



# Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

**WEEKLY  
BULLETIN**

**Laikipia Coronavirus Hotlines: 0110 094 440 / 0738 055 343**

## Compensation For Redundant County Workers

Laikipia county government workers whose positions were declared redundant will be compensated well, the county secretary Mr Karanja Njora has announced. The process of training and counselling those affected will start next week after the Employment and Labour Relations court on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020 paved way for the redundancy process.

Mr Njora said each of those affected will be compensated accordingly based on the years one has been in service.

The positions declared redundant were mainly those rendered obsolete by technology such as copy typists, messengers, telephone operators, herdsmen, rodent catchers, among others.

"Those affected did not upgrade their training in line with the changing technology and cannot therefore be gainfully engaged in the modern day office environment," Mr Njora said.

Reforms in the county public service started three years ago to make it professional, effective and efficient in service delivery as well as responsive to the needs of the citizens.

"The process is intended to optimize public benefit, enhance service delivery, professionalize public service and importantly ensure prudent use of public resources," he said.

Like many other county governments, Laikipia has been struggling to balance between the money it has been paying wages and salaries with the resources it is committing to development.

According to Mr Njora, part of the ongoing county public service reform process involves

training, re-designation of staff to match skills to positions as well as filling in existing gaps within the service to achieve maximum productivity.

The County Public Service Board conducted a comprehensive staff audit mid-last year, mainly to establish the skills inventory, planning for succession, identifying training gaps, forming a basis (situational analysis) for the county HR strategy, establishing if employees' skills are matched to their jobs and establishing if the staffing levels are optimal.

"A significant finding of the audit is that some employees are not optimally engaged. In compliance with the County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2019/2020, the Public Finance Management Act and good human resource practice, the county government has resolved to declare redundancy of the employees who are not optimally engaged," the board chairperson Ms Mumbi Mwago said.

Last year, both the Controller of Budgets and the National Treasury warned the county government to cut down its ballooning wage bill to be in compliance with Public Finance Management Act 2012 and its Regulations after its spending on the payroll hit 58.8 percent of its budget.

The Act caps county wage bill at 35 percent of the counties' budgets, while their development envelopes should be at least 30 percent of their budgets. From the onset of devolution, Laikipia has been way off this mark. Efforts to tame the wage bill started in earnest early last year when the County Assembly approved the CFSP 2019/2020, which required the Executive to take measures to reduce the percentage ratio of the wages to the budget to comply with the



HE Governor Ndiritu Muriithi congratulates Ms Sinino Abdullahi who was awarded Kshs 100,000 for saving the life of an abandoned infant at Musul. Recognizing staff through spot awards is part of the broader reforms going on in the county public service.



A Governor's quarterly general staff meeting held in Nanyuki in 2019

## No Behaviour Change yet Despite A Spike in Laikipia Covid-19 Cases

**T**here has been little in terms of behavior change despite Covid-19 positive cases rising sharply in Laikipia County over the last few week.

Although the government has tightened measures to curb the spread of the disease, many people have not been wearing masks properly while in public places which may fan the spread of the virus.

As of July 30, 2020, the county had reported 48 cases of Covid-19 - 34 from Laikipia East and 14 from Laikipia West. Eight (8) of them had been discharged while two (2) had succumbed to the virus. Seven (7) patients were on home based care while 26 were in the various county isolation centres.

Contact tracing has continued and has brought a total number of 371 people in the county.

All citizens are urged to observe Health directives on keeping safe from coronavirus 2019 which include proper wearing of face masks, avoiding crowded places and maintaining both social and physical distances.



*Disinfecting Public Service Vehicles in Nanyuki*

As Covid-19 cases continue to rise in the country and in our county, people have been seen to cast an accusing figure to the victims and their families, which is offen-

sive.

Some are going to the extreme of victimizing even those who have recovered from the virus attack.

According to Health Chief Officer Dr. Donald Mogoi, the covid-19 patients, their contact people, families of deceased due to Coronavirus, and the recoveries should be handled with tenderness and love as they have committed no crime.

