

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



## Laikipia County

Our Vision: An Inclusive County With Sustainable Quality of Life



[www.laikipia.go.ke](http://www.laikipia.go.ke)

## A Night of Stars:

**Laikipia  
Crowns Its  
Tourism  
Ambassadors,  
Mr and Miss Laikipia**

We wanted individuals  
who could eloquently share  
Laikipia's unique tourism  
appeal with the world

*-Director Tourism-*



Auditions had 52 contestants – 42 females and 10 males and 20 were shortlisted for finals

 **SHA** | Social Health  
Authority

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The Beisa Conference Centre, Nanyuki transformed into a realm of glamour and anticipation on the evening of September 25th, 2024, as Laikipia County celebrated the grand finale of its this year's Mr. and Miss

Tourism pageantry.

The venue, adorned with elegant decor reflecting Laikipia's rich cultural heritage, set the perfect stage for a night that would unveil the new faces of the county's tourism sector.





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10TH  
SEPTEMBER  
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**Ajiry**



## County Builds a Tuberculosis (TB) Isolation Ward at Nyahururu GK Prison

The Laikipia County Department of Health and Public Services has established a Tuberculosis (TB) isolation block within Nyahururu GK Prison to help reduce overcrowding at the Nyahururu County Referral Hospital (NCRH) - General.

The facility was officially inaugurated on October 9, 2024, by Governor Joshua Irungu EGH, with Principal Secretary of Correctional Services, Salome Wairimu Muhia, also in attendance.

In a setting like this prison, where a large number of individuals are confined within a limited space, the risk of TB transmission—a highly contagious disease—becomes significant, posing a major health risk to both inmates and prison staff.

This concern prompted the construction of the isolation ward at the Nyahururu correctional facility, as part of the county's mandate to provide health services to public institutions and oversee health service delivery in the area.

According to Mr. David Muriithi who serves as the County TB and Leprosy Coordinator (CTLC), the new facility will be instrumental



in the fight against TB within the prison. He noted that prisons often face challenges like delayed diagnosis, inadequate treatment, overcrowding, poor ventilation, and frequent inmate transfers—all factors that accelerate TB transmission, making control and prevention

efforts more challenging.

The isolation ward will support the three government-operated dispensaries located within the correctional facilities in Rumuruti, Nanyuki, and Nyahururu.



## Roads Rehabilitation Across the County



Matanya, Weruini and Mitero at Kibubung'i area in Tigithi Ward



Kinguka to Kanga Munene gravel road in Marmanet Ward



Gatirima Primary School to Gatirima Dam in Marmanet Ward



## Empowering Self-Help Groups: 21 Groups Receive Ksh 4.1 million Loan from County Enterprise Fund

Twenty-one (21) Self-Help Groups from Nanyuki and Thingithu Wards have received a total loan amounting to Ksh. 4.1 million from the Laikipia County Enterprise Fund.

Seven groups from Thingithu Ward received Ksh. 1.35 million, while fourteen groups from Nanyuki Ward received Ksh. 2.75 million. All groups will repay the loan at an interest rate of six percent, which is half of what is typically offered by commercial banks and Saccos.

The fund was awarded to the successful groups that had applied, with the smallest loan being Ksh. 50,000 and the largest Ksh. 300,000.

While presiding over the cheque issuance, H.E. Governor Joshua Irungu, EGH, commended the self-help groups for their industriousness and entrepreneurial spirit. He challenged them to invest the resources wisely to achieve their business goals.

"If you use these funds well, your businesses will not only grow, but you will also improve your economic well-being and create employment for the people



of Laikipia," Governor Irungu advised.

Deputy Governor H.E. Reuben Kamuri encouraged the groups to inspire other village-based groups, including women's, youth, and men's groups, to consider the loan facility. He emphasized that there are never enough resources for expansion, and that responsible borrowing and prudent use of resources is the only way groups and individuals can grow their enterprises.

Groups can access funding through group loans, LPOs/LSOs financing, agri-business financing, and 80 percent asset financing, all at six percent per annum with up to a 24-month repayment period.

