

Laikipia County

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Our Main Story

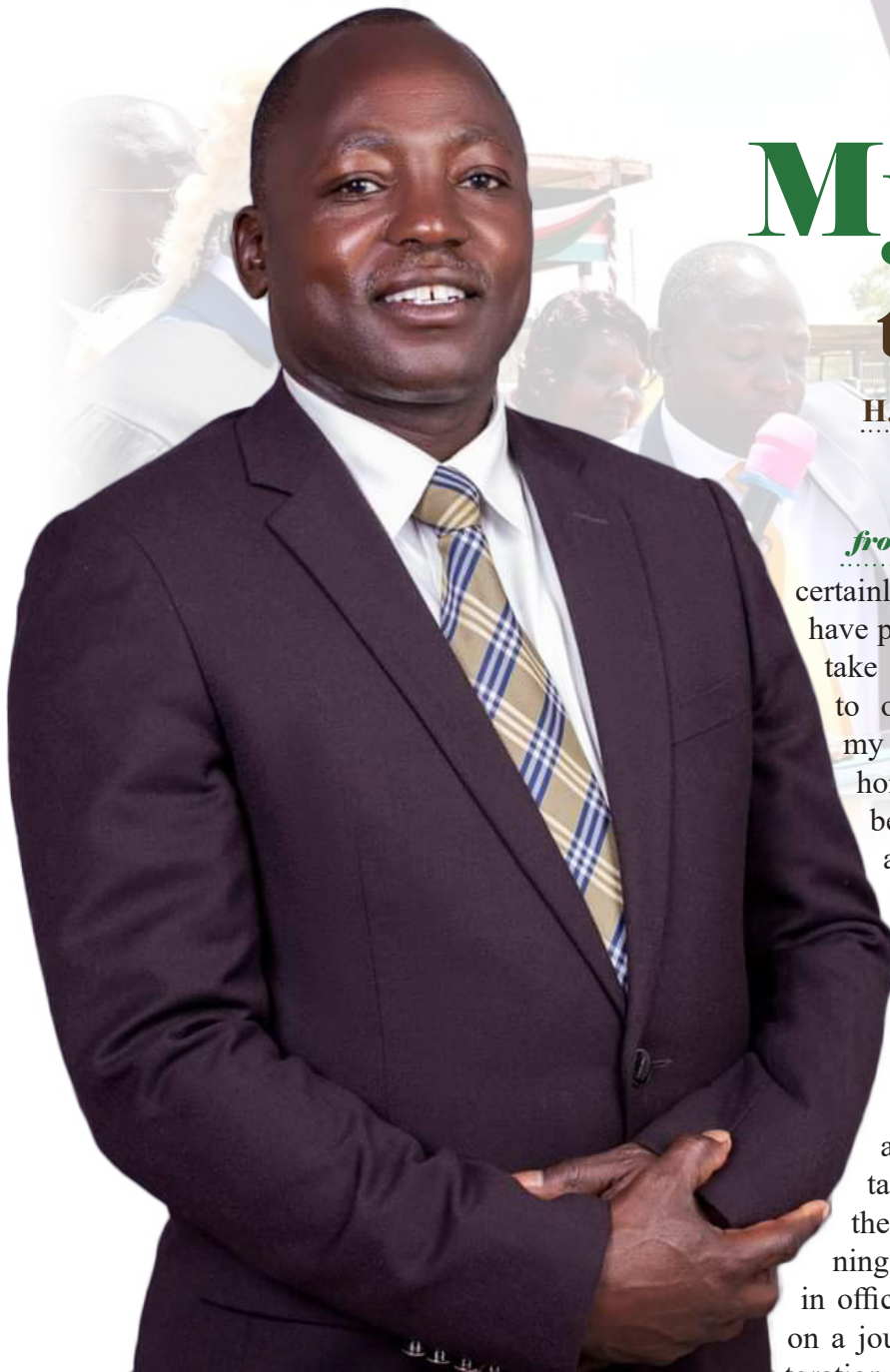
Governor Irungu's Pledge

As I pen this off, it is exactly 30 days since my deputy and I took the oath of office. This was after a long and tortuous journey, stopping in your villages and towns, attending your merry and sorrowful ceremonies, honouring your barazas invitation, and learning a great deal about the expectations you have in the office we sought -and

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- FOOD SECURITY
- CANCER CONSULTANT
- WATER PARTNERSHIP
- THIRD CIDP MAKING PROCESS





My Pledge to Laikipians!