"It is not a crime to contract Covid-19 and thus we should all accept the victims and the ones who have fought the virus. We should also not segregate the families who have lost their loved ones to the pandemic," said Dr. Mogoi, adding that people should ensure good care to those with the virus while at the same time protecting themselves not to contract the same.



# Key Steps in Search of a Fiscal Balance –Salaries or Development?



Top left: A general staff meeting in Nyahururu. Top Right: Newly installed solar streets lights at Karaba in Marmanet ward. The county government is seeking a fiscal balance between wages and salaries and development.

## **Fiscal responsibility Principle:**

More development less salaries

Section 107 of Public Finance Management Act and Section 25 of the PFM (County Governments) Regulations set the following binding target:

Wages and salaries should NOT be more than 35% of total budget

Development budget MUST be at least 30% of the total budget

Approved assembly expenditure should not be more than 7% of total budget or twice their wages and salaries, whichever is lower

## **Where Laikipia is coming from**

2013/2014 total revenue was Kshs3.02 billion

2013/2014 wage bill was Kshs1.425 billion or 47.1 % of the total revenue

Growth in total revenue between 2013 and 2018 from Ksh3.02 billion to Kshs 4.90 billion of 63.17 %

Growth in wage bill was from Kshs1.425 billion to Kshs2.7 billion or 97.75%

Between 2013/2014 to 2018/2019, the actual development wallet on increased marginally from Kshs 0.824 billion to Kshs 0.924 billion or 12.13%.

## **The situation by Quarter 3 of 2018/19**

Wages and salaries were 56.7 % of the total budget

Development budget was a paltry 22% of the total budget

Assembly expenditure was 5.7 %

## **How the situation was in 2018/19**

Salaries and wages took up Kshs. 2.8 billion

Kshs 1.62billion being for the health department (including Kshs88 million for staff who were in full time study leave), Kshs 253.9 million for public administration, Kshs195.3 million for agriculture and Kshs193.7 million for County Assembly.

Development budget was Kshs1.1 billion

Assembly expenditure was 282 million

In addition to wages and salaries there non-wage bill expenses which include pension, baggage allowance, annual leave allowance, etc

## **What the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) 2019/2020 Did**

Capped wages and salaries at Kshs 2.4 billion

Earmarked Kshs182 million to be used for voluntary early retirement and redundancies

Increased development budget by Kshs382 million (to reach 30% minimum legal threshold)

Radical restructuring of the public service

Continued automation to grow own source revenue by Kshs 200 million

## **What will happen if the situation is not addressed?**

By 2022/2023 the total revenue is projected at Kshs6.5 billion

The wage Bill is projected at Kshs4.2 billion or 64.57% of the total revenue

The development envelop will barely increase beyond Kshs0.9991 billion and will represent 15.24 % of the total revenue which is far below legal threshold of 30%

# Retiring Gracefully after Serving with Honour

....After a career in public servicespanning three-and-a-half decades ,  
Dr Peterson Njiru is going home holding his head high

By Muriithi John

**G**rowing up in his native Murangá district, a little boy was always amazed by the man who would be called in to treat their cows whenever they fell sick. Adorned in a white dust-coat and a stethoscope hanging from his shoulders this stranger seemed to have a rare connection with animals.

He would sometimes step on the animal, pat it on the back and even talk to it; and, funnily, the animal would seem to respond.

Crisscrossing the ridges in late 60s checking on the wellness of the livestock, the stranger, of European origin, realize that he was inspiring an illustrious career in veterinary medicine on the young Peterson Mwangi Njiru.

In June Dr Njiru hang up his boots after a stunning career in the public service spanning 35 continuous years. He has been the Laikipia County director of veterinary services- a new office which he established from the scratch with the advent of devolution system of government in 2013.

"Here is a very organized man.....retiring with grace, proud of his service," Governor Ndiritu Muriithi remarked on being informed of his exit from the county public service.

From those early days as a small boy attending Kamune primary school now in Mathioya sub-county, Dr Njiru knew the career path very well. At Shimo La Tewa where he joined after emerging



HE Governor Ndiritu Muriithi with department of Agriculture staff among them Dr Peterson Njiru (inset)

the top student in Murang'a District then, he had to fight a strong pressure to join the Navy as most of his classmates did. He eventually joined the University of Nairobi to do Veterinary Medicine where he graduated in 1985 to join the livestock sub-sector. That's where his heart was.

One of the most remarkable milestone in his career was when he led a team in the livestock-rich northern Kenya in a vaccination campaign to eradicate Rinderpest Disease in the late 80s and early 90s, when he was a young professional.

This lead to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) awarding Kenya a Rinderpest-free status. He also led similar campaigns against Contagious Bovine and pneumonia in Kajiado.

Working in the 77,000-square kilometer

Marsabit County provided a unique experience for Dr Njiru. Sometimes he and his colleagues had to contend with frequent banditry raids as went around carrying out their duties.

In Bungoma County, his last station before coming to Laikipia the citizen whom they served and his staff lived in perpetual fear of self-styled Sabaot Land Defense Forces before it was completely neutralized.

It was his coming to Laikipia in 2013 that Dr Njiru was able to consolidate all the experience and trainings from elsewhere to add value to Laikipia's livestock sector. Laikipia is in international map for beef production, livestock export and high quality breeds.

"Laikipia livestock sector has a bright future because it is quite developed. There are a lot of enquiries about pure breed of Sahiwal and the Boran cattle as well as the Doper sheep," said Dr Njiru.

To him there is room to nurture the sector to satisfy the growing demand for animal protein locally and internationally. Looking through the eight years of his service in Laikipia, Dr Njiru identifies three key achievements.

First is the initiation of efforts to brand Laikipia's beef as well as laying the foundation of the feedlots which could catapult the county to an organized commercial beef production hub.

Second, is spearheading the establishment of seven Disease Free Zones (DFZs) which are now at the certification level by the national government.

Third is the rollout of the ground breaking Livestock Identification and Traceability system (LITS) that would eradicate cattle rustling, facilitate use of livestock as collateral for bank loans as well as enhancing export of local beef.

According to Dr Njiru, the exciting thing

.....Cont'd on page 5



Dr Njiru on a morning supervision at Ol Pejeta Slaughter House to ensure the meat is safe

### Dr Njiru retires from public service..... (cont'd from page 4)

about working for the public service is the valuable networks of friends, partners and trainings that one gets both locally and internationally. One is also exposed to cultures of many communities. His advice to younger generation in the public service: "Do your job, love your job, be ethical, have values, be professional and the sky won't be the limit." Lowest moments in his career: Losing staff and colleagues to bandits while in the line of duty in northern Kenya. Also the agony of seeing staff and col-

leagues held in psychological captivity by the self-styled rag-tag gang of Saboot and defense forces that operated in Bungoma county before it was eliminated. Greatest regret: Leaving the Laikipia public service before supervising the loading of livestock for export on rail wagons of the restored Nairobi-Nanyuki railway. His last word: "Laikipia has not seen the last of Dr Peterson Njiru. This is just another chapter in life. You'll still see me in Laikipia doing something on livestock."



Away from livestock, Dr Njiru is a crop farmer in Naivasha



During one of ant-Rabies annual campaigns



Dr Njiru inspecting a cattle quarantine facility in Laikipia



Dr Njiru consulting farmers t a farm in Laikipia



Preparing to carry out a vaccination in Laikipia county.

## Quality Leather Shoes Made at Nyahururu Vocational Training Centre



Facilities at the leather production centre at Nyahururu VTC where quality shoes for local schools are produced. The VTC has common-user equipment that help cobblers around Nyahururu town.



A motor vehicle workshop underway. At Nyahururu VTC It will be accessible to public once complete



A lathe machine at Nyahururu VTC. It's one common user equipment at the institution

One of the sources of quality and affordable leather shoes in Laikipia County is Nyahururu Vocational and Training Centre (VTC).

This is in a bid to certify that all the ten VTCs in the county engage in an income generating activity which will ensure self sustenance.

Situated in Nyahururu town, the facility gets raw leather materials from Nairobi to make fine shoes, belts and wallets among other leather products, while at the same time offering training to students.

Nyahururu VTC has a special facility called common manufacturing facility which helps shoe-shiners and those who repair and make shoes from outside the VTC use the one-of-a-kind machine to make part of the shoes they come with, and pay a small amount as a maintenance of the machine. The normal charges are Kshs. 20 for every pair of shoes facilitated by the special machine.

The VTC has a capacity of making 20 pairs of shoes in a day. It also makes shoes according a customer's specifications on design and size.

"Our VTC makes 20 pairs of leather shoes. The fact that we make the shoes as we show the trainees how to make good and quality shoes make us not be able to produce them in large numbers," said the VTC manager, Jackson Ndung'u.

"We used to supply shoes to schools especially on January when many students would join form one classes. The disease has affected us drastically and we look forward to when they will reopen and provide us a better market," commented Mr. Ndung'u.

The facility has limited the number of people making shoes as a way of observing Health directives and avoiding crowded places. Normal learning is expected to resume from early next year.

The institution is curving out a competitive edge in the production of leather products that range from shoes, belts and bags and purses.

It broader goal to provide quality and affordable shoes to all school children. Although this particular market segment has gone down as schools closed due to the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic, the facility still has its business running.

All the 10 Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) in Laikipia are undergoing a shift to focus on commercially-oriented training that will also generate income rather to reduce dependence on revenue from the county government.

Each of the VTCs has a strategic and business plans indicating how it will generate revenue.

"We are offering training with a purpose as we generate income. We have confidence that finally our VTCs will be able to sustain themselves," commented Mbiriri.

Apart from leather works, Nyahururu VTC also offers compulsory ICT courses. Other options are; catering, carpentry, hairdressing, plumbing, electrical wiring, motor-vehicle mechanics, metal works among others. Before the global pandemic hit the country, Nyahururu VTC had 421 students; 70 part-timers and 351 on regular basis.

# The Power Behind *Laikipia Nyati* Foot Wear

By Muriithi John

**T**he name Peter Mwangi has gained popularity in the whole of Laikipia County as the innovator behind the famous Laikipia Nyati Boots.

Though he has been making boots and other leather shoes for the last 15 years, it was not until last year when he was spotted by the county top officials that he graduated to mass production of the foot wear.

The boots are one of the many different types of comfortable leather shoes that Mwangi makes. However, the Laikipia Nyata is the one that has attracted recognition both national and internationally.

Mwangi derived the name *Laikipia Nyati* from the love he has for the county being

a tourism attraction, and for his love for the mother county. The boots are also made from leather from Laikipia. "I saw how tourists flock Laikipia to see world animals like *Nyati* (Buffalo) and saw the name to be okay. I am proud to be Laikipian," Mwangi explained.

The Laikipia Innovation Development Program (LIDP) directorate facilitated him move from working from home, to the manufacturing cluster in Nyahururu which is more accessible and has better visibility.

Late last year, the department under Director Winnie Mwangi, facilitated Mr. Mwangi and other innovators to

exhibit his products in Rwanda and learn on ways to better their products for a period of two weeks.

True Vine Leather Work, as his business is registered, is Kebs certified and makes other types of shoes from a combination of leather and canvas. Low boots, official foot wares, and open shoes are some of the varieties of leather works he specializes in.

Laikipia government is keen to support local innovators upscale for mass production and exposure to market. All are called upon to support

local innovators and believe in the quality of locally produced goods.

"If people would believe in us and buy our products, we can grow to become a big company and offer more people employment," suggested Mwangi.

His footwear shop is located at Common Industrial Facility in Nyahururu town. The retail prices range between Kshs. 1,000 to Kshs. 2,500.

To buy a pair of Laikipia Nyati boots called Mr Mwangi on 0726252817.



Mr Peter Mwangi, the power behind Laikipia Nyati brand



A variety of the Laikipia Nyati brand boots that have aroused interest of discipline forces



# Professionals Up Mentorship Efforts As child Pregnancies in Laikipia North Rise

By Nyaguthii Wahome

**L**aikipia North women professionals are continuing with mentorship programme targeting teenage girls as data from local public health facilities show an alarming rise in child pregnancies in the region.

Data collected from local health facilities shows a worrying rise in pregnancies of girls between the ages of 10 to 19 years.

By June 2020, a record 678 pregnant girls, within this age bracket, attended antenatal clinic in various health facilities in Laikipia North. This should be a wake-up call to police and local administrators to take action against perpetrators who are robbing children of their innocence and their right to be children.

Sosian Ward has presented the highest pregnancies prevalence of 197 within the first six months of year 2020.

The voluntary mentorship efforts has been embraced on the ground with grassroots communities supporting it by helping mobilize the girls to attend the important mentorship meetings within the target communities.

On July 30, 2020, 100 girls of between 10 to 18 years were mentored in Chumvi and Doldol – thanks to great mobilization by local leaders.

The volunteers mentored the girls on impacts of and how to overcome early marriages, avoiding early pregnancies, embracing and completing education, build-



A mentorship session for girls at Doldol, Laikipia North

Organisation unit	Adolescents (10-14 years) presenting with pregnancy	Adolescents (15-19 years) presenting with pregnancy
Anjio Dispensary		32
Borana Dispensary	1	8
Chumvi Dispensary		33
Closed Duplicate Naiperere Dispensary		
Doldol Sub County Hospital	2	49
East Laikipia Dispensary		20
Ethi Dispensary	2	7
Ewaso Dispensary	1	21
Ilmotok Dispensary		20
Iipolei Dispensary	6	33
Island Dispensary		5
Khe Farm Dispensary		
Kimanjio Dispensary		77
Kurum Dispensary		4
Lokusero Dispensary	1	33
Luoniek Dispensary		93
Matura Dispensary		4
Maundo Meri Dispensary	1	15
Minjore Dispensary		8
Mowarak Dispensary	1	69
Mpalla Dispensary		
Mugje Conservancy Dispensary		3
Mukima Dispensary		3
Muramati Dispensary		17
Naibor Dispensary		28
Naiperere Dispensary		13
Ngenia Dispensary		11
Ntalabany Dispensary		
Oliggi Dispensary		
Olpaleta Dispensary		
Powys Dispensary	1	7
Segera Mission Dispensary		17
Sosian Dispensary		42
Survey Dispensary		8
Sweetwaters Serena Clinic		4
		678

ing self-esteem as well as creation of awareness and preventive measures on covid-19 for them and their families.

The team behind this initiative is included Dr Christine Lekurtut from County Government of Laikipia, Ms Ann Resiano and Ms Mary Amina, both teachers from Laikipia North, two nurses, Ms Josephine Basele and Ms Consolota Mosiany from the Department of Health, Ms Emily Lerosion and Ms Virginia Wahome, Director Amaya Triangle Initiative.

## Why Laikipia Insists on Data in Making Decisions



Finance and National Planning CAS Nelson Gaichuhie and other leaders officially launch the 2019 Laikipia county statistical abstract in Nyahururu in May last year

**A** popular phrase goes ...numbers don't lie. This is what motivates the county government of Laikipia to always ensure use of accurate data in any decision making. The government usually bases its decisions from professionally collected data derived from across the county to know

how to set priorities and budget, based on the Laikipia County Statistical Abstracts.

"You require accurate data in order to make informed policy choices. Whether it is about industrialization, universal healthcare or improving agricultural productivity, you need data," insists Governor Ndiritu Muriithi, adding

that the Statistical Abstract is a key data unit and a central pillar of the county's planning process.

The third statistical Abstract is soon to be released which will guide decision making going forward in the year 2020 and part of next year. Laikipia was the first county to publish statistical abstract on August 2018 and has so far been consistent.

The data collection is done each year by the Planning directorate in collaboration with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) which for quality assurance.

"The data contributes to our ongoing endeavor to consistently use verifiable evidence to make informed decisions. The statistical abstract provides the Government, the private and non-profit sector a deeper understanding of the Laikipia economy, as well as socio-economic progress of the people," says the Governor.

The abstract, according to Deputy Governor John Mwaniki, is helpful to all people in different sectors.

"The data is useful not only to investors but to every resident of this county as it's a key tool in decision making and planning. It's also useful for public servants in service delivery," he said.