

Laikipia County

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Our Main Story

The Governor's CUP

Laikipia County Governor's Cup was last held in 2016. After that, the tournament took a sabbatical leave, just to bounce back this year 2023, after six years of rendering once vibrant Laikipia's 110 villages dull, and conspicuously inactive.

The launch of the tournament...

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HE. Joshua Irungu Officially launches the Governor's Cup, 2023



Laikipia County Governor's Cup was last held in 2016. After 2017, the tournament took a sabbatical leave, just to bounce back this year 2023, after six years of rendering once vibrant Laikipia's 110 villages dull

and conspicuously inactive. Therefore, the relaunch of the tournament on March 2023 by His Excellency Governor Joshua Irungu EGH did not only scratch the lost beautiful memories of 2013 through 2016, but it did more, it rejuvenated the youth's stunted hope of having a

I have interacted with various groups of youth, and I can promise you Sir, you have touched the hearts of thousands of youths and households in Laikipia, in affirming that youth matter in your administration, and that they are integral pillar of government and society,"
CO Jecinta Koree

platform where they can showcase their talents, expose their sports ingenuity, refine it, and while at it, earn money too. At Nanyuki Green Stadium, the Governor was joined by Laikipia County Commissioner Joseph Kanyiri, HE. Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri, County Assembly Deputy Speaker Hon. Antho-



310 teams participating, 100K prize at ward level winner, and 500K for the overall County Champions ultimate winner



“I believe in the endless potential of our people, and especially the youth. It’s the reason my first directive upon resuming office was to restore these games.”

ny Theuri, Ag CEC of Education, Sports and Youth Stephen Kisorio, MCA Igwamiti Hon. Irene Wachuka, CO Department of Sports and Youth Jecinta Koree, among other national and county officials.

Even the heavens validated the auspicious occasion. The tournament launch was graced by heaven’s showers, as people braved the rains

to witness the noble, talent scouting intervention, they have always asked the government to consider. They were delighted to discover the tournament will be from grassroots level, right from ward level, involving both male and female teams.

“I believe in the endless potential of our people, and especially the youth. It’s the reason my first directive

upon resuming office was to restore these games,” Governor Irungu jovially explained during the tournament launch.

The tournament will bring together 310 teams from across the County in a series of matches that will culminating to an award ceremony at a yet to be communicated date and venue.



IMAGES: Naphtally Otieno



In the tournament design, each of the participating team will receive sports kits and balls from the County Government of Laikipia.

In the tournament design, each of the participating team will receive sports kits and balls from the County Government of Laikipia. That is not all, the winners at the ward level will take home a whopping KES. 100, 000 while winners at County level will dance to a half a million shillings.

Officially, the games began on Saturday 25th March 2023, from the ward level, then they escalate to the Sub County level, and will finally climax with the finals at the County

level in the month of May.

The Ag. CEC Education, Youth, Sports and Social Services Mr. Stephen Kisorio said the tournament is testimony to Governor Irungu's commitment to youth empowerment.

"I urge our young people to take advantage of this tournament to demonstrate their talents, and while at it, earn a livelihood," Kisorio encouraged while Chief Officer Sports and Youth, Jecinta Koree could not hide her excitement, in awe she re-

assured the Governor that her department will actualise the intended outcome of sport.

"Leading the technical preparations of this tournament Governor, I have interacted with various groups of youth and I can promise you Sir, you have touched the hearts of thousands of youths and households in Laikipia, in affirming that youth matter in your administration, and that they are integral pillar of government and society," CO Jecinta ended the launch, at high pitch.

By Naphtally Otieno



IMAGES: Naphtally Otieno

Fertilizer Closer to Farmers, and March-April-May Weather Forecast Advisory, Out

The National Government's subsidised fertilizer that HE. President Dr. William Ruto promised is finally in our two national NCPB stores, in Nyahururu and in Nanyuki.

County Government of Laikipia, in cognisant of how hard Laikipia County has been hit by prolonged drought, it is taking no chance. Governor, swiftly has ordered that the fertilizer to be taken closer to farmers, rather than having farmers fetching the fertilizer

from Nyahururu and from Nanyuki stores.

“Agriculture is my priority sector and that is why I said, my administration will take initiative to bring the fertilizer to the farmers to cut down on farm production cost. Laikipia West farmers can pick their inputs now at Ol Moran, at Kinamba and in Rumuruti,” Governor explains.

Laikipia East farmers are picking their fertilizer from Lamuria, Ngobit and in Umande. An extra safe storage facility is being sort at Jua Kali or at Naibor to cater for farmers in the North of Laikipia. These efforts are strategic and deliberate to ensure the farmers do not miss on the pounding rains.

