



Laikipia

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WEEKLY
BULLETIN

PG 2



Honey business bringing more profits to Yakuu Community in Mukogodo forest.

PG 4



NABOSA Sacco has brought sanity and order in the boda boda industry in Laikipia.

PG 7

Huge mineral deposits attracting investors in Laikipia

LHS-Nyahururu Conducts 3-day Urological Surgery Camp



A total of 62 surgeries done in partnership with Kenya Association of Urological Surgeons (KAUS). Full story on page 3.

Increasing Earning from Honey Farming Through Value Addition

By Jackline Mariga

Honey production in Laikipia is gaining traction as several companies invest in packaging the product to increase the price. Small Scale Farmers company is investing in local community of Yakuu in Mukogodo forest to increase their earning from honey farming.

The community is famously for their organic honey and will benefit immensely as the partnership will enable them to engage in value addition once they harvest their product. To sustain their cultural practice and celebrate heritage, they have named the honey brand 'Sica' which is a word in their Yakunte Language. A community-based organisation, Indigenous Young Mums in the Yakuu community has been in the fore front in engaging in the apicultural activities. Mukogodo forest has high potential due to the favourable weather ensuring there is abundance of bee flora. The partnership in the Indigenous Young Mums and Small Scale Farmers will increase the economic benefit to the community from encouraging modern bee rearing methods.

The Small Scale Farmers has introduction a mobile based app in this community known as Till App.

"The App has been an important business tool as we use it to manage data and records information



on multiple transactions with farmers. It has been crucial in bee rearing in this community as we are able to do 'live' testing and development" said Director Small Scale Farmers, Antony Kigondu.

The Small-Scale Farmers company will be able to buy honey regularly from the community and using the app keep records of number of beehives belong to each the farmers and their background. The app also will play a major role in helping them keep track of progress of bees rearing.

The Yakuu community has a number of small-scale farmers who depend on their honey as a way of making a living. There is always a market day every fortnight based in Doldol Town which give them the opportunity to meet other buyers.

To avoid destroying the micro nutrients that are easily destroyed when honey melted, the Small-Scale Farmers do not use any heat as they package it. The company only sieve the honey by passing it through three different stages of sieving.

They later package the honey into bottles and sell it on behalf of the Yakuu Community. The company mostly ensures that it employs workers from this community especially during harvesting the honey to preserve their traditions.

"We have sent our samples to the different authorities for certification, the National Bee Institute Recommended our honey since it has the lowest water and percentage and its 100 percent organic," Director Antony Kigondu confirmed.

Patients Benefit as LHS-Nyahururu Conducts Urological Surgical Camp



Surgeons performs surgery at LHS-Nyahururu theatre

By Esther Muthoni

Sixty-two patients benefited from three days conducted at LHS-Nyahururu in partnership with Kenya Association of Urological Surgeons (KAUS).

The camp targeted those suffering from various urological related complications such as urological malformations undescended testis, urinary problems, fistulas, abdominal problems in pediatrics, urethra blockage, prostate cancer and kidney stones.

30 surgeries were done in pediatrics medicine for those under 18 years, while the rest involved 30 males and 2 females. The surgical camp made it possible for patients to access the listed urological related treatments at an

affordable cost.

Ibrahim Wainaina from Subukia IDP camp was one of the beneficiaries after the LHS Nyahururu waived his medication bill. Speaking during the camp, the 78 years old said it was a relief after a successful surgery for Transurethral Resection (TURP) of



prostate procedure.

The camp also benefited patients from other counties such as a 10 years old boy from Tana River who had been having problem in passing urine after he was involved in a car accident. His mother Nurkta Ali couldn't hide her joy after the son underwent a successful urethroplasty surgery.

She said they have been seeking treatment from various hospital until last month when they were referred to LHS Nyahururu for urological medical camp.

KAUS team applauded LHS-Nyahururu medical team and staff members for the highly commendable, teamwork, cooperation and preparedness portrayed during the entire surgeries.

All patients who were attended are recuperating well and half of them having discharged before the closure of the camp.

NABOSA Bringing Sanity to the Boda Boda Industry in Laikipia

County Revolving Fund manager Richard Muriguri takes Laikipia boda boda leaders through a training session in Nyahururu



By Muriithi John

The Boda boda industry is a huge economy in Laikipia, even surpassing that of the matatu. The realization of this made various interested individuals to mechanize the industry to be more organized, official and importantly have sanity-Nanyuki Boda Boda Sacco (Nabosa).

This group was formed in 2009 and registered as a Sacco after two years, only accommodating boda boda riders by then.

Ten years later, the Sacco brags of having a membership of close to a thousand and helped many become self-reliant in their daily activities.

"Currently, we have 917 active members. Many of us started as employed riders but we have grown to have our own motorbikes, some have cars and even plots- courtesy of Nabosa Sacco,"

said Patrick Maina, the Sacco treasurer.

Others have managed to educate themselves and their loved ones through the same Sacco. At least 300 people have directly benefitted from the loans offered by this Sacco to do business and upgrade their living standards.

"I always had a dream of owning Nanyuki but the land was expensive and my bodaboda riding business was not paying that much. But courtesy of Nabosa Sacco, not only have I managed to buy land here, but also educated myself and my wife," Moses Njoroge, the Sacco's vice chairperson said.

The secret with this Sacco is taking their work seriously and prioritizing customer satisfaction. Unlike in some other areas where the riders are seen as thugs and unfocused, Nabosa has changed

the narrative in the county to be emulated.

Nabosa uses unique strategies to run the entity such as partnering with other like-minded organizations to expand their scope. They are computerizing their systems to be up-to-date because of the changing technology.

The Sacco now is not limited to the riders only, but accommodates other traders including hawkers, matatu drivers and conductors, and hairdressers.

Dividends from this Sacco are also attractive as they offer their loans at a 10 per cent rate, but can get other loans as a Sacco at six per cent.

The county revolving fund has been a boost to this entity through providing Ksh 5 million loan in total as the organization has a good name for timely repayment.

Communities Shun Misconceptions to Embrace Family Planning



LHS Nanyuki Maternal and Child Health nurse Spelanza Wahome says a rising awareness is driving the uptake of family planning options at the facility

By David Serem

A family planning clinic at LHS Nanyuki last week became a big success following a large turnout in the number of women seeking the service.

A total of 47 women turned up for the joint quarterly exercise between LHS Nanyuki and Marie Stopes Clinic on Tuesday, more than double the figure last seen in a similar exercise in November last year.

The steep rise in the turn up is attributed to the sustained health education by staff at LHS Nanyuki, as Spelanza Wahome, a nurse at the facility explains.

"We are beginning to see the impact of the collective efforts by the hospital staff in encouraging mothers to take matters family planning seriously," the Maternal and Child Health Clinic nurse explains. "There is significant level of educative engagements for mothers throughout the pregnan-

cy journey, with this consistency being extended to the post-natal clinic programs. The outpatient unit has played a significant role in this."

A majority of beneficiaries cited the prevailing economic hardships as the reason for desiring planned families. Lorna, 24 years old beneficiary from Matanya, said family planning is inevitable in the modern-day life.

"As a couple, we agreed on the need for us to have a plan. We have to take charge of our future," Lorna, who opted for a three, -year implant said.

Over the recent past, there has been a steady growth in the number of women seeking family planning services in LHS Nanyuki. In addition to the health education efforts, staff members think is a result of spouses embracing the convenience of small, manageable families.

Availability of reliable information is replacing some long held beliefs and misconceptions surrounding the issue, boosting the uptake of the services.

A notable shift in perception of family planning is also at play in LHS Nanyuki community, as more spouses agree among themselves to go into the plans. For healthcare practitioners, this is a significant shift from the previous experiences where women would secretly go into family planning for fear of their spouse's reaction.

This is seen as a positive development as more people will seek services openly, widening the reach and outcomes. This will help reduce cases of domestic disagreements that arise as a result of women seeking the service in a discreet manner.

Last week's clinic, for instance, witnessed the first ever couple coming together in search of the service. Following an educative session, the couple took time to deliberate on what option best suits their needs before settling on one.

Even with sustained health education on the available options, health providers still believe there is significant peer influence when it comes to the choices of plans women make. Continuous education will bring about better understanding, and therefore better shape the choices individuals make.

As to the role of men in the whole family planning discussion, it appears that a lot has to be done to persuade men to play their part. The notion that family planning is a woman's job is rife in the communities.

Any discussion touching on vasectomy, for instance, is treated with contempt, and draws religious and cultural interpretations to justify the immorality of the practice.

Agriculture Holds Staff 2-Day Engagement for Improved Work



By Mollin Wanjiru

Employee's motivation is crucial in empowering and encouraging the staff to perform better and deliver the best services for the clients. The Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries held an annual staff meeting for officers working in Laikipia West, Laikipia East, and Laikipia North sub-counties on 22nd and 23rd February.

Participation in the formulation of goals leads to commitment through a sense of ownership and high performance. The main aim of the meeting was to highlight the achievements of the various sections and programs, address concerns raised by the officers and enlighten officers on how to improve service delivery.

In the interactive sessions the

officers had an opportunity to share their ideas on how to make the Department better. Wangari Wachira, The CEC in charge of the department, highlighted the docket's vision in order to achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Together with the Chief Officer Emily Kioko, Ms. Wachira addressed the issues raised by the staff members, promising to ensure that all the tools and resources needed to achieve the extension service work will be availed to the officers on time.

The Department has also been providing professional training for the officers to help them improve their skills in service delivery. Various officers have been undertaking short courses while a few are pursuing masters' programs.

It was emphasized that everyone has a personal role in ensuring that they make an impact in whatever they do. The newly employed officers were also officially welcomed into the department. The department will also deploy new officers in the wards to enable the farmers access extension services easily and closer to them.

This meeting brought together all the officers in the sub-counties and the County Headquarters including the Directors, project coordinators and other Senior officers. The engagement will go a long way in improving service delivery and make Laikipia great.

It was a great interaction, like team building where people feel to be an essential part of the team and interact freely with their colleagues. Rarely do such a meeting, especially a physical one and address the real issues as they are.

Huge Mineral Deposit in Laikipia Attracting Investors' Interest



By John Wachira

Mining in Laikipia County has received a global recognition after 3 days visit from Spain investors from Tolsa Limited led by their Mining Development Engineers, Eng. Alexander Fernandez and Eng. Rafael Gonzalez.

This happens some months after the Directorate of Mining did a quantitative report on marble within Laikipia County where the study showed a huge potential in terms of quality and quantity of the marble. Marble found can be



Above: County team meeting with Tolsa Limited engineers

Left: Tolsa engineer exploring mineral site at Kirimon area

used in the manufacture of floor tiles and also in the production of cement among other many uses. However, the investors having come from a clay mineral-based company were interested in Laikipia Clays among other minerals.

Laikipia is endowed with the following clay minerals; Bentonite, Sepiolite and Kaolin. Sepiolite and bentonite clay were observed to be of great quantities. These clays are used as pet fillers, animal feed additives, carriers' absorbents and as thickeners. Kirimon area is

where these minerals are found.

The Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources headed by CECM Hon. Peter Matunge, Chief Officer Eng. June Kawira and the Director of Mining Eng. Chris Kimanga held a meeting with the potential investors after the site visits on how to industrialize Laikipia through Mining and they agreed to work hand in hand.

Even as the Directorate of Mining intends to start the process of registering of marble sites as mining blocks the county invites local and international investors to take up opportunities in manufacturing sector as county government gear to make Laikipia a mining and manufacturing hub.

Ensuring People Safety Through Standard Structural Construction, Maintenance



Well-marked C77-Liberty Petrol Station-Nyaki Aga Khan Hospital Loop in Nyahururu

By Julius Murage

It is the responsibility of the County Government of Laikipia to provide public infrastructure building designs and the required construction supervision to ensuring everything is up to standard across the county.

Infrastructural building designs are structured concretely for durability and full benefit to its people. The road networks are some of the modernized designs created for specific essence under through operation.

Safety of the people is a core value of consideration. The devolved unit has been doing this for the residents through the enforcement of regulations and

standards to be followed as they are supposed to in every sector. This has been put to reward through awareness, licensing, taxation and penalties to those not adhering to the rules. For instance, a truck driver parking in an area clearly marked for parking for those with wheelchairs will have their cars crumpled for inconveniencing the physically challenged in the towns.

Also, for safety, the government insists on road contractors ensuring a spacious walkway for non-motorists aimed at reducing congestion on the main road. Thus, minimizing the number and chances of accidents.

The government is also promoting

public lighting initiatives in partnership with property owners and businesses that are emerging resourceful to the people. Laikipia County youth program funds has been one of the revolutionary partnerships that has helped improve industrialization and economic growth to the laikipians.

Laikipia County government manages and repairs its developed resources through maintenance units comprising movable assets and staff to undertake regular and emergence works. Road layering, buildings and machineries resourcing has been much a task among others to keep Laikipia on the move.