In attendance were CECM for Finance, Mr. Samuel Wachira; CECM for Administration, Ms. Purity Kendi; Chief Officer for Economic Planning and Trade, Mr. Samuel Njuki; and Chief Officer for Governor Devolution, Mr. Mohamed Burje.





## A Night of Stars: Laikipia Crowns Its Tourism Ambassadors



The Beisa Conference Centre, Nanyuki transformed into a realm of glamour and anticipation on the evening of September 25th, 2024, as Laikipia County celebrated the grand finale of this year's Mr. and Miss Tourism pageantry.

The venue, adorned with elegant decor reflecting Laikipia's rich cultural heritage, set the perfect stage for a night that would unveil the new faces of the county's tourism sector.

Under the shimmer of crystal chandeliers, contestants glided across the stage, each step telling a story of days of preparation and dedication. The atmosphere was electric, filled with the excited murmurs of distinguished guests, proud family members, tourism stakeholders, and public who packed the venue to capacity.

H.E Governor Joshua Irungu EGH, accompanied by Deputy Governor H.E Rueben Kamuri graced

the occasion, underscoring the county government's commitment to promoting tourism through youth engagement. The presence of County Executive Committee members and Chief Officers added to the evening's significance, highlighting the cross-sectoral support for tourism development.

In a moment that captured the essence of grace and potential, Pascoline Regina emerged victorious as Miss Tourism Laikipia 2024. Her



The winners' radiant smiles reflected not just personal triumph but the promise of a new chapter in Laikipia's tourism story.



winning combination of poise, intelligence, and deep understanding of Laikipia's tourism landscape earned her the coveted crown.

Anastacia Kagendo secured the 1st runners-up position, while Wambui Gikonyo was named 2nd runners-up, both demonstrating exceptional qualities that made the judges' decision challenging.

The male category saw Simon Larpei crowned as Mr. Tourism Laikipia 2024.



His charismatic presence and articulate vision for the county's tourism sector setting him apart. Obadiah Kiprotich and Anthony Maina were named 1st and 2nd runners-up respectively.

The winners' radiant smiles reflected not just personal triumph but the promise of a new chapter in Laikipia's tourism story. With these young ambassadors at the helm, Laikipia's tourism sector is set for a bright and

dynamic future.

The event was more than a competition; it was a celebration of young talent and potential. From the initial pool of 52 aspirants who attended auditions across the county, to the 20 who made it to boot camp, every participant contributed to the success of the program.

Article: Nahashon Maina  
Images: Nahashon Maina & Daniel Muguti



# Miss Tourism Laikipia 2024: Regina Pascoline Kimiri's Inspiring Journey

## Who is Miss Tourism Laikipia 2024?

I'm Regina Pascoline Kimiri, a 25-year-old student at the Management University of Africa, and I'm honored to hold the title of Miss Tourism Laikipia 2024. I come from Mukogodo East Ward and am deeply passionate about tourism, local culture, and environmental conservation.

## What motivates your interest in tourism?

For me, tourism is much more than visiting new places; it's about preserving local culture and protecting our environment. These values motivated me to pursue the Miss Tourism title as an opportunity to promote awareness of Laikipia's cultural heritage and conservation efforts.

## What were your expectations for your role as Miss Tourism?

I hoped that this experience would build my confidence, help me form meaningful connections, and give me a platform to highlight the importance of tourism, cultural heritage, and environmental conservation.

## Did you face any challenges in preparing for the role?

Yes, I had no prior experience in a role like this, so stepping into it was initially daunting. However, I embraced it as a path of personal growth. I took part in intensive training sessions that included modeling, public speaking, and physical conditioning. I also dedicated myself to studying Laikipia's culture, wildlife, and environment so I could fully embody the role.

## How did you feel upon winning the title?

Winning was an emotional moment for me, filled with joy and relief that my hard work had been rewarded. Tears came to my eyes as I realized the positive impact I could have in promoting Laikipia's unique cultural and natural treasures.