The Kenya Meteorological department through the County Director Mr. David Njiru has released the downscaled weather outlook for March-April-May (MAM) 2023 rainfall season in Laikipia.

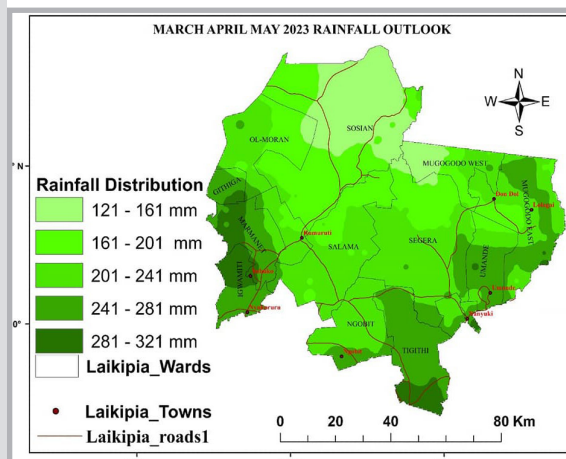
Going by the Forecasted Scenarios, the probability of Above Normal rainfall -20%, Normal rainfall- 30% while Below Normal rainfall- 50%. The Seasonal rainfall is therefore likely to be Below Normal compared to the MAM LTM.

Laikipia is among the Counties expected to receive light to moderate rainfall over a few areas over the weekend. This rainfall is expected to increase in intensity and spread to several places from Monday.

Fertilizer closer to people and prompt weather advisory complements Government's efforts of ensuring that farmers are equipped with necessary knowledge and skills, even by through extension services, so that soon, Laikipia can become food secure and resilient against future droughts, in Laikipia County.



IMAGES: Kipkimei Rutto



By Mollin Wanjiru

Laikipia Keen on Value Addition Technology, Courts KIRDI

Governor Joshua Irungu EGH, is on a roll, escalating his efforts in search of development partners who can complement his development agenda.

Agriculture being one of Governor's key development pillar, and appreciating the knowledge gap, skills and technology that is much needed for Laikipia products to have optimal value addition benefits, On March 3, 2023, Governor toured Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI), to implore areas in which the research institute can partner with Laikipia to optimise on Agri-business.

He was received by Director General of the Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI), Dr. Calvin Onyango. Governor, toured the research facility in a visit he termed "eye-opener."

Discussions focused on how to grow the agriculture sector in Laikipia County through the adoption of improved farming practices and the use of technology to achieve climate-smart agriculture, as well as how to double Laikipia's agriculture sector's Gross Domestic Product, GDP.

"Laikipia has the potential to develop an advanced and profitable value chain in hides, skin, and leather due to our large herd size, which averages to over 2 million cattle," Governor Irungu informed the KIRDI officials as he explained the potential in Laikipia.

Laikipia is also keen to explore opportunities for gainful employment for the County's population in manufacturing and agro processing to aid the county's economy.

Governor also, at KIRDI, explored opportunities in emerging technologies such as Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Clean Energy, Microchips, Power Tool Assembly, Electronics, and the ever-changing internet technologies. The County boss was joined by his Deputy HE. Reuben Kamuri and County Secretary Koinange Wa-home, among other top officials,



IMAGES: Kipkimei Rutto



World Forest Day: Celebrating Value of Forests in Our Lives

Aerial View of the vast Marmanet Forest in Marmanet Ward, Laikipia County

Courtesy - Standard - Fredrick Otieno

On 21st March 2023, the County Government of Laikipia led by H.E Governor Joshua Irungu EGH, held a tree planting ceremony at Marmanet Forest, Laikipia West to mark the World Forest Day.

The event was graced by PS Sylvia Museiya, Principal Secretary for wildlife, PS Mary Muthoni, Principal Secretary for collective services, a delegation from Probation and After Care Services Kenya and 150 ex-convicts who were present to assist in the tree planting activity.

The tree-planting event kicked off with the launch of 100,000 trees, which the government targets to plant as part of its efforts to restore the ecosystem of Marmanet Forest. On that day, a total of 16,000

trees were planted. This initiative is a step closer to achieving President Ruto’s goal of planting 15 billion trees by the year 2032.

This year’s theme, ‘Forest and Health,’ sheds focus on the overall significance of forests in supporting our health. A walk in the forest promotes relaxation, which improves our physical and mental wellbeing, for example. Additionally, forests provide nutritious foods and medicinal plants used to treat a variety of diseases. All of these health benefits necessitates our efforts to plant and grow trees.

In his speech, Governor Irungu stressed on the importance of forests in reversing the effects of climate change in order to ensure food security and efficient supply of energy and water. In this context, he called for integrated efforts in the restoration and management of forests to spur agricultural and economic development in the county.

