



Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

WEEKLY
BULLETIN

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County availing funds to farmers for timely land preparations ahead of the March rains

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CFSP to see county set aside Ksh 1.03 billion for development projects 2022/23

Laikipia's More Health Facilities for Closer Medical Services



Governor Ndiritu Muriithi opens a maternity block in Luoniek on February 3rd 2022. Several new utilities have been opened this year across the county as the government focuses on bringing health facilities closer to the people

Laikipia Availing Timely Funds for Farmers' Land Preparations



Ng'arua cereals storage facility. BELOW: Inside the facility

By Muriithi John

Land preparations is a vital part in ensuring a good yield in agriculture and agribusiness. Most farmers' challenges come as a result of lack of resources to warrant an excellent land preparation practice.

The County Revolving Fund has come to the aid of such farmers through timely providing loans at the beginning of planting seasons.

"Timely land preparation helps provide the necessary soil conditions which will enhance the successful establishment of the young offshoots or the tissue culture plants. The revolving fund therefore provides the necessary resources for farmers to prepare their lands for planting," Richard Murigu, the Fund manager said.

A living testimony is from the Ng'arua Cereals and Produce Cooperative Limited in Kinamba that deals in grains- mainly maize, but also millet, beans and wheat.

The cooperative received their fourth loan from the Revolving fund in December last year and

part of January this year of Ksh 7.5 million to help the farmers buy farm inputs in preparation to plant on February and March. These farm inputs include maize seeds, fertilizer, agrochemicals, and other farm equipment.

Lack of such farm inputs results to delay in planting which ultimately bring low yields. Also, with the availability of funds farmers procure quality seeds



from credible organizations for high quality crops.

The organization with 130 members buys in bulk and sells to farmers in and out of their membership at affordable prices, and later purchases the produce from the same farmers every year. For example, last year they supplied farm inputs to 3,750 farmers, and now targets to reach 4,500 farmers this year with the help of the funds from the Revolving fund.

Farmers have an assurance of reliable seeds and other farm inputs from this society as it buys in bulk awaiting farmers collection. The revolving Fund also aids in adding confidence to the farmers that whatever they need will be availed.

The grain stores help this cooperative to buy from farmers in bulk and sell for them when the prices are favourable, especially when there is maize shortage.

"Last year, the society managed to aggregate 2,290 bags of 90kgs maize from 500 farmers during harvest season where the market price that time was Ksh 2,300 per bag. Later it sold the same product on November at Ksh 3,000 per bag. Their target this year is to produce 2,500 bags.

The county Government of Laikipia avails the extension services officers and other professions to train farmers on the need to make proper land preparations to plant on time while taking advantage of the rainy seasons.

National, County Governments Come in Aid of Olmoran

By Jackline Mariga

The County Government of Laikipia has collaborated with the National Government to bring together resources for the benefits of people in Olmoran ward who have been suffering from insecurities from bandits. Education has greatly been negatively affected.

On February 5 2022, the people in this area were happy to receive both county and National government officers who came for the rescue by responding in cash and kind.

Governor Ndiritu Muriithi promised security to the residents of Olmoran and stated that he will not allow anyone to disrupt the peace in that area. The Olmoran police post has been elevated to a police station whose construction is 70 per cent complete.

The increment in revenue collection has led to the development in Laikipia and particularly in Olmoran ward where roads have been graded, schools and hospitals renovated and elevation of the security sector in this area.

PS Trade Amb. Johnson Weru represented a group of 24 PS who have joined their effort to help the victims and assured the people peace and full support from the government. Through this group they were able to raise more than one million shilling in aid of students from this area.



Governor Ndiritu Muriithi leads in issuing out of cheques for schools affected by insecurities in OlMoran

"It is hard for a parent to raise school fees after all they had was burnt down and there is no food for the family," said Mr. Weru.

Thirteen Olmoran Secondary School students benefited from with educational cheques. Any tertiary student from this area was awarded Ksh 20,000 cheque to help them continue with their studies despite the challenges they have faced.