## What are your future plans as Miss Tourism Laikipia?

I plan to further develop my skills, expand my network, and give back to my community. My goal is to inspire others, especially young people, to appreciate and protect Laikipia's cultural and environmental heritage.

## What do you symbolize for the people of Laikipia?

I hope to represent a commitment to tourism, cultural pride, and environmental stewardship, with a vision that inspires Laikipia's community and youth to value our heritage and environment.



Article: Irene Ndiritu  
Images: Nahashon Maina  
& Daniel Muguti



## Mr. Tourism Laikipia 2024: One-on-One with Larpei Simon Letanguan

**Who are you as Mr. Tourism Laikipia 2024?**

I'm Larpei Simon Letanguan, a 25-year-old final-year student at Mount Kenya University, and I recently won the title of Mr. Tourism Laikipia 2024.

**What inspired you to compete?**

Representing Laikipia has been a lifelong dream of mine. I'm driven by a deep desire to showcase my community's culture, heritage, and natural beauty.

**How did you prepare for the competition?**

I joined a rigorous bootcamp led by our trainer, Mr. Cliff Mageto, which focused on discipline, confidence, and personal presentation. I also worked on my runway skills and collaborated closely with my designer to thoughtfully select my outfits.

**Did you have previous experience in similar roles?**

Yes, I previously held the title of Mr. Thika. That experience was instrumental in building my leadership skills and confidence, both of which helped me succeed in this role.

**How do you feel about your victory?**

I feel incredibly humbled and proud. I'm grateful for the support of my family, friends, the County Government of Laikipia, and especially my faith, which has been a strong foundation throughout this journey.

**What are your future plans?**

My goal is to compete for Mr. World Kenya and to use my platform to further promote Laikipia's tourism, heritage, and environmental conservation on a larger stage.

**What is your mission as Mr. Tourism Laikipia?**

I aim to elevate Laikipia's culture, promote tourism, and encourage environmental preservation to foster community growth and awareness.

**Who supported you along your journey?**

I attribute my success to God, my dedication, and the unwavering support of my family, friends, and the County Government of Laikipia, which has provided me and other youth with a platform to pursue our dreams.



Article: Irene Ndiritu  
Images: Nahashon Maina  
& Daniel Muguti



## Strengthening Cooperatives in Laikipia

The dormant Tigithi Umoja Cooperative Society Limited's cooling plant in Matanya, Tigithi ward will be operational before this year ends.

This is according to H.E Governor Joshua Irungu EGH directive on October 17, 2024 to the Cooperative Society management, and its members.

This pronouncement followed an engagement with the Cooperative Society to look for better ways to operationalize their milk cooling plant.

All the members and stakeholders will work together to actualize the plan by Christmas Day of this year.

"My government has commitment to also demarcate, fence, and title the half an acre of cooperative land. We will also be facilitating milk value addition to enhance economic growth and create profitable businesses for our farmers," Governor Irungu said.



Ngunathiti Pig Farmers Cooperative - Nkando -Nanyuki



Tigithi Umoja Cooperative Society - Dairy Cooperative

### New Pig Farmers Cooperative Society Launched in Laikipia

Laikipia Governor H. E Joshua Irungu EGH on October 17, 2024 launched Ngunathiti Pig Farmers Cooperative Society Limited for farmers in Nkando village, Nanyuki ward.

This move aims at empowering local farmers through cooperative development and aggregation, ultimately boosting community

livelihoods and contributing to the local economy.

The event also served as an opportunity to educate farmers on the benefits of growing feed supplements, particularly soya beans and sunflower, which are essential components of animal feed that can help lower production costs and increase profits.

The society's area of operation covers Laikipia East Sub County and aims to propel and market pork.

Article: John Muriithi  
Images: Nahashon Muhia



# Rumuruti Municipality Hosts This Year's 2024 Mashujaa Day Celebrations

Laikipia County marked the 61st Mashujaa Day with celebrations held at the County Headquarters in Rumuruti. The event was presided over by H.E. Governor Joshua Irungu EGH alongside Laikipia County Commissioner Onesmus Kyatha.