“We need to innovate and bring together different stakeholders and policies that will help in forest expansion to address the present and the future needs of our people,” the Governor noted.

Report & IMAGES: Melvin Nderitu



Fighting Hunger and Malnutrition in ECDE School Through Partnership

The Laikipia County Government has signed an MOU with Soy Afric and Africa Nel Cuore that will strengthen the government's efforts to ensure food security and nutrition among the people of Laikipia. County.

The first agenda on both MOUs is to launch a school feeding programme for ECDE learners that targets to provide 30,000 school kids with one nutritious meal daily across various wards in the County.

The MoU between the County and Africa Nel Cuore will see the later adopting several schools across Laikipia and sponsoring for them for the school feeding programme.

Africa Nel Cuore is a donor organisation based in Italy that deals in social welfare programmes, community empowerment and conservation initiatives in Kenya and is currently hosted at the Rumuruti Catholic Parish by Father Mino Vaccari .

The MoU signed between the county and Soy Afric will see the company provide fortified flour to the county to be distributed in schools and which will be used to make nutritious uji for all ECDE children benefiting from the programme.

The programmes are a culmination of efforts by the Laikipia County Development Authority, a statutory arm of the county government of Laikipia established in 2014 that deals in resource mobilisation and the departments of Education, Agriculture and Health.



IMAGES: Jackline Mariga

The programme aims at:

- ▶ Improving the cognitive and learning abilities of the pupils
- ▶ Boost their immunity and fight against malnutrition and hunger
- ▶ Encourage retention of pupils in school
- ▶ Increase enrolment
- ▶ Improve attendance
- ▶ Lower school drop out rates

The MOU signed between the County Government and Soy Afric will also explore other areas of collaboration including:

- ▶ A hospital feeding programme targeting vulnerable groups of people, including inpatients, People Living with HIV, tuberculosis patients, pregnant and lactating mothers, children below the school going age, and the aged, by providing them with highly nutritious porridge flour.
- ▶ Adoption, marketing, off taking, value addition and Agro processing of soya beans, maize, sorghum and millet produced in Laikipia County.
- ▶ Linkages to county government of Laikipia with local and international partners to support in various development projects in various sectors such as health, education, water etc.

By Pauline Mwiyeria



On Friday 24th March, Florence Mbaabu, a nurse at NTRH, left home for work as usual. Only that this was a special day for her – she is donning her nurses attire for one last day, marking the end of her 34 years of her life as a practicing nurse.

Hers is a mix of emotions– excited at the prospect of a much needed rest, but not sure about how living away from colleagues and patients, some of whom have been part of her life for more than 20 years, will turn out to be.

Until her retirement, the senior nurse had dedicated 16 years to caring for members of the community who are on lifelong comprehensive care.

Her colleagues fondly refers her as Sister Mbaabu. Our PCO [David Serem](#), catches up with her and as she paces the expanse of the hospital. She stops to say an emotional goodbye to her colleague, who the previous day had ambushed her with a cake to celebrate her retirement. And then, PCO Serem, interrupts her.



Nurse Florence

Mbaabu Retires after a 30-year long, but Short, Illustrious Career.

First, how does this feel?

I just can't describe this! This takes me back to when I was clearing high school. I know you can relate! (chuckles). I can't believe this is happening!

Did you see this coming?

Honestly not. How time flies, it was years, months, and then days. Now it is hours away! I can't wait to sample what life in retirement has to offer.

Tell us about the highs and lows at the clinic

One of my lowest moments was years back when a standard four kid tested positive at the clinic. I simply could not come into terms with the sadness gripping the minor. You see for adults, you are almost always sure they played a role in it, but for minors, it's totally different story. On the bright side, this same individual coped very well, and now has a family and a very successful career. This gives me great fulfilment.

Is it different working in this special clinic?

Definitely. Unlike most other clinics, here we journey with patients throughout their life. They become part of you, and they become more a family than patient. That sets this place apart from any other.

What has changed over time?



Nurse Florence Mbaabu: At this clinic, the journey with patients throughout their lives, they become part of you, part of me, and they become more of a family than patients.



Oh interesting how the stigma has faded fast in the society. We have come from utter discrimination and fear of people infected to a more accommodative community. Misinformation is fast giving way to education at an incredible pace.

How do you unwind after a hard day?

I would say prayers kept me going when situations got tough. I would also talk to colleagues a lot to relieve the pressure. Then again, nature has a way with calming me down. Sometimes I would stroll around the trees or even stand by the river. It gives me great relief.

Word of advice to the young taking over from you...

I do not tire from insisting on you doing the right thing, it always comes back to you. Something else, put yourself in the patient's shoes and proceed from there. That is all you need. Lastly, be honest. Speak out politely when something is not right.



