



# Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

WEEKLY  
BULLETIN

## History Made as Laikipia Community Ranches Get Title Deeds



HE Governor Ndiritu Muriithi and EU Ambassador Simon Mordue hand over Ilngwesi community ranch title deed to chairman Kip ole Polos

By Peter Mubari

**T**wo Laikipia community group ranches have made history by becoming the first ones to have title deeds for community land.

Titling of Il Ngwesi and Musul group ranches in Laikipia North was enabled through partnership bringing together the County Government of Laikipia, Ministry of Lands, National Land Commission, the EU and FAO.

The title deeds for the two communities were handed over on Friday during a brief ceremony at Governor's compound.

These are the very first group ranches to have titled land in the country. The land ownership documents will benefit the Il Ngwesi and Musul people a huge deal. The group ranch members will now be able to take part in land conservation exercises. They will also be able to manage their land and plan ahead as far as food security is concerned. Communities will now be able to plan the grazing land for their livestock.

Through the land titles, boundaries will be mapped out and this will avoid trespassing. The issuance of these deeds has enhanced recognition of women rights to land ownership. Women will have roles in the Land Management Committee.

Speaking from the event, Segera Ward MCA Cherubo Kaparo described the issuance of the title deeds as historic as this was the first time the Maasai community has witnessed group land titles.

"It's the first time for the Maa community to see a title deed for community land..those saying Governor is not working should tell who where else in this country Masai community has title deeds for their land?" It is historic!" Mr Kaparo said.

Ngobit Ward MCA Robert Maina, who also sits as the Chairman of the Land Committee in Laikipia County Assembly reiterated his support for Governor Muriithi saying he had great things for the county.

The ward representative also echoed Mr.

Kaparo's words stating that the Governor had done a good job and that he should have been ranked the first among other Governors.

Similar sentiments were expressed by county assembly deputy speaker Daniel Nyausi who dismissed opinion polls as a sham.

The Chairperson of Il Ngwesi conservancy Land Management Committee Kip Ole Polos noted that it was difficult to conserve land without title deeds.

Ms Nancy Karmushu, a member of the Il Ngwesi Land Management Committee, hailed the Constitution of Kenya for including five slots for women out of 15 available in the Land Management Committee in the Land Act.

The Musul community land chairperson Tom Putunoi also noted of the importance of the inclusion of women and youth as this helps in upholding the two-third gender rule.

# Inside CFLA's New Cancer Clinic at NTRH



Laikipia First Lady Maria Mbeneka shows HE Governor Ndiritu Muriithi temperature is taken at the new NTRH Cancer Clinic as other First Ladies and staff look on

By Muriithi John

**N**anyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital has a new cancer clinic courtesy of the County First Ladies' Association (CFLA).

The new clinic will save Laikipia residents and those from the surrounding regions from making long journeys in search of cancer treatment services.

The CFLA, currently under the chairmanship of Laikipia First Lady Maria Mbeneka, mobilized resources for the clinic which will help in early detection of several types of cancers.

Laikipia is the 6<sup>th</sup> county to get Empower clinic. The clinics are a major boost to the country's war against cancer which is a major killer. Fifteen First Ladies attended the ceremony to open the 6<sup>th</sup> clinic in Nanyuki on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Early detection and treatment of cancer are the key to reducing cancer-related deaths in the country. The clinic has several rooms for various activities focused on early cancer detection and treatment.

The first room a patient visits is the triage or procedure room. Here are several equipment that include a weighing machine with height, portable blood pressure monitor, SPO2 machine, and a medicine trolley.

The main happenings in this room is head to toe physical examination to detect any abnor-

malities. There is also an SPO2 to check the oxygen levels in the blood.

Vital observations are taken which include temperature taking, pulse rate, blood sugar, weight and height (BMI).

The examination couch in the room will help patients to stay comfortable as examination is being performed.

The Women 4 Cancer provided 100 pieces of pap smear kits. The kits will help in conducting pap tests. The test is meant for finding abnormal cells on the cervix that could be cervical cancer. Therefore, the kits will guarantee early detection of cervical cancer.

The Cryotherapy room will be mainly dealing with early stages of breast and cervical cancers (stages 1 and 2). Here the cells are burned to ensure no duplication and escalation of the cancer cells to more complicated situations. A chemotherapy room contains two chemo chairs provided by the County Government of Laikipia. The room is purely for Chemo treatment. Owing to the long hours a chemo treatment takes, extending up to three hours, the NTRH has installed a television screen to be providing a form of other therapeutic measures like songs and videos. Testimonies of survivors played on the screens will also instill hope to the patients.

Construction of an extension of this room, is in progress which will provide enough space

for mixing the chemo drugs. The new room will be installed with a special chimney for emission of the toxic gas emanating from the mixture.

Roche also supplied the new clinic with a cabinet, a desktop, and three comfortable chairs to be used in the consultation room.

The African Cancer Foundation issued the new clinic with literature material regarding early detection of cancer, signs and symptoms, dieting, and treatment of cancer. It also donated some speculums, equipment used to perform cervical examination.

International Cancer Institute will cater for the technical aspect of running programs around the Empower clinic. The organization will offer the necessary staff training for certainty of provision of quality services.

The newly-opened Empower Clinic is headed by Jane Matimu a Palliative care nurse. The role of such a care giver is the general handling of cancer patients.

Ms. Matimu is mandated to provide pain management therapies, offering counselling services to patients, symptom management, organizing the patients' family conferences and counselling them, among many others.

The mobilization of the various partners by CFLA led by Maria Mbeneka as their chairperson has led to this significant development in the county.

# Business Opportunities Behind Laikipia BodaBoda Numbers



*Bodaboda operators waiting for passengers. The industry provides immense opportunities in Laikipia*

By Muriithi John

In 2019 alone, an estimated 7,000 motorcycles, commonly referred as boda bodas, within Laikipia county made over 30.6 million passenger trips.

These figures alone underline the importance of the boda boda industry to the county's economy. To many people the figures may not mean anything.

But to the business-minded the figures, which are derived from the Laikipia County Statistical Abstract 2020 provide gaping business opportunities to daring investors.

For instance, the boda boda industry requires a lot of maintenance and spare parts. Is it possible to start a motorcycle spare parts manufacturing centre in Laikipia? Yes. Laikipia North TTI has the most modern and computerized lathe machines capable of fashioning out spare parts even for aircrafts. If an investor would set up an industry in the county for manufacture spare parts and other requirements for the motorbikes, he is assured of a ready market. Secondly, rarely do you find a bodaboda customer wearing a helmet. Reason being the hygiene issues related with sharing of the head protective gear. At other times the riders do not have an extra head protector. Going by the issue of hygiene and sharing of the helmet, there exist a huge gap that investors ought to fill at a profit.

Setting up an industry to manufacture disposable

liners for users to dispose after use would seal the existing gap. One piece of the helmet liners might go for just Ksh.10, -Yes ten bob! which is affordable and also allow for customers to protect themselves.

An investor can make a net profit of two shillings from each piece. When multiplied by the over 30.6 million passenger trips in a year, the investment can make at least Ksh. 61m after deducting all production expenses. This is only from manufacturing helmet liners. If combined with manufacturing other bodaboda spare parts like helmets, side mirrors and tires, the profit margin would definitely shoot. Laikipia county is in the front-line of creating good environment for any businesses to thrive. The county government is also facilitating coming up of businesses through improvement of towns for investors to have an easy time to bring up any development projects. The only thing a government can do is facilitate creation of development projects, but cannot start businesses. It has also converted all its officers to become business development officers. This will enable them advise or handhold businesses towards growth and therefore create high incomes and more jobs.

Other areas investors should hurry up and put their money with an assurance of making profits is in areas around Rumuruti town. Owing to the fact that the administrative headquarters will soon shift to the town,

all developers will be running there.

Many workers will relocate to be commuting from nearer places. Investing in construction of residential houses is a noble idea. The opportune moment to make investments is therefore now.

Some investors have seen the great business opportunity that Laikipia has and have thus seized the opportunity. Home Business Sacco opened in Rumuruti on 16th October 2020. New Fortis, a Nyeri-based Sacco opened a new branch in Nanyuki town in September this year. Chieni Supermarket limited expanded to open a second Branch in Nanyuki town in the same month. The revival of the Nairobi-Nanyuki railway line is an indication that there is enough potential to make the region a manufacturing economy and maximumly utilize the new mode of transport. The county sits at the centre of Cereb whose economy contributes to over 26% that of the total National GDP. The two main towns of the county, Nanyuki and Nyahururu links the the rest of the country to other areas like the North Eastern parts, and Somalia and Southern Sudan countries.

Investing in this county therefore provides an assured market, within the county, country and beyond.

# Promoting Manufacturing-Based Enterprises



One of the ways of ensuring a society that is economic empowered is shifting from being net importers to manufacturers. As such different people and entities must play their rightful roles to ensure the same happens in their end.

Teachers play a significant role in shaping the lives of students. They are the main determinants of how a society will look like in years to come. However, the same is cultivated at early stages of a student's life.

Teachers promote internal entrepreneurship within the school systems by identifying and nurturing innovative ideas amongst pupils and students. A teacher must shape and encourage the line their student seems to focus on.

It is not possible for all learners to score high grades in the formal education as they are differently gifted. Therefore, teachers should encourage learners to attain high grades but not force them to study with a mentality that life is better only if one graduates from a university.

A teacher has a role to show students that in deed enrolling in technical courses offered in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVETS) is not failing in life. Most of the innovators who have shone in the recent past have come up with manufacturing ideas and not based on the popular white-

collar jobs.

For instance, the famous Laikipia car (BJ50) has been developed by Samuel Njogu a person who is not using his degree knowledge. The four-wheel tuk-tuk has now hit the market at Ksh. 450,000.

The County Government of Laikipia has chipped in to help this innovator through facilitation of having a spacious working area for mass production, certification of quality standards, mobilization of partners to offer technical guidance, and also being among the first customers.

Mr. Njogu is a living example that excelling academically is not the only way to be successful in life. Teachers ought to train the current generation to use their special skills and become successful in their areas.

Trainers should also encourage creativity in school through establishing school-based enterprises. A further step for the teachers would involve linking innovative ideas to government programs for support.

Through the directorate of Laikipia Innovation Development Program (LIDP), the county government majors on hand holding such innovators to make good use of their ideas, regardless of their education background.

Focus is on manufacturing, engineering, health, agriculture, mining, creative economy, energy and waste management. So far, the directorate has 457 innovators across the county with 29 partners.

Courtesy of LIDP, there are 35 products certi-

fied by Kenya Bureau of Standards and 16 ongoing, 12 products filed for utility models and Patents while eight are ongoing.

Also, the directorate has seen 66 products facilitated to local and international markets and 38 MSMEs linked to funding

At least 878 jobs have been created through the innovation program.

Fourteen innovators have gotten their working spaces thanks to the innovation programme. Most of these were working in their backyards and thus had limited exposure and market. Eight enterprises have also been linked to incubation opportunities.

LIDP compliments the County's Public Sector modernization program, where departments and staff work-plans are being tailored to assisting the businesses to grow in line with the County Results Framework.

The overall objective is to create 30,000 jobs and grow the per capita daily to kshs. 600 by June 2022.

Teachers who discover such students in their class are encouraged to link them to officers in the county government.

You can reach the innovation programme through a phone number or social media site as indicated below;

Phone number: 0784183702

Twitter: @LaikipiaLidp

Facebook: Laikipia Innovation Development Program (LIDP)

# Marking Global Hand Washing Day in Laikipia

The County Government of Laikipia, together with Kenya Red cross, Pathways Policy Institute, Ministry of Health and Ajiry, organized the celebrations of Global Hand Washing Day on October 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 at DEB Nanyuki Primary school with a theme of 'hand hygiene for all.' The purpose of the event was to teach students how to properly wash their hands and ensure they maintain the covid 19 guidelines set by the government of correctly wearing masks, maintaining social distance etc.

The event was graced by Ms. Beth Njoki Ngugi who is the Senior Assistant Public Health Officer (SAPHO) Laikipia. With an attendance of 30 class 4 and 8 pupils, the ten volunteers from Red Cross and Pathways, led by Sherrie Njeri and Lucky Namunyak took the pupils through the core hand washing steps and proper use of soap and water during handwashing. The class 4 and 8 students are required to resume classes and this exercise was vital in showing them how they will practice safe hygiene in this covid-19 era.

The key handwashing methods the pupils learnt in the day were; Wet your hands with clean running water, turn off the tap to save water and apply soap, rub your hands together, Lather the backs of your hands between your fingers, around your thumbs, under your nails, around your wrist, scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds,



*A pupil take part in washing of hands to mark the Global Hand washing Day in Laikipia. Washing hands is critical to preventing Covid-19 and other infections*

Wash the top of the tap and Rinse your hands well under clean running water.

The County Government, Pathways and Kenya Red Cross also provided hand washing soap to the school for future use.

Global Handwashing Day is celebrated every year on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The first Global Hand-

washing Day was held in 2008, when over 120 million children around the world washed their hands with soap in more than 70 countries. This day serves as a yearly reminder that handwashing with soap and water is one of the best steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others.

## Rehabilitation of Nanyuki and Likii Rivers

*Laikipia  
East DCC  
Esther  
Mwamure  
plants a tree  
along  
Nanyuki*



As a sign of commitment to preserving the natural resources in Laikipia county, the department of Water, Environment and Natural resources teamed up with two organizations to rehabilitate the two main rivers.

Together with Green Organization and Storm Water and Environment Forum Nanyuki, the department initiated 9.8 km

Nanyuki River and 8.5 kilometers Likii River restoration last week.

The exercise involved launching of 'Adopt a Tree' program where 10,000 indigenous tree seedlings were planted. The types of trees planted were bamboo and fruit trees. The event was attended by 1800 people who were sensitized on the importance of tree planting in the environment. Among

them were the Nanyuki Kazi Mtaani youth. Some of the key points learnt were: trees are important in improving the quality of the natural environment, improving water quality in water catchment areas, they are vital in stopping climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the air, storing carbon in the trees and soil, and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere.

In this case, planting of indigenous trees along Nanyuki and Likii Rivers will be a major breakthrough as far as water and environment conservation is concerned.

Trees are a key component of a healthy river and an important factor in creating resilience in the ecosystem to floods, droughts and pollution. They are important for rivers because they provide shelter for aquatic animals and stabilize river banks in addition can reduce the rate of bank erosion.

Other partners involved in the success of the event were Kenya Water Towers Agency, Mt. Kenya Foundation, BATUK (British Army Training Unit Kenya), and Office of the Deputy County Commissioner Nanyuki.

# Why Feedlot Is the Way to Go in Laikipia

By Peter Mubari

**L**ivestock production in Laikipia contributes a great deal to the county's economy. Feedlot farming is a modern technology where animals are reared in a zero grazing unit with the goal of rapidly fattening them.

Feedlots are the most economical way to raise a large number of cattle for beef production in a small area. The beef cattle require energy, proteins, minerals, vitamins and water in specified quantities every day. The resources are for normal body maintenance, including waste removal, growth including weight gain, reproduction and movement.

Animals in a feedlot are managed in a manner that ensures they use most of their nutrient resources for body maintenance and weight gain. That is why they are confined to limit movement; they are supplied with highly nutritious feed at the recommended level of three per cent of their body weight in dry matter and very high levels of hygiene are ensured to minimize disease.

Pastoralism is very common in Laikipia North constituency. According to the County Statistical Abstract 2020, the average quantity of meat produced in 2019 by every head of cattle slaughtered was 150kgs. The total number of kilograms of meat produced in that same year was 2,643,150 kgs.

Pastoralist farmers, and especially in the northern parts of the county, have experienced constant conflict involving resources, cattle rustling. Crop farmers in the area have also been in conflict with their pastoralist



*Cattle in feedlot. Laikipia is encouraging adoption of this technology by pastoralists*

counterparts due to the fact that animals grazing in their lands may cause destruction of crops and trespassing of property.

Through feedlot farming, these conflicts will be minimized a great deal. Animals enclosed in definite paddocks for the purpose of producing high quality beef will not just benefit the pastoralist but also crop farmers.

Cattle rustling which has been an issue in Laikipia for the last couple of years will also be reduced. Ranches in Laikipia which have

adopted feedlot farming are better placed in avoiding conflicts. An example is Ol Maisor Ranch in Rumuruti. The people in the ranch have been enjoying peace and healing from the invasion of illegal herders who left several people dead, livestock stolen, and landowners like Kuki Gallmann injured.

In this case feedlots are most definitely the solution required to sort the mess of cattle rustling in the Laikipia ranches which in previous years has been a cause of deaths,

## Laikipia County Improves in Latest Infotrak Survey

Laikipia has greatly improved its performance going by the Infotrak County ranking report released last week. In matters health, the county was ranked at number 41 in 2015, but now has moved 16 steps up. This performance is demonstrated by the various health developments the county government is involved in like NHIF cover in Laikipia which has reached 60% of the population. The County Government seeks to reach out to 90% of NHIF coverage.

The government has also partnered with UNICEF, World Bank, Danida, Amref, Safaricom, among others who have certified better service delivery.

There is also a major breakthrough in the upgrading of health facilities in the county. For example, the Safaricom Foundation donated laboratory equipment for Wiyu-

miririe dispensary on 2nd October this year. Recently government recruited more staff to the facility. The people of Wiyu-miririe and Upper Ngobit now have an upgraded facility within their reach.

On Wednesday 27th October 2020, the county government opened its first Empower cancer clinic which will provide cancer treatment services not previously offered in the region. People around Nanyuki will no longer travel for long distances seeking cancer-related services.

Agriculture is another area where the county has made tremendous. According to the released Infotrak County ranking, in 2015 it was ranked second last position, but has now moved 11 points up in this year's ranking. This improvement shows that the county government has been fully involved

in developing the agricultural sector.

Laikipia, through the Amaya Triangle Initiative has been encouraging feedlot farming where pastoralists are advised to rear animals in a simple zero grazing unit with the goal of rapidly fattening them. Feedlot farming reduces conflict especially in the north region where rustling and conflict of resources has greatly been reduced. The department of Agriculture is also assisting farmers access veterinary services in order to have improved breeds of cattle to increase export opportunities.

Overall, county performance in 2015 Laikipia was at number 38 while in 2020 it is at number 31, moving seven points.

There is therefore an overall improvement in the county. It is our belief that even a good thing can be made better.

# Taji Estate Will Bring 3,400 New Homes in Nanyuki



*The proposed Taji Gardens Estate at the Junction of Mukima Road in Nanyuki*

In line with attainment one of the Big 4 Agenda, the Unison Sacco, with the help of County government of Laikipia has begun providing affordable housing.

The Sacco is partitioning its 542-acre land in Nanyuki into plots of 50x100 and 100x100 to customers for construction of a well-planned residential estate, named Taji Gardens.

This realization came to be on Thursday 29 2020 with the signing of a contract between the Unison Sacco limited and Nanyuki Water and Sewerage Company (NAWASCO), in the presence of various stakeholders led by H. E. Governor Ndiritu Muriithi.

Residential area, however, will be built on land that has utilities such as water, power and a sewerage system.

This will see an improvement in the living standards and creation of more job opportunities. The sewerage system will improve the value of land, solve sanitation questions while also observing environmental laws.

In the contract, Unison Sacco agreed to fund the construction of a Kes. 32 million sewer system in Taji Estate Project while NAWASCO will implement.

Whereas the Sacco will own the sewer infrastructure, NAWASCO will supply water, manage and maintain the system.

"I welcome this partnership, because it is the only way urban planning is done. Why would you build houses, personal

or residential, but you do not have a plan of a hygiene waste disposal?" Governor Muriithi paused, while overseeing the contract signing between NAWASCO Managing Director Kennedy Gitonga and Unison Sacco's Chief Executive Officer, John Njogu.

Previously the Sacco representatives had gone ahead with the subdivisions but had skipped a vital stage of involving the government in making approvals.

The lack of a clear sewer line and water system brought their efforts to a halt, and stopped the implementation. It is only after

the consultation with the county government that an understanding was reached and the Sacco did the necessary, that the partitioning and plots allocation exercise was to commence, through signing of a contract.

"The best part in urban planning is that the density of the building must be related to the provision of utilities. I thank Unison Sacco for demonstrating with action what proper urban development is about," said the governor.

Moving forward, the Sacco management vowed their commitment to be involving the government in all their undertakings to avoid repeating the same mistakes.

"Moving to the Taji 2, we promise not to walk alone as Unison Sacco, but we will walk hand in hand with the county government officials to avoid what happened in the past," said the Sacco chairman Mr. James Muhandi.

Unison Sacco is a Laikipia based deposit taking Sacco established in 1977 as Laikipia Teachers Sacco but changed the name in 2014. The Sacco draws members from TSC, Civil Servants, private schools/institution employees, corporates, Micro-credit groups and individual business entrepreneurs capable of making regular contributions.



*H.E. Governor Ndiritu Muriithi and Unison chairman Mr. James Muhandi witness the signing of an MoU between Nawasco and the sacco.*

# Rolling Out of Livestock Identification and Traceability System

By Maureen Mwangi

**T**he County department of Agriculture, livestock and fisheries in partnership with the Kenya Directorate of Veterinary services, World Vision – Imara Daima program, on Tuesday 27 October 2020 embarked on a livestock identification and traceability system (LITS) programme in the County.

On the first day, representatives from 13 Community ranches were sensitized in Doldol about the Identification and traceability process. They were engaged on the different benefits of acquiring the identification and animal tags.

The County Veterinary officers and other livestock officers were latter trained for Two-two days on how to sensitize the farmers and carry out the activity of animal tagging and identification process.

Identification and traceability will ascertain the ownership thus farmers can access credit and insurance using the identified livestock as collateral. It will also achieve compliance with requirements of the international trade therefore the livestock farmers will be able to access international markets. It will also help both county and national governments in surveillance, control and eradication of animal diseases.

The chairman of the Kenya Veterinary Association (KVA) Dr. Samuel kahariri emphasized on the importance of the sys-



*Government officers marking livestock for better identification and traceability*

tem in keeping animal health records.

The livestock programme manager Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) foundation Mr. Bernard Barasa said that farmers and ranches can benefit with loans from the foundation with no interest rate among other benefits when in a group. After the identification process, a farmer can get a loan of up to Ksh. 250,000,000.

Laikipia County is the pioneering County in the livestock identification and traceability process in the Country. This will also play a big role in promoting the Laikipia beef brand.

During the exercise, various details are taking including the name of the owner of the cattle, the health records, the age of the animal. These details are registered in the system.

On Friday last week, 30 October 2020, over 250 cows were identified and electronically tagged in two areas in Segerera Ward.

Next, the team will carry out the exercise for farmers in Laikipia East and Laikipia North. In the first phase, 10,000 cows in Laikipia county will be tagged.

Kenya Market Trust has also joined the partnership of this noble course.



A training session of administrators from County Government of Laikipia at the Kenya School of Government. The county officers were taken through a one-week learning exercise in accordance to the Laikipia public service reforms for improved service delivery. Twenty five from the team are about to be deployed in their different working areas as the county gears up efforts to introduce an energetic workforce in public service.