Mr Lee Ngugi provided 100 bags of fertilizer weighing 50 kgs each to the victims whose maize plantation was destroyed by the bandits, while Kennedy Kihara, PAS office of the president, provided 500 bags of rice and 500 bags of beans to the affected families.

"I am much willing to get back to my house and move on with my

normal life especially farming which has been our main source of income. I thank the government because I have a place to call home again," stated Mrs. Nambosa, a resident who had been relocated.

PAS State Department for Public Service Mary Kimonye offered her help to Mrs Nambosa by promising her baby's equipment and clothes once she moves back to the house. This is a good symbol that peace has been restored in this area.

Juss Deddy gave out school uniforms to students whose uniforms were burnt down. Selection of the needy students was done by the area MCAs to ensure that they reward those in dire need.

Car Parks Changing Laikipia Towns' Economy, Face



Parking spaces in Nanyuki town has brought order in the town

By Julius Murage

Towns in Laikipia are clearly changing face to accommodate more economic growth as construction of car parks by the county government shows its impact. The county government of Laikipia through the Road Maintenance Levy Fund (RMLF) projects programme have constructed and renovated more parking areas for cars in different towns in the county. From 2019 to 2021, it has put more than 1,000 parking volume capacity on the county tarmac roads of Nanyuki, Nyahururu, and Oljabet among others towns.

The standard car parks are of 16 to 18 feet long and 8 to 9 feet wide which is about 160 square feet, marked with a clear long lasting white or yellow line enabling clear visibility. Restrictions, signs and road controls such as the

parking areas for the physically challenged, alternate-side parking and coupon parking have been done to prevent any careless parking by the drivers.

"The parking slots and areas for the disabled are now visible as new colours have been added and different areas of parkings have been marked very clearly. The spacing of the parking areas is enough for cars to move in and out easily," said Paul Mwanaki, a driver in Nanyuki town.

Measures are in place to ensure



*Boston House
in Nyahururu
Law Court
Jimrock
Road_Nyahururu parking spaces*

that the rules are being followed and penalties accorded to those who violate them. The county government has also lifted some weight to its people, according to the Laikipia County Finance Act no 1, Section iii,18 (2021).

'Parking fee shall not be payable the whole day on Sunday, Public holidays and after 2.00pm on Saturdays.'

The strategic planning of the car parks has promoted businesses as now people can confidently park cars along the roads near their businesses with guaranteed safety. This has attracted many investors especially in the urban areas.

"Since the parking was constructed the number of people coming to this area has increased and they have been promoting my trade business in a greater rate. My shop is also clean nowadays as the dust that used to be there is no longer a problem," said Rachael Wairimu, a business woman at Nanyuki Old Market Area.

Boost To Oxygen Supply as LHS Nanyuki Commences Mega Storage Project



LHS Nanyuki's CEO Dr. Timothy Panga inspecting the ongoing construction of the new Oxygen plant in the facility

By David Serem

LHS Nanyuki is set to ramp up its oxygen capacity following the planned acquisition of a large storage facility for the same.

The ten-ton oxygen tank, which is set to be installed in the coming few weeks, will drastically reduce hospital operation costs, with the clients set to enjoy the price convenience as well.

In a project that is poised to comprehensively address gaps in the oxygen supply in the facilities, the investment will put an end to the current expensive supply mechanisms. The oxygen plant currently in use is not only prone to expensive breakdowns, but is also less efficient as the oxygen is not in pure form, cutting out critical points of service such as theatre.

Works on the site where the oxygen tank will be placed is pro-

gressing well, and the installation will be completed in the near future.

The eight million shillings installation comes with pure oxygen, and will be a relief for critical service points such as theatre which

for long have been relying on out-sourced oxygen for operations. Equipment for aesthetical operations run on pure oxygen only.

With the bulk procurement of oxygen, the price is reduced by 66 per cent. This means that for instance, a 1,000 shillings oxygen unit will be priced at about 340 shillings.

Coming at a time when the need for oxygen is constantly on the rise, especially in the wake of COVID-19, this new investment is a reprieve for critical service points such as the critical care unit. This puts LHS Nanyuki at a better place to handle possible high needs of oxygen. Coming new facility will run alongside the existing oxygen plant complementing each other to accommodate growing hospital needs.