IMAGES: David Serem





Twala Center at IL Polei offers Maasai women an alternative livelihood

The cultural centre offers an authentic Maasai cultural experience and tourists can spend their time here in well-equipped affordable cottages and manyatta.

“A woman with a voice is, by definition, a strong woman.” – Melinda Gates

When you arrive at Twala Cultural Centre IL Polei, Laikipia North, you are welcomed by songs and dances from Maasai women. They are donned in their traditional attires, adorned with colourful jewelry, presenting their cultural heritage at its best.

They make everyone feel welcome while instilling a sense of belonging. The women are part of Twala Women’s Group with 212 members that own and operate the centre.

Later as you catch a glimpse of the surroundings, you will be mesmer-

ized by the wonderful work made possible by women at this cultural centre. From beadwork on display to the serene atmosphere surrounded by eye-catching cottages, their achievement is hard to pass those who visit.

These local Maasai women have found a niche in beadwork to be economically empowered while managing the environment. The centre sits on 40 acres of land given by elders in 2008 (traditionally land is owned either by Maasai men or communally).

Twala women have diversified from goat keeping into beadwork, eco-tourism, beekeeping and aloe farming. The cultural centre offers an au-

thentic Maasai cultural experience and tourists can spend their time here in well-equipped affordable cottages and manyatta.

Beadwork is the most attractive venture they do to earn a living. From beautiful bracelets to the famous Maasai necklaces, and house decor, they exhibit their talent through these artworks. They also earn income from the exclusive conference room that visitors can hire for meetings far away from bustling towns.

“Apart from beadwork, we get income by growing Osunguroi (aloe), brewing fermented wine, and making cosmetics such as soap, body lotions, and shampoo. Our lives have improved so much,” Rosemary Pu-





IMAGES: Nahashon Maina

The centre sits on 40 acres of land given by elders in 2008. Traditionally, land is owned either by Maasai men or its communal.

tunoi, the group leader said.

“We then set aside a 10% dividend to our group members and some goes to educate our 21 girls in boarding school, shielding them from early marriages and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).”Putoni explains

The County Government of Laikipia has been collaborating with Twala women’s group to promote their beadwork and eco-tourism both locally and internationally and even build, the county has build two modern manyatta inside the cultural centre to boost their bed capacity for visitos.

“We have organized several training sessions in beadwork, customer service, and marketing. We want them to make high-quality products that sell competitively both in the local and international market,” Paul Ole Kimiri, Director of Tourism stated.

By June Yator



Creating Resilience and Improving Nutrition: High Value Fruits and Industrial Tree



IMAGES: Mollin Wanjiru

Laikipia County Governor H.E Joshua Irungu EGH officially launched the distribution of high value fruits and industrial tree seedlings in Githiga Ward, Laikipia West and Ngobit in Laikipia East.

The department aims at promoting high value crops including coffee, macadamia avocados and mangoes- an initiative to diversify farming in the County to give farmers alternative source of food and income to the small scale farmers .

Over 2000 registered farmers in these areas are set to benefit with 20,000 tree seedlings in the first phase. The farmers were identified by the Agricultural officers and have been trained on how to plant and nurture the trees to set up a fruit orchid in their farms.

“I am committed to ensuring that I bring back dignity and pride in farming. All our farmers will comfortably practice agriculture in this county and be able to practice Agriculture as a business,” said Governor Irungu.

The Governor also made a promise to ensure that coffee farmers are trained and a follow up made on individual farms to ensure that the plants survive.

The department is has also procured high yielding beans and soya beans among other crops that will be distributed to farmers in different areas for planting.

The County Government of Laikipia is putting plans in place to drill boreholes, construct water pans and promote water harvesting by giving dam liners and water tanks to the farmers. This will ensure that people have access water to drinking water, irrigation and livestock use.

The CEC Agriculture, Mr. Dennis Kasoo said that the department will ensure that services are efficient and easily accessible to all the farmers in Laikipia.

Elizabeth Mwangi, CO Agriculture and Irrigation, Mary Gichuru CO Livestock and Fisheries, Sub- County Officers and other County Officers from the department were also present in the Meeting.

