department distributed various equipment necessary for drying and proper storage of the grains; pallets, moisture meters, tents, trolleys, weighing scales, spikes and protective gears in each of the warehouses. This will also aid in proper running of the warehouse.

The warehouses are awaiting to receive the dryers to help reduce

post-harvest losses following proper drying. Storage will increase marketable volumes which in turn result to higher farmers' incomes, operationalize WRS and marketing

The operationalization of the stores for business development will involve the actualization of warehouse receipting system for the three facilities.

Establishment of warehouse receipting system will also improve marketing linkage systems and predictable farmers' incomes. ASDSP has been training farmers in Laikipia West being one of the key stakeholders in implementing the WRS system.

Major benefits of the grain storage facilities include;

- * Reduced post-harvest losses of maize
- * Increased volumes to strategic grain reserves for food security
- * Reduced aflatoxins incidences
- * Increased farm incomes from maize production
- * Increased access to farm inputs, credit and extension services
- * Increased access to formal markets and institutional linkages
- * Increased job opportunities to the local citizens along the value chain
- * Increased county revenue collections
- * Increased investments in the maize value chain

Planning, Physical Infrastructure and Titling In Smart Towns

There is need to make a proper plan before establishment of any project. When referring to a plan for say towns, it means having a legal document that provides an overall integrated physical framework for urban growth of a centre/municipality for a period of 10 years.

Plans are prepared to define the vision for future growth and development of the urban areas as well as identify challenges, opportunities and constraints while mapping key priority areas for implementation to improve livelihoods.

Plans provide realistic implementation framework for all projects identified in the plan

Other reasons for preparing a plan is to help provide basis for development control, allocate sufficient space for various land uses, provide a basis for infrastructure and service provision, enhance secure land tenure (encourages investments and growth), and facilitate making informed investment decisions.

Despite the many challenges that planners encounter to come up with the legal paper like outdated existing plans not responsive to modern needs, uncoordinated developments, lack of ownership documents, environmental degradation, grabbing of public land, and rapid land fragmentation, a well-structured plan for physical



A well-planned Nanyuki town that provides for a 24 hour economy, has pedestrian walkways, is clean and has well-marked parking areas

infrastructure will have a functional urban and integrated urban transport- efficient, accessible and affordable public transport; enhanced mobility through transit, pedestrian and bicycles systems. This is what the county insists on as opposed to the past when contractors only focused on catering for those using motorized means, yet those without are the majority. Having a planned urban centre eliminates chances of unnecessary flooding and congestion while promoting great architectural designs, proper sewerage system, innovation and more job opportunities. There is also great security system and cleanliness in town that have a plan.

A good plan also contains public open spaces and quality recrea-

tion for improved well-being and quality of life of the citizens. This takes place through enhanced community and social interaction- aesthetic physical environment

Quality housing is also found in a modern plan. It contains well-planned residential neighborhoods; range of housing opportunities, livable communities and affordable housing. Also found in a plan is competitive business places. These are very well-designed, business and investor friendly commercial centers.

Plans also have enhanced tenure security- survey and allocation of resultant plots for titling.

CFSP Public Participation in Photos



Solio Village 3 Chief's Compound



Ndemu, Umande Ward



Posata, Sosian Ward



Ndururumo, Rumuruti Ward



Kanyoni, Nanyuki Ward