The existing oxygen plant in LHS Nanyuki. The oxygen production is below the demand that has necessitated installation of another plant

More Resources Set Aside for Development Projects



Tarmacked road at Oljabet town where smart town project is ongoing

The County Government of Laikipia has set aside Ksh 1.03 billion for development projects across the county in the financial year 2022/23 according to statistics from County Fiscal Strategic Paper (CFSP). This development resources will be allocated to the Department of Land, Housing and Urban Development.

The department is crucial in implementing transformative projects within the county that are geared at accelerating investment and job creation. Major achievements for the department have been on the successful roll out of leasing program,

installation of solar street lights, and smart town initiatives.

Smart town initiative has been identified as one of the four priorities of the county government in financial year 2022/23. Other are enterprise development, Laikipia Health Service, Public reforms and increased productivity. On smart own initiative, the government will be keen on providing additional resources to complete another 10-12 smart towns across the County.

Plans are also geared towards fast tracking the completion of County Spatial Plan and full utili-

lization of the GIS lab, developing affordable housing schemes on receipt of the feasibility study sponsored by World Bank, Physical development planning for all commercial centers with at least 1,000 people and updating physical plans and Zoning.

To achieve environmentally friendly smart towns, the county will promote appropriate building technology for use by the public in house construction. The department will continue with digitization of land and physical planning administration to lower the cost of doing business and ensure integrity of the transactions.

To facilitate access to finance for businesses and adoption of e-commerce, the county will implement a property and business addressing system. There will also be efforts to support programmes aimed at an increasing household access to clean energy sources and technologies.

The county will support community group ranches in the transition process towards conformity with Community Land Act 2016, collaborate with FAO in upgrading of land registry and development of county land information management system and formulation of County Energy Plan.

Facilitating Laikipia Farmers to Adopt Warehouse Receipting System

In June 2019 the Warehouse Receipting System Act was passed in parliament with an objective of establishing and maintaining structured agricultural commodities trade.

The estimated annual production of maize is approximately over 50,000 tons in Laikipia west alone. Over time farmers in the county have realized high losses and low price. Farmers are also not able to access financial assistance because of the unstructured system in agriculture.

The county department of agriculture completed the construction of the quality storage facilities in Laikipia west and with the WRS act in place farmers will be able to use this modern technology to access market and financial support. Farmers are issued with receipts after depositing their grains in the warehouses which can act as collateral to get loans and any other financial support. They will also have a bargaining power in the market as their grains are properly stored and can wait for prices to get better.

In order to build the capacity of the farmers in Laikipia west on the Warehouse Receipt System,



Farmers from Laikipia West in Kitale to learn on the Warehouse Receipt System last week

the department of agriculture in collaboration with the Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP II) facilitated officers and representatives from the three cooperatives in Laikipia West for a two-day capacity building tour to Kitale. This will ensure that they have the skills and knowledge to run the operations of the Warehouses.

Kitale National Cereals and Produce Board was commissioned by the CS Agriculture, Peter Munya to operate under the Warehouse receipt system barely a month

ago. The farmers engaged in the very informative sessions as they were shown how the system operates.

The farmers were urged to embrace the system as it has made work easier as all the many processes before the grain is deposited have been computerized. The team later visited Cheptarit woman's group which is now a company with a membership of 15 women. This link mentored and challenged the farmers to work on becoming fully independent and cut dependence on donors. They were also advised to ensure that the project is sustained since they have the skills and infrastructure necessary.

The women buy, aggregate and sell maize. They have grown their clientele from two to 392 schools over the past five years in five counties. Average sales are 24,000 bags of maize and 16,000 bags of beans per year.



Laikipia farmers interacting with their counterparts from Kitale during a two-day visit last week

New Laikipia Health Service Facilities to Improve Access to Amenities



Newly opened maternity at LHS Melwa



LHS Nakwang



New LHS Louniek Maternity wing



LHS Ngobit Outpatient wing