By Mollin Wanjiru

Nanyuki Town Elevated to a Municipality

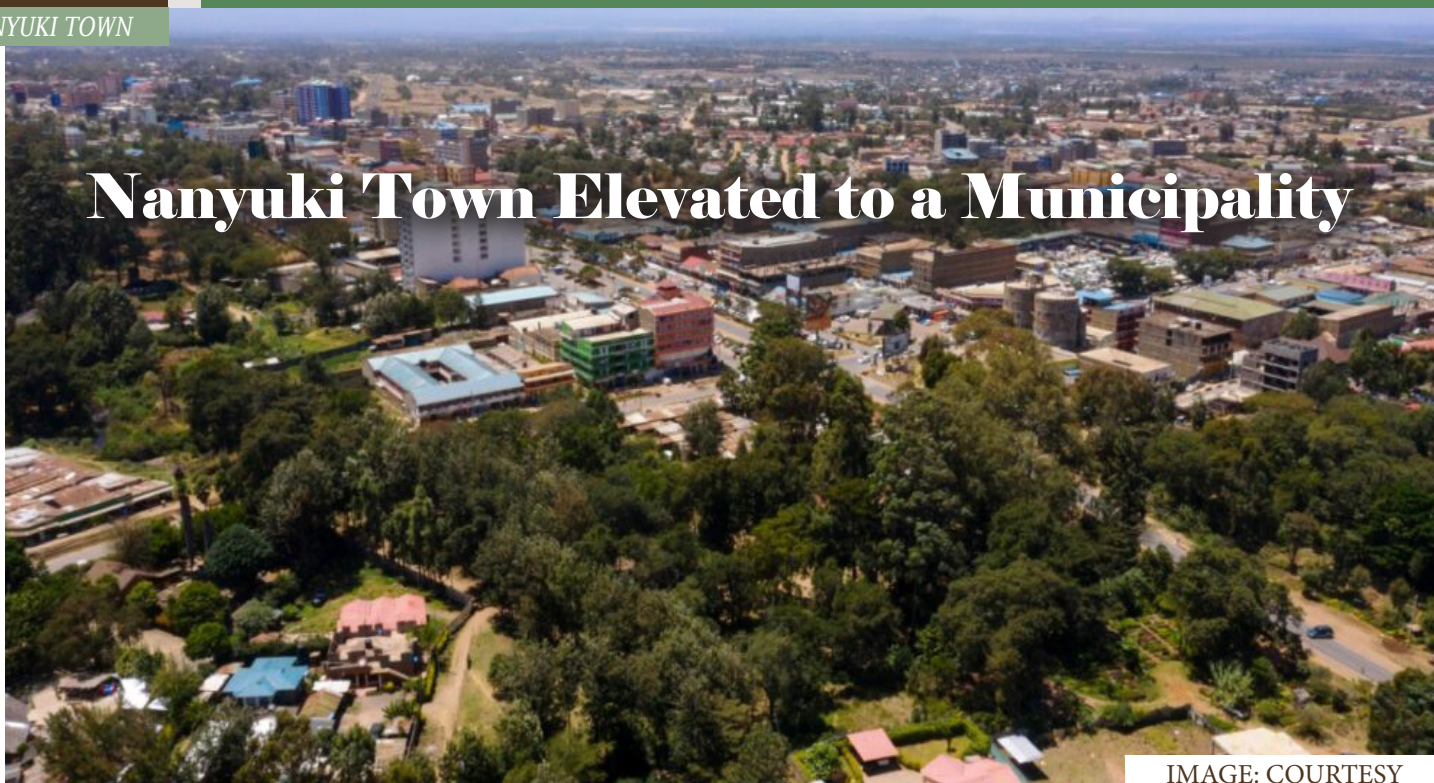


IMAGE: COURTESY

Nanyuki town becomes the second municipality in Laikipia County after Rumuruti Town. Usually, a County's Headquarter becomes a municipality automatically.

HE. Governor Joshua Irungu EGH received the AD-HOC committee's report recommending the conferment of Nanyuki Town to municipal status on March 15, 2023.

County Assembly March 2023 went ahead to approve the AD-HOC Report. This paved way for Nanyuki town becoming the second Municipality after County's Headquarter, Rumuruti.

The Governor conferred the status on March 22, 2023 in accordance with the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011.

Part II of the article on Classification and Establishment of Urban Areas and Cities clause 9 (3) stipulates the minimum requirements

need to change a town to a municipality. Nanyuki had met them.

They include;

- ▶ A town must have infra structural facilities, including but not limited to street lighting, markets and fire stations
- ▶ Have a capacity for functional and effective waste disposal.
- ▶ Have enough space for expansion
- ▶ Having demonstrable revenue collection or revenue collection potential;

Benefits of a town to a Municipality

The new status comes with numer-

ous advantages to the people of Nanyuki and Laikipia County at large.

The benefits include the attraction of additional funding from the National Government, improved social services to the people, the creation of job opportunities, and improved land use, among others.

Nanyuki municipality will be headed by a board as required by the Urban Areas and Cities Act, Part III, and that shall among other duties, oversee the affairs of the Municipality, and develop or adopt policies, plans, strategies and programs and set targets for service delivery.

Plans are underway to ensure that Nyahururu as well acquires similar status as Nanyuki.

By John Muriithi



Laikipia to Champion Gender Sensitive Initiatives



Governor: Women bear the greatest burden of an ailing and dysfunctional health sector as well as lack of access to safe water and sanitation.

Women in Laikipia are set to benefit from gender sensitive projects that the County Government is planning to implement. This announcement was made by H.E. Governor Joshua Irungu EGH as he led citizens and different stakeholders in celebrating this year's International Women's Day at Solio Village 4, Tigithi ward on 8th March 2023.

The governor outlined his plan to revitalize the health sector-ensuring that health facilities are brought closer to the people and are affordable even to the vulnerable households.

“Women bear the greatest burden of an ailing and dysfunctional health sector as well as lack of access to safe water and sanitation,” the county

chief servant said.

International Women's Day (IWD) honors the social,

economic, and political achievements of women. It serves as a call to action for gender equality and women's rights around the globe.

In the event, women proudly displayed how they are transforming the lives of their families and the society at large through the Women Economic Empowerment Project, a Climate Smart Agriculture Project targeting over 900 women in Laikipia East and Laikipia North sub counties.

The project is a joint venture in-



IMAGES: Kipkimey Rutto

volving the County Government of Laikipia, UN Women, FAO, and Hand in Hand. The project is made possible through the funding by Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

Dr. Jang Hee Im, the country director, KOICA, lauded the County Government for supporting the project by allowing the agricultural officers to take lead in the project, a sure way of ensuring sustainability beyond the project period.

By Njoroje Thuku



Complementary Conservation Efforts in Borana



IMAGES: Nahashon Maina

A view of Mt. Kenya landscapes from Borana conservancy

Since July 2022, Borana conservancy has been running an education programme dubbed “Mazingira Yetu” that engages the neighboring communities to broaden, deepen and inspire their understanding of conservation.

This is the climate action of Borana to engage the communities living around them to foster support for conservation initiatives and to embrace regenerative practices. What better way to conserve our environment than nurture the love for wildlife and natural habitats?

“One of our core businesses here is to inculcate values of conservation to our adjacent communities. We have six neighboring communities with 10 schools”, Stephen Gachagua, Mazingira Yetu Education Officer said.

The center has 356 students and

aims to instill knowledge to the youngsters to become soldiers of tomorrow in environment conservation.

They have structured a day to bring schoolchildren into the conservancy for game drives, learn at environment center, and meet people working at Borana such as rangers. The day is purposed for them to see Borana’s wildlife and habitat con-

servation efforts in action.

Building knowledge about conservation issues among the children is geared to inspire them to spread key conservation issues to others.

Gachagua notes that students engage in conversation about regenerating of the land as most of the issues in Laikipia are confounded by climate change leading to serious impact during drought season.

“We believe that the education center is timely because we need to regenerate our land, mitigate and have communities that are resilient to climate change.”

County Government of Laikipia appreciates every organization, entities or individuals who complements its effort in environmental conversation especially in Laikipia. Therefore, Boran conservancy’s; ‘Mazingira Yetu’ program is a complementary development intervention.

By Nahashon Maina



One of the classroom at Borana Conservancies where conversation discussions are conducted.



About Health, Up North, Special Approach is Needed, to Fuse Modern Healthcare & Culture

When the preparations for the Orthopedic Camp gathered pace late last year, one member of the planning team was particularly keen on driving the awareness deep into the communities. Not fully content with the modern forms of communication to drive the message home, Daniel Kasoo, Head of Clinical Services at NTRH, went out of his way to ensure news of the forthcoming exercise was home and dry in the vast Laikipia North—a region that still embraces communication the old way.

His drive would be justified days into the camp when we found out that a significant number of patients with extreme orthopedic deformities are residents of Laikipia North and the neighboring region. We sought Kasoo's perspective and his driving factors behind the numbers, and he shares his optimism with the county government's commitment to pilot a universal health coverage through a center in the north.

By David Serem



Daniel Kasoo, Head of Clinical Services - NTRH

You are a resident of Laikipia North, what do you make of this relatively big number of persons presenting with extreme deformities and complications?

There are a host of factors at play that contribute to this state of affairs; underdevelopment, social-economic challenges, cultural perceptions, and terrain and language barriers—you name them. There still is staggering inequity to healthcare, you are talking of senior adults who have never stepped in a health facility, and they think it is okay to be 'resilient' and live with treatable conditions. The problem, sometimes this leads to costly complications.

You insisted on the use of public address systems to reach people in the vast regions as opposed to other means like radio.





IMAGE: Kariuki Stevejackson

Every community before modern healthcare had their own traditional medication and healers. These medications were based on research and had been proven, but some were based on beliefs, hence limited to some ailments and procedures. Modern healthcare is absolute and much safer, however long-held culture impedes modern healthcare services, and participatory approach is needed to respectfully transit.

Improbable as it may sound, these communities appreciate passage of information the old way. Modern means of communication such as radio and social media are still alien to the better part of residents, and announcements done by local administrators, clerics, opinion leaders are bound to yield results. Healthcare to a large extent involves clear communications that is passing the right message, in the right language at the right time.

What will it take to address these challenges?

Deliberate input from self-motivated staff who go the extra mile to make health education a priority to plug gaps where there are few routine clinical outreaches. This backed by strong government led social mop up to rid the community of preventable and correctable ailments will deliver tangible outcomes. By incorporating communal heads regularly, opinion leaders and clerics, you are likely to make gains in a shorter period of time.

Does formal education and culture determine how people seek modern healthcare here?

The level of education is undisputable factor. The less educated an individual or even a community is, the less likely they are likely to seek health in hospitals. They will instead rely on community healers. Educated locals are likely to score high in changing the peoples' mindset on health seeking behaviors. There are hesitations on opening up to someone you share nothing in common, in terms of age, language or even culture.

What opportunities does devolution present to correct some of these gaps?

Devolution is heaven sent I would say. It evens the ground by bringing decision making closer to the people in need. It provides every region a chance to tailor their policies to suit the prevailing challenges. Unlike before, we are better placed to respond to emergencies and preempt spread of diseases through stronger

disease surveillance. And with the leadership goodwill like what we are witnessing now, I can say the future is luminous.

The County Government is piloting UHC in Laikipia North with Kimanjo Sub-County Hospital being the centre. What is your take?

First, this is a monumental step towards equity in addressing health challenges in the region. Here, the government has a chance to come up with a model that fuses culture and modern medicine for optimal impact. For instance, it doesn't stop at having professional caregivers, but being mindful of the norms that shape perceptions.

Laikipia goes into this with the lessons from those unsuccessful models to avoid the pitfalls and hopefully tailor a successful model.

With working systems in place and the willingness to accept long term outcomes, we can bet on transformations coming out of this investment.



Workshop: ECDE Teachers Taken Through CBC Curriculum System



IMAGES: Naphtally Otieno

In readiness for the complete implementation of the competence-based curriculum (CBC) in Laikipia County's Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) Centres, Laikipia County Government in conjunction with Build Africa Kenya, held a two-day training workshop for ECDE officers in Nanyuki.

The two day training targeted the County ECDE officers. The desired outcomes of the training are understanding the CBC framework, teaching methodologies, effective assessment tools, values and community learning activities.

Effective and elaborate ECDE encourages creativity, curiosity, and learning through play, and forms a strong foundation for Kenya's new Competence-based Curriculum (CBC).

Speaking during the training, Governor Joshua Irungu EGH, emphasized on his administration's commitment to providing compulsory Early Childhood Education as imagined by Early Childhood Education Act of 2021.

He added that Laikipia County will establish a fully-fledged ECD centre supporting different learning approaches for early learners in each ward, in addition to ensuring that ECDE centres across the county are adequately staffed.

Deputy Governor implored the ECDE officers to utilize the knowledge acquired during the workshop by ensuring Laikipia ECDE children's

Laikipia County will establish a fully-fledged ECD centre supporting different learning approaches for early learners in each ward.

formative stage catapults them to stardom when they join primary schools.

At the end of the training, the participants are expected to be CBC trainer of trainers (ToTs) in Laikipia County.

education Ag CEC Stephen Kisorio and Chief Officer Joseph Gichuki appreciated the CBC curriculum system noting on its benefits as they said it will enrich the learners for a better

By Naphtally Otieno



Partnering To Promote Sustainable Solutions to Water Challenges in Laikipia

As the saying goes, Water is life, as it is a universal resource that supports the livelihood of all living organisms on earth. This year's World Water Day theme 'accelerating change' emphasizes on the need to speed up solutions to solve water challenges.

As part of its efforts to boost water supply in Laikipia, the Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources has embraced Public-Private Partnerships as a strategic approach to develop sustainable solutions to water challenges in the county.

So far, more than 10 boreholes have been drilled and equipped, thanks to partnerships with BATUK, SNV organization, the National Water Harvesting Authority, Habitat for Humanity Kenya, and Water Works Agencies. One of the drilled boreholes based on ward categorization.

The boreholes are distributed as follows: four in Salama; Kiamariga tank, Kiboya, Muruai, and Grid Farm; two in Umande, Tetu and Murungai primary schools; one in Tigithi at Kabaga primary; one in Ol Moran at Bondeni primary; one in Lorian in Rumuruti ward and one in Jua Kali, Segera ward.

Speaking while delivering the governor's speech at an event to mark World Water Day in Rumuru-



IMAGE: Njoroge Thukui

Deputy Governor: We are on the truck to distribute 50,000 water tanks in the next five years for water storage and rainwater harvesting.

ti, on March 22, 2023, HE. Reuben Kamuri, Deputy Governor of Laikipia County, noted the county's partnership with Equity Bank in the realization of its intricate plan to distribute water tanks to support institutions and households in water harvesting.

"We are on the truck to distribute 50,000 water tanks in the next five years for water storage and rainwater harvesting." The Deputy Governor noted. This program is expected to commence with the distribution of 250 water tanks in the next financial year and it will include the installation of gutters and accessories required to support water harvesting.

The Deputy Governor also remarked

on the partnership with the National Government in achieving the projected plan to construct mega dams, that is, the Rumuruti, Pesi, and Kahurura dams, which are intended to collect and store bulk water, enough to serve a large population in the said areas.

In her speech, the CECM Water, Environment, and Natural Resources, Ms. Leah Njeri, reiterated her commitment to prudence in water management practice to mitigate the extreme water shortage that has been experienced lately due to prolonged drought and equally to develop people-centered policies that seek sustainable water availability and utilization.

By Ann Ngunjiri





Let's Understand, Warehouse Receipt System

Mutanga warehouse/cereal store



Warehouse/cereal store offices



WRS training IMAGES: Mollin Wanjiru

Department of Agriculture has embarked on an innovative solution to post-harvest losses of cereals in Laikipia West. Soon, farmers will have their produce safe and as credit - all this through WRS.

What is Warehouse Receipt System, WRS?

This is a process where owners of commodities, that is farmers or aggregators, deposit their commodities in a certified warehouse and are issued with a document of title called a Warehouse Receipt as proof of ownership. *This is according to Warehouse Receipt System (WRS) Council.*

Which law entrenches WRS in Kenya?

The Warehouse Receipt System Act, 2019

Which parties are involved in this process?

Warehouse Receipt System (WRS) Council, The County Government, the farmer, and the warehouse operator

Step by Step, explain each and their relationship?

Warehouse operator” means a person engaging in the business of hiring out space for storing of goods and issuance of warehouse receipts.

County Government - A warehouse operator is licenced by the County, through Department of Agriculture.

Warehouse Receipt System (WRS) Council - this is the body that oversee all operations of WRS in Kenya, registering and approving the warehouses, enforcing the regulations and registering all the warehouse operators.

What is a warehouse receipt?

This is a receipt issued by licensed warehouse operator as evidence that specified commodities of stated quantity and quality, have been deposited at particular locations by named depositors (farmer).





Kinamba warehouse/cereal store

IMAGE: Kariuki Stevejackson



WRS training IMAGES: Mollin Wanjiru

Report By Mollin Wanjiru and Kariuki Stevejackson

In Laikipia, do we have properly equipped and licensed warehouse?

Yes. Laikipia in partnership with EU, has constructed two major cereal stores/warehouses, one in Mutanga another in Kinamba, Githiga Ward.

Which cereals are under this program?

Maize, wheat and beans.

What is the process?

A farmer just needs to register in either of the two stores/warehouses. Once the operator has the farmers details, the farmers' will have had their membership approved.

What details are included in this WRS receipt?

The WRS receipt document shall have: name and physical address of the warehouse operator; name and physical address of the warehouse where the goods are stored; license number of the warehouse operator; the date of issue of the receipt; the serial number of the receipt; particulars of the depositor; the description of the agricultural commodity including the type, grade, crop year and season and weight; signature of the warehouse operator, a statement that the agricultural commodity covered by the warehouse receipt is insured by the warehouse operator for the full value thereof; and Warehouse Receipt System

Can an operator run away or claim cereals were stolen or destroyed?

Absolutely NO! Under the The Warehouse Receipt System Act 2019, "a person (operator) shall not qualify for the grant of a licence under this Act unless that person provides an insurance policy securing the respective warehouse and goods against fire, flood, theft, burglary, earthquake, explosion and any other risk.

So this WRS Receipt is like collateral for credit/loan?

Yes! WRS receipt will be enough to access loan especially in financial institutions with agricultural credit facilities. It will be enough proof of your product's value. So let's do this!!





EDITORIAL TEAM

Publication Supervisor

Njoroge Thuku,

Assistant Director, Public Communication

njoroge.thuku@laikipia.gov.ke

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John Muriithi (Head Reporter) - johnnyawira@gmail.com

David Serem - davidtserem@gmail.com

Kariuki Stevejackson - sjl.karis@gmail.com

Njoroge Thuku - njoroge.thuku@laikipia.gov.ke

June Yator - yatorjune@gmail.com

Andrew Kimemia - kimemia.maina@gmail.com

Layout Designer

Kariuki Stevejackson - sjl.karis@gmail.com

For contribution or feedback, write to the Publication Supervisor or our Head Reporter