H.E. GOVERNOR JOSHUA IRUNGU

from front page

certainly, the faith you have put on us. Let me take this opportunity to once more give my gratitude for the honour you have bestowed on me, and the government we will form together.

As they say, our work is cut out for us -and true to our word, we are equal to the task. We have hit the ground running. On our first day in office, we embarked on a journey to the restoration of acclaim in our

health department. With the reinstatement to service of our specialist doctors, the swirling exploit to reforms set sail. We have put work into the establishment of innovative solutions to ceaseless challenges of food security, safe and clean water (for home use, irrigation and manufacturing support), unemployment, inequality in economic empowerment and education access, poor transport infrastructure, declining ecosystems, climate change, inadequate energy infrastructure to support our manufacturing ambitions as well as a diminishing collective psyche.

The County Government of Laikipia exists to provide services and avail utility

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to the people. We will entrench the culture of service in all our stakeholders. We will be guided by a value system founded on reverence for duty and deference to service. We will fashion our service catalogue and service delivery processes to always exceed your expectation. We will give the bureaucracy of government a human heart. **I will make Servant Leadership the theme of this government. Like I always say, Mimi ni Mtumishi Wako.**

To effectively deliver services to the people, the County Government will work hand-in-hand with state and non-state actors. We will embrace bilateralism and multilateralism in solving problems and delivering utility to our people. Our programmes will be designed to include as many stakeholders and thought leaders as we can. Even as we embark on the development of the third CIDP we are looping in various voices drawn from the Civil Society and National Government departments. Let me take this opportunity to interest you in this planning item called the County Integrated Development Plan. You are encouraged to make your contribution to the process by

attending public participation meetings in your sublocations on dates that will be communicated. You can submit your proposals through e-mail or any of the other technology channels that will be provided. More details on how you can participate will be shared in due time.

In our efforts to build on the gains availed by devolution, my government has adopted a distinctive Maendeleo Mashinani model of Governance. The model provides for a thorough reimagination of how we deliver services to you. It is around this innovative thinking that I have boldly embraced the following ideas that coalesce to make the model. With the model, the sublocation will become the County’s economic planning and budgeting unit. The Department of Social Economic Planning has thus been advised for their technical realignment. Further, I have made a directive that 40% of the county’s development budget will be disbursed through sublocations to allow resi-

dents to proactively be engaged in solving persisting problems which may be overlooked by macroeconomics considerations. The Model will be spearheaded by Sublocation Development Committees which will be elected by the residents. The committees will be responsible for among other things: conducting Public Participation Forums, holding in custody the public participation priority projects, monitoring, quality control and progress reporting.

I would therefore like to officially invite you to the 3rd County Government term. It is a defining term by all considerations and I would like to pledge my dedication to service. Please join me in building a winning County.



Clinical Oncologist, NTRH



Dr. Juliet Maina at NTRH cancer centre

A Huge Relief for Cancer Patients in Laikipia, as cancer treatment becomes more and more holistic.

Cancer patients in Laikipia County can now breathe a sigh of relief as the Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital (NTRH) has a clinical oncology specialist.

The specialist's arrival comes two years after the launch of the cancer care clinic at the facility. Patients will now have access to oncologist services, a strategic step toward combating the disease in our county.

Dr. Juliet Maina, a clinical oncologist, joins a growing team of dedicated specialists in the county.

Dr. Juliet previously worked as a medical officer at NTRH but left to pursue further studies at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. She is now back, expertly trained and with diverse skills in provision of cancer care services.

Dr. Juliet specializes in cancer

screening and non-surgical cancer treatments like radiotherapy and systemic therapies such as chemotherapy, which inhibit cancer cell multiplication.

Her role will entail making diagnoses, discussing treatment options with patients, organizing and supervising the treatment process, and monitoring patients' post-treatment progress.

Many people seeking cancer care services face significant barriers, such as misinformation and limited facilities to diagnose and treat cancer. These barriers result in late presentation, misdiagnosis, stigma and fear.

"Breast and cervical cancer are the most prevalent types of cancer in the country as well as in our county. Both are preventable and treatable if

detected early," Dr. Juliet observed. "We must be proactive in raising awareness in order to reduce the stigma associated with cancer diagnosis as a way of encouraging more people to participate in regular cancer screenings," she added.

According to the National Cancer Control Strategy 2018–2021, cancer is the third-leading cause of death in Kenya, posing unique challenges to existing health infrastructure. The decentralization of specialized cancer care has been rolled out as a critical approach to the attainment of universal access to cancer management in the country. The National Guideline for the Establishment of Cancer Management Centers provides the requisite policy guidance towards achieving accessible, efficient, timely, and high-quality cancer management services for all.