This year's Mashujaa Day was centred on the theme "Boma Yangu" (My Home). In his address, Governor Irungu highlighted the socio-economic empowerment that decent, affordable housing brings, stating that such initiatives provide people with dignity and security.

"I am pleased to announce that 200 housing units in Nanyuki are nearing completion, and soon we will embark on constructing 900 additional units at Starehe Estate in Nyahururu," the Governor shared.

He also underscored the employment opportunities created by the housing project and its positive ripple effects on the local economy, describing this impact as a form of freedom.

Governor Irungu then recognized notable heroes from the local community.



He mentioned John Kiptanui Kimeli from Gatirima village, who is committed to environmental conservation, and Kenneth Kamau (KK), who has pioneered the first public engagement initiative on X-space, illustrating the transformative role of new media in democratic processes.

The event concluded with vibrant entertainment and speeches from various speakers, all of whom

honoured the evolution of heroism in today's Kenya—from healthcare workers and teachers to farmers, entertainers, athletes, and innovators driving forward the Kenyan dream in diverse fields.

The national celebrations were led by H.E President William Ruto, in Kwale County.

Article: Kariuki Stevejackson  
/Images: Nahashon Muhia



# The 3rd Laikipia County Public Service Board Takes Oath of Office

Laikipia County has sworn to office its third Public Service Board (LCPSB) since inception of Devolved Units that were born from the promulgation of the Kenya's 2010 Constitution.

The October 18, 2024 oath ceremony was administered by Nanyuki Courts Magistrate Hon. Rwito Kithinji alongside the County legal team led by County Head of Legal Services Annette Muriuki and Dahlin Mathairo - in the presence of H.E Governor Joshua Irungu, EGH.

As mandated by law, LCPSB is made of five members, the Chair, Vice Chair, three members and a secretary who is also the Chief Executive Officer. Earlier this year on January 8, 2024, Mr. Josephat Lekamario took oath office as the board's CEO after the exit of the former CEO.

The New Members are:

- Macharia Gakiri - Chairperson
- Dr. Macho Naomi Watetu - Member
- Veronica Wangui Gakenga - Member



Jackson Ekai Lopkei - Member

Jackson Kimutai Chumo - Member

Josephat Lekamario - CEO/ Secreatry

County Service Boards are establishments created by the 2010 Constitution of Kenya Article 235. (1) (a)(b)(c) that provides:

To operationalise and streamline the public service at County level.

The County Public Service Board is established under County Government Act 2012, giving it clear structures, composition and roles.

Report: Kariuki Stevejackson  
Images: Nahashon Muhia



# Laikipia County, Equity Group Sign MoU to Accelerate Development

The County Government of Laikipia and Equity Group have formed a strategic partnership to drive Laikipia's development. Governor Joshua Irungu, EGH, and Equity Group Managing Director Moses Nyabanda signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on October 1, 2024, at County Hall, Nanyuki.

The MOU outlines a long-term collaboration to advance flagship projects aimed at enhancing infrastructure, promoting entrepreneurship, and creating jobs, all to improve residents' quality of life. Governor Irungu praised the partnership as a model for sustainable development, noting it demonstrates the benefits of public-private collaboration. "This MOU sets the stage for lasting change, building a stronger economy and ensuring our people have access to necessary resources," he said.

Mr. Nyabanda expressed Equity Group's dedication to Laikipia's growth, with a focus on financial inclusion and entrepreneurship. "Together, we will empower local entrepreneurs, support small businesses, and



enhance infrastructure," he stated.

The event also celebrated the graduation of 137 participants from the Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship Training program, held on September 24-25, 2024, at Nanyuki Social Hall. Graduates received certificates, marking their readiness to contribute

to the local economy.

Key attendees included County Assembly Speaker Hon. Lantano Nabaala, DG H.E Reuben Kamuri, Equity Amb. Mary Mugwanja, CS Mr. Koinange Wahome, County Attorney Mr. Alex Muchemi, and several CECMs and Chief Officers.

Article: Irene Ndiritu  
Images: Nahashon Muhia





On October 18, 2024, Laikipia County ushered in a new Public Service Board, beginning a promising chapter in public service. As with any organization, strong leadership is crucial, providing direction, inspiring vision, and ensuring effective management. Recently, the editorial team met with the new Chair to learn more about his professional journey, guiding philosophy, and vision for the Board.

### A Glimpse into My Life

My name is Macharia Wa Gakiri, and I am a leader who holds close to heart H. Jackson Brown Jr.'s words: "Earn your success based on service to others, not at the expense of others." This principle has been my compass through a long career dedicated to service.

### Educational Background

I began my schooling at Kihoya Primary and finished my primary education at Kariobangi South Primary. I then attended Nairobi School, where my interest in animal health and its economic value started to take root. After high school, I joined Ahiti Kabete, earning a Certificate in Animal Health, followed by a Certificate in Environmental Hygiene from the Kenya Meat Institute. Later, I completed a BSc in Agricultural Business at Kenya Methodist University and now pursuing

## New Leadership, New Vision: Laikipia's Public Service Board Chair Outlines His Journey and Vision

a Postgraduate degree in Banking and Finance at Mount Kenya University.

### Professional Journey

With 26 years in the public sector and 13 in the private sector, I bring a total of 39 years of experience to this role, from animal health, agribusiness, finance, and human resource management. Each chapter has added layers of learning, preparing me to serve Laikipia County with a seasoned perspective.

### Accomplishments as Chair, Laikipia Revenue Board

As Chair of the County



## My guiding principle: "Earn your success based on service to others, not at the expense of others."

- H. Jackson Brown Jr.'s words:



Revenue Board, I am proud to have helped increase Laikipia's revenue from 800 million KSh to 1.1 billion KSh. We implemented a cashless revenue collection system and introduced performance-based contracts, which together have led to significant improvements and streamlined our processes.

### Vision as LCPSB Chair

For the Laikipia County Public Service Board, I envision a foundation built on teamwork, transparency, accountability, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to fairness. My goal is to establish a board that operates free of corruption,

one that fully addresses the needs and aspirations of Laikipia people.

### To My Colleagues and the People of Laikipia

To my fellow public servants and the people of Laikipia, I promise to lead with a commitment to ethical recruitment, motivated staff, and a focus on building an efficient, people-centred public service. Together with the Board, we will build on current successes, refine systems, and strive to meet the public's needs effectively.

### To My Fellow Board Members

The road ahead is not without challenges, but

through teamwork, we can fulfil our mandate. Working together, we can make a lasting impact and create a more responsive public service.

### To the Governor, H.E. Joshua Joshau Irungu, EGH

Thank you, Governor, for trusting me with this role. I pledge to work tirelessly in alignment with the vision and mission of Laikipia County. I am committed to serving the people of Laikipia with diligence, honesty, and efficiency as Chair of this Board.

### Parting Message

The work before us requires unity and collaboration across all sectors, aligned with our County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP). I humbly urge everyone to join hands in making Laikipia a county we are all proud to call home.

As 1 Peter 4:10-11 reminds us: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

### May God bless our beloved Laikipia.

Interview by Kariuki Stevejackson



## Governor Irungu Presides Over Land Ownership Vetting Meeting in Rumuruti

On October 2, 2024, Laikipia Governor H.E. Joshua Irungu led an open public engagement with stakeholders from the African Location, Kandutura, and Milimani villages in Rumuruti Municipality to review and verify land ownership claims. This step aims to facilitate the processing of secure legal ownership documents.

The meeting, attended by the National Land Commission (NLC) County Coordinator, relevant county executives, representatives from the Rumuruti business community, and village leaders, marked the start of a thorough verification process.

This initiative will vet and confirm legitimate claims, address any irregular or fraudulent claims, and ensure compliance with legal requirements before issuing secure ownership documents.

Currently, over 800 subdivided plots are prepared for allocation. To manage this process effectively, Mashinani Development Committees have been established across all areas to ensure fairness in the distribution of plots.



Each beneficiary will be allocated one plot, with detailed record checks to prevent double allocations and promote transparency. Once finalized, the allocation lists will be digitized in collaboration with the NLC to enhance security and ensure transparent record-keeping.

This initiative is recognized as a significant step in addressing historical land injustices and providing Rumuruti residents with long-awaited security of tenure. Additionally, plans are in progress to improve local infrastructure, including road development and establishing the Rumuruti Water and Sewerage Company. These efforts aim to address water

scarcity and generate employment for local youth.

"I would like to thank the Governor and the Department of Lands for fulfilling their promise by elevating Rumuruti to municipality status and providing us with a pathway to land ownership. Many of us have lacked security of tenure for decades, and this initiative gives us hope for a better future," shared Agnes Alimlinga, a resident of Kandutura.

Governor Irungu was joined by CS Mr. Koinange Wahome, CECM Lands Mr. Ekwam Nabos, CO Lands Mr. John Gichuki, NLC Laikipia County Coordinator Grace Wairagu, and other county officials.

Article: June Yator  
Images: Kipkime Ruto



## Rumuruti Oxygen Plant Delivered: Towards a Level Four Health Facility

The County Department of Health is making significant strides in upgrading Rumuruti Sub-County Hospital to a Level Four facility by developing essential infrastructure and procuring modern equipment.

On June 21, the hospital took a major step forward with the groundbreaking of the first-ever Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) Oxygen Plant at Rumuruti Sub-County Hospital. This plant is designed to reliably supply 200 litres of oxygen per minute, ensuring a steady supply without strain.

Dr. Arthur Mumelo, the Medical Superintendent of the hospital, along with the management team, was present to receive and inspect the new equipment. The oxygen plant forms part of a larger partnership project funded by KSh 121 million from the Global Fund, which is being implemented by Amref Health Africa in Kenya in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

Dr. Mumelo commended the collaboration between the County Government of Laikipia, Amref Health Africa, and the Ministry of Health, noting the positive impact this initiative will have on



patients in need of oxygen. He expressed his gratitude to the project team for the swift delivery of the oxygen plant.

This project represents a transformative phase for the hospital, which is expected to include a functioning theatre by December 2024 and a radiology unit with a modern X-ray service by March 2025.

Also present at the event

were Grace Kahiga, a biomedical engineer from Amref, and Hillary Kosgei, technical director from DEBRA Limited, which is overseeing the project. Representatives from the LHS Supply Chain Management Office and the hospital's medical engineering team were also in attendance.



## Laikipia Agricultural Sector Set To Benefit From Enhanced Collaboration With KOICA

The CEC Agriculture, Mr. Dennis Kasoo, led Laikipia County's agriculture department in a four-day training organized by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) through the Capacity Improvement and Advancement for Tomorrow (CIAT) program.

This program provides policymakers, public servants, and experts from developing countries with an opportunity to visit Korea for technical training and knowledge sharing, strengthening international cooperation and development.

The visit was designed to explore South Korea's latest agricultural technologies and facilitate an exchange of best practices between the two countries.

Accompanied by the Chief Officer of Livestock and Fisheries, Mary Gichuru, Mr. Kasoo expressed keen interest in learning from South Korea's advanced agricultural systems, particularly in poultry, pig farming, dairy farming, and maize production, where South Korea leads in numerous maize varieties and utilizes cutting-edge



mechanization, including drone technology.

South Korea's innovative agricultural solutions have positioned it as a leader in managing challenges such as limited arable land and mitigating effects of climate change. These advancements allow Korea to maintain high levels of agricultural productivity despite environmental constraints, making it a model of efficiency and adaptability.

During the visit, the Laikipia delegation toured several agricultural research institutions and model farms. They observed firsthand how mechanization is being used to increase productivity, reduce labour costs, and improve the quality of



agricultural outputs, a transformative approach that could greatly benefit the Laikipia agricultural sector.

Mr. Kasoo also noted the critical role of well-organized cooperatives in Korea, which drive productivity and enhance farmers' dedication to their farms. This commitment, combined with cooperative support, has significantly contributed to the high agricultural yields in Korea.

The knowledge gained through this visit is expected to inspire innovation within Laikipia, potentially leading to improved food security and sustainable growth in the county's agricultural sector.

Article: Mollin Wanjiru

## Homa Bay Economic Planning Team Benchmarks with Laikipia's Directorate of Economic Planning

On October 17, 2024, a team from Homabay County's Directorate of Economic Planning and Budgeting visited the Directorate of Economic Planning and County Development in Laikipia County to benchmark Laikipia's Statistical Abstract.

The visit aimed to gain insights and practical knowledge from Laikipia's approach, as Homabay County prepares to release its first edition of a County Statistical Abstract by the end of 2024.

During the benchmarking, the Homabay team explored the entire process involved in creating a statistical abstract, including the design of data collection tools, data entry, data verification, validation processes, as well as the publication and dissemination of the final document. Each stage is critical for ensuring data accuracy, consistency, and relevance, especially for economic planning and monitoring development progress.

Laikipia County is recognized as a leader in this area, being the first county to produce a statistical abstract consistently each year, with the latest edition published



in 2023.

The abstract offers comprehensive information across all economic sectors, making it a valuable resource for assessing achievements at the county level and tracking progress over time. Such data is essential for effective policy-making and program evaluation.

Dr. Lawrence Willis, Chief Officer of Economic Planning and Budgeting in Homabay County, noted that Laikipia was selected as a model due to its success in gathering and structuring key data sets across various sectors.

"As Homabay works on producing its statistical abstract at the end of the year, we want to learn from Laikipia's success in

capturing valuable data for every sector of the economy," he stated.

Laikipia County collaborates closely with the Kenya Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and local statistical working groups to ensure accurate, timely, and relevant data collection.

This partnership is instrumental in producing a reliable statistical abstract, which plays a key role in guiding county policies, budgeting, and economic planning. "Accurate data is vital for informed decision-making, and the Laikipia County Statistical Abstract serves as a foundation for our policies and plans," explained Mr. Joseph Mwangi, Director of Economic Planning.

Article: Nahashon Maina



## Ajiry Centre Believes That: You Need to Boost Your Data Analysis Skills

Ajiry Centre is designed to induct young professionals with all-round basic skills. Especially those who take on Computer packages course and would want to further their skills in data analysis, Excel sheet becomes the ideal skill-set.

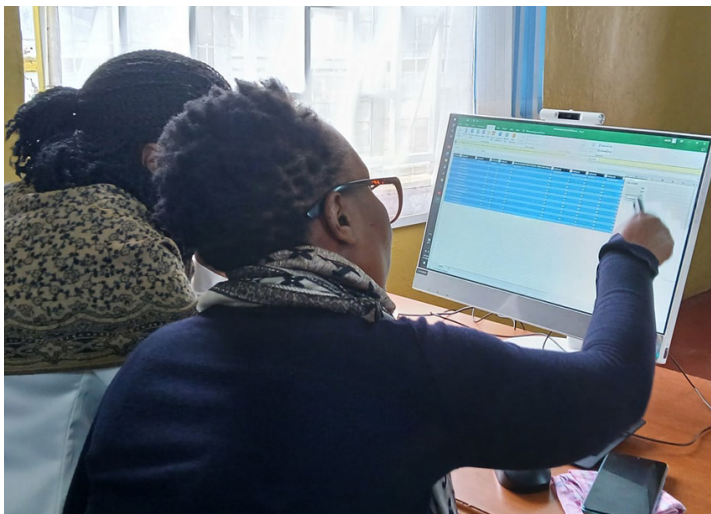
### Data types functions in Excel?

| Data Type     | Description                                                          |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Number        | Values including large numbers, small fractions, and more.           |
| Currency      | Monetary values with currency symbols and decimal places.            |
| Date and Time | Stores dates and times for chronological analysis and calculations.  |
| Percentage    | Converts numbers into percentages for ratio and proportional values. |

For any young professional who is starting business or seeking employment, ability to analyse data, interpret it, visualize it, and give informed decision from it sets one a step forward in the ever-competitive job market.

Join our ongoing Computer Literacy session at the Laikipia County Ajiry Centre and start mastering Excel today.

Register for our November intake and get started on your journey to becoming more tech-savvy!



Article: Kariuki Stevejackson

## Collaborative Efforts with Hanns Seidel, ECJP for Sustainable Environmental Conservation

On October 23, 2024, representatives from the Hanns Seidel Foundation and the Ecumenical Center for Justice and Peace (ECJP) visited the Department of Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change to engage in discussions aimed at strengthening sustainable environmental conservation and climate change mitigation efforts.

The meeting was led by Mr. David King'ori, Director of Environment, Wildlife, Forest, and Natural Resources, who facilitated discussions on potential areas for collaboration between the organizations. Key topics included strategies for advancing civic education on environmental matters, enhancing community capacity through targeted training programs, and crafting policies to mitigate conflicts over shared natural resources.

A strong emphasis was placed on integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies into the broader framework of national and regional development planning.

The session also underscored



the significance of a multi-stakeholder approach to conservation- seeking to harmonize scientific and indigenous knowledge systems, empowering local communities to take active roles in protecting their environment. This model not only supports ecological preservation, but also aims to create income-generating opportunities, fostering both environmental and economic sustainability.

Through these collaborative efforts, the organizations aim to create a foundation for long-term environmental resilience that benefits both local communities and

ecosystems. By focusing on sustainable resource management and conflict prevention, they seek to address the complex challenges posed by climate change.

The organizations expressed optimism that their combined expertise and resources would enable meaningful progress in environmental preservation, with the ultimate goal of creating a sustainable future that safeguards natural resources while enhancing local livelihoods.

Article/Images: Irene Ndiritu



## Laikipia County Joins the World in Celebrating World Food Day

H.E. Governor Joshua Irungu, EGH, together with Mr. Dennis Kasoo, the CECM of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Cooperative Development, led the county in marking World Food Day, an event observed globally each year on October 16.

Held at Wiyumiririe in Ngobit Ward, the celebration brought together various stakeholders, including farmers, community leaders, and residents, to spotlight the importance of food security, sustainable agriculture, and nutrition. This year's theme, "The Right to Food for a Better Life and a Better Future," underscored the vital role of accessible, nutritious food in creating a prosperous future.

In his keynote address, Governor Irungu highlighted the county's commitment to tackling hunger and ensuring food security for all. He detailed several initiatives aimed at boosting agricultural productivity, enhancing market access for farmers, and promoting innovative farming practices to address climate change challenges.

Mr. Kasoo supported the Governor's message, emphasizing agriculture's



pivotal role in strengthening the county's economy. He outlined ongoing county projects aimed at supporting smallholder farmers, introducing modern farming technologies, and building resilient, sustainable food systems in partnership with other organizations.

Throughout the event, farmers explored exhibitions showcasing local agricultural products, advancements in farming technology, and nutrition education, as well as interacted with the Governor and county officials.

Article: Mollin Wanjiru  
Images: Nahashon Muhia



## Laikipia County Launches Spatial Plan for Sustainable Growth

On October 18, 2024, Laikipia County's Department of Infrastructure, Lands, Physical Planning, and Urban Development, with Kreis Consultants Limited and the National Lands Commission, officially presented the Laikipia County Spatial Plan to Governor Joshua Irungu, EGH.

The plan, centered on six core spatial concepts, focuses on productive agriculture, pastoralist growth areas, rural market centers, environmental conservation, and wildlife management. This framework aims to optimize Laikipia's economic and environmental potential.

Governor Irungu highlighted spatial planning's role in guiding the county's future. "This plan supports our vision for coordinated, sustainable development. It will steer decision-making, pinpoint growth areas, optimize transportation, assess environmental impacts, and ensure Laikipia remains a model of balanced development," he said.

Key objectives in the Spatial Plan include enhancing land and resource management to boost agricultural productivity and



supporting sectors such as trade, tourism, and local industries. The plan aims to drive economic growth in Nyahururu, Nanyuki, and Rumuruti through trade and tourism initiatives while protecting essential natural resources.

During the presentation, CECM Lands, Mr. Ekwam Nabos, noted, "Once implemented, this plan