NTRH is in the process of implementing policy requirements, particularly by investing in infrastructural capacity to ensure full functioning of the cancer clinic. Plans are underway to establish a chemotherapy unit at the clinic by the beginning of next year. In terms of human resources, the oncologist will work alongside her colleagues, Nancy Gathoni, clinical officer; Mr. Douglas Sagini, oncology nurse, and Jane Matimu, palliative care nurse.

This augments Laikipia County's leadership commitment to quality, affordable healthcare service

By Ann Ngunjiri

Governor tours Maize Stores in L. West



The assessment visit gave Governor Irungu a true picture of where farmers' maize produce will be safely stored, this season.

One of the key areas of focus for H.E Governor Joshua Irungu is Agriculture, livestock and Food Security. The Governor highlighted that his government will strive to achieve household and individual food security at the village level being an expert in Agriculture.

To achieve this, the Governor, accompanied by a team from the Agriculture department, visited three maize storage facilities (Mutanga, Sipili and Kinamba) to check the status of the warehouses and come up with a strategy to ensure that farmers in Laikipia West will store their maize in the facilities. Harvesting of the crop begins in a month's time. The County department of Agriculture has put in efforts to ensure that these three warehouses are fully operational in line with a pledge made by the Governor to farmers in Laikipia West.

Additionally, through the implementation of a warehouse receipt system, the farmers will be able to store the grains in the stores and use them as collateral for getting credit.

This will also ensure that the prices of the cereals are stabilized by adjusting the demand and supply. More youths will be employed to work in the warehouses as farmers increase their income.

The Governor later hosted a team from the New Ken-



ya Planters Co-operative Union (KPCU) in Tandare, Laikipia West with an aim of reviving and promoting Coffee production in Laikipia West. The farmers will be trained and a 10 acre demo farm established in Gatirima. A coffee seedlings nursery has also been set at Lariak Forest.

The Department was led by the Ag. Chief Officer Ms. Elizabeth Wangari, Ag. Director Agriculture Mr. Peter Gachugia, ASDSP County Coordinator Mr. Nyapola, Laikipia West Agricultural Officers among other officers from the department.

In her remarks Ms. Elizabeth Wangari mentioned that she will lead the team of officers from the department in ensuring that farmers are well equipped with the knowledge and skills to enable them practice agriculture as a business.

By Mollin Wanjiru



NTRH embarks on extensive renovations

Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital has embarked on extensive facility renovations to improve quality of services, client experience and general service expansion. This marks the start of transformative upgrades that are set to be rolled out in health facilities across the county in the near future.

The hospital in collaboration with the Department of Infrastructure has arrived on areas that need urgent prioritization to offer temporal relief, as the government works out a long-term plan. Top on the list is the physiotherapy unit whose current location is client-unfriendly, as it involves lengthy walks from the

associated service points. This unit will benefit from a new structure closer to the outpatient department.

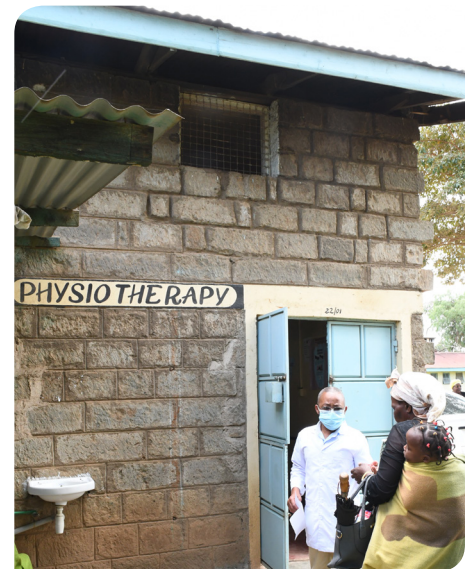
The joint undertaking will see structural adjustments to the wards to give it a modern face. Through consultation with the nursing department, the adjustments will involve ward internal visibility works where the obstructive internal stone walls are set to give way to more transparent fittings for better patient monitoring from centralized nursing stations. These works are set to be rolled out in phases to minimize interruptions to services.

A team of architects and engineers from the county Infrastructure De-

partment recently toured the facility and together with the hospital administration and the biomedical engineers, they mapped out areas to prioritize in the initial phase of the project. To benefit from the improvement is the newborn unit, which is set to be shifted to the new Mother and Child Hospital wing. The resultant space will then be used to increase bed capacities for the inpatient adult wards.

The shifting of the newborn unit into the maternity complex is a welcome relief to mothers who have their babies in the nursery, as it involves walks to and from during breastfeeding sessions.

By David Serem



Because customer experience is equally important in healthcare, NTRH appreciates that patients treated by a polite kind physician, in a clean, beautiful facility and serene environment, is likely to trust the facility and medical staff serving them. Importantly, it is patient's right to be treated in clean and nicely kept, facility.



NCRH Upbeat In Patient's Hygiene



What comes to mind when you think about hospitals? Doctors and nurses right? This is because of the high value services they render, and the close relationship they have with their patients.

Rarely do we think about patient's hygiene, specifically, patient's beddings - what and who is involved in this critical function and the department involved.

Well, linen and laundry play a crucial role on how the hospital runs and making sure the patients are well taken care of. At a hospital like Nyahururu County Referral Hospital (NCRH) a modern hospital laundry washing and drying machine are necessary to deal with the large amount of linen that needs cleaning daily.

When his Excellency Governor Joshua Irungu made a health tour to NCRH on 19th August 2022, accompanied by the hospital CEO Dr. Patrick Waihenya and the hospital administrator Mr. Thomas Kiptoo among other leaders, he promised to give the health department priority to enable quality service delivery to all patients.

He visited the laundry department and several other departments that serve both inpatient and outpatient units, where he promised immediate full installation of an automatic



“NCRH will endeavour to improve customer experience, our customers to always sleep on clean bedsheets, blankets. General hygiene will be top notch,” CEO NCRH Dr. Waihenya Explains.

laundry washing machine and a drier.

According to NCRH's Public Health in-charge, Mr. Paul Muriu, the machine is now operational and is enabling full range of laundry services in the facility. This has brought great impact to the in-patient department, by eliminating shortages of hospital linen, especially during the cold seasons in Nyahururu Sub-County.

Some of the features include a low-maintenance barrier washer, with exceptional washing, spinning, hot water, and disinfection quality. The drier provides highly energy-efficient drying enabling the washing and drying of hospital laundry regardless of the cold weather.

The NCRH laundry team ensures an adequate supply of clean linen to meet the comfort, safety, and personal appearance needs of patients and hospital personnel. We are grateful to our amazing team of laundry staff who go above and beyond each day to observe the cleanliness of all departmental linen.

By Esther Muthoni



Third Laikipia CIDP Begins Taking Shape



Plans to develop the third County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) for Laikipia County has kicked off after a capacity building meeting on the guidelines for development of the same held on 19th September 2022.

This is the vibrant plan that will guide developments of the county in the next five years. Public participation on the same will run across the county from 11th to 21st October covering at least 25 meetings in a day.

According to the acting Chief Officer in the Department of Finance and County Treasury Daniel Ngumi the National Government has provided guidelines for the counties that will help in coming up with individual plans. The document is the guide to the county projects in the five years.

“The State Department of Planning has introduced new guidelines that will help in coming up with a better plan that addresses current issues

like environmental sustainability,” he said.

“CIDP is the best practice. It helps in managing what you are doing and also review what has been accomplished in the last five years. It is a necessity for good governance,” Mr. Ngumi added.

The guidelines for producing the third CIDP include borrowing from Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations (UN), the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), County factsheet, among others. The aim is to align the county planning framework to the one of the national government as required by the constitution.

The plan document is also set to have a streamlined criteria for flagship projects.

By John Muriithi

What is CIDP and Why do we need it?

When Governor Joshua Irungu and Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri decided to seek office, they toured every single village in Laikipia.

They explained in details their development agenda under FOUR PILLAR

MANIFESTO, Security and Community Cohesion; Maendeleo Mashinani; Inclusive Government; and, Infrastructure Development.

Now, the five-year term must be guided by a MASTER PLAN called CIDP, drawn from the four manifesto pillars, and aligned to National Government's Medium Term Plan, Vision 2030, and with UN's Sustainable Development Goals SDGs.

This month of November, Governor, Deputy, and entire Finance team shall hold public participation meetings that shall be held in all Wards, actually from sub-location level. Objective? Laikipians to make decision on how they wish development agenda to look like.



Water Partnership to Benefit Laikipia



The move to achieve water for production and domestic use in Laikipia is on the right track after the Central Rift Valley Water Works Development Agency (CRVWDA) representatives promised to work closely with the current administration.

The team committed to ensuring Laikipians get affordable, clean and reliable water without necessarily relying on rain.

“We are going to fund some of the water projects in the county so that we avail water for wildlife, domestic and even agricultural purposes,” said CEO Eng. Samuel Oruma.

The meeting was among the first that the governor convened during his second term proving he is living to deliver on his promise of availing water in the county. During his inauguration, Governor Irungu said his wish is to see that every Laikipia resident accesses reliable water within a maximum radius of three kilometres.

“I made a promise to the people of Laikipia and I will not rest until I fulfill it, especially on availing water to the nearest spot. I bring a political goodwill by allowing all stakeholders to play their part for the benefit of the people of Laikipia,”

said Governor Irungu as he addressed the meeting that brought together different stakeholders in the sector.

To ensure the efforts bear fruits, the Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri was tasked to lead a taskforce that will work towards actualizing the water plan across the county.

The county government will provide at least 50,000 water tanks to households across the county and promote rainwater harvesting, storage, and treatment as promised in the Governor’s manifesto.

By John Muriithi

Water provision is one of the core agenda of this administration, for domestic use, farming, and for production. This development intervention will sure need alot of resources, and Governor intends to mobilise resources from own-source revenue, from partners and from stakeholders. To further this intervention, additionally, Governor has proposed establishment of a Rural Water Services Board to ensure existing rural water infrastructure serves people optimally.



Surge in Patients Numbers



Laikipians and neighbour counties have heard of the good news, the return of Laikipia's specialists. Now patients won't stop trickling to our facilities, and we are happy and ready to serve them.

Scores of new and returning patients are flocking to Laikipia's public hospitals as the county continues to roll out extensive reforms to the health sector. The development follows the return of doctors as promised by H.E Governor Joshua Irungu in a bid to ensure a reliable and accessible healthcare system.

The governor's commitment to transforming the healthcare delivery system has given the people of Laikipia renewed optimism that they will receive the best medical care available in their home county. A spot check at NTRH's reveals service points such as the outpatient department and the specialist clin-

ics teaming with activity, which is a stark contrast to days preceding the Governor's swearing in.

In his manifesto, which promised massive transformations in the first 100 days in office, the Governor prioritized the reinstatement of doctors as his top agenda in healthcare. "My first task as your governor will be to reinstate doctors who were fired over 40 months ago. We are ready to bear the full cost for the reinstatement because life is priceless,

"Governor Irungu stated during the inauguration ceremony.

True to his commitment, the Governor oversaw the reinstatement process of over 30 doctors by formulating and signing a return to work formula agreement that enabled them to resume their positions.

"We anticipated the rise in number of clients which clearly demonstrates people's confidence in receiving better services at the hospital after the return of doctors," said Dr. Timothy Panga, Ag. CO Health. "We expect the coming doctors to address the possible demand of services even as we strive to streamline supply mechanisms to enable optimal operations of critical service points such as the laboratory."

A section of the public has also heeded the Governor's appeal to enroll in the national health insurer and select county hospitals as their healthcare centers.

"We have served a number of clients who previously rescinded their cards but are now willing to have the facility as their primary healthcare provider," said Nahashon Ngunjiri, the in-charge of hospital accounts department. "This is an encouraging move towards achieving the Governor's vision of universal enrollment in NHIF as a social health insurance program to ensure the affordability of healthcare services for all," he

By Ann Ngunjiri



Doubling of Orthopedic Clinics and Surgeries, at NTRH

County Department of Health is working around the clock to implement Governor Irungu's directive, that Laikipia must enjoy full benefits of specialists' resumptions to work.

As doctors continue to report back to their various workstations across the county, the increase in access and availability of specialist services has necessitated revising of specialist clinics and surgery day schedules at the Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital.

The most significant early changes include the addition of a second orthopedic clinic and second surgery day, led by the returning of Dr. Samuel Ndanya on Monday and Friday respectively.

This clinic complements the already existing Thursday clinic and Monday surgery days, conducted by Dr. Andre Kaggwa.

Orthopedic specialists specialize in surgical and non-surgical interventions for the musculoskeletal system - the bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, and muscles

that are so essential to movement and everyday life.

This service is especially critical with regards to injuries sustained in road accidents, sports-related injuries as well as degenerative conditions such as arthritis, which generally afflict older persons. Orthopedic specialists also act to diagnose and administer treatment to congenital conditions related to the muscles and skeletal system.

Other specialist clinics also running at the referral facility are general surgery clinics on Tuesdays, a gynecology clinic for high-risk patients on Mondays, and a general gynecology clinic on Wednesdays for general consultations. Additionally, the hospital also offers ENT clinics on Tuesdays.

By Andrew Kimemia



Dr. Andre Kaggwa, Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon



Dr. Samuel Ndanya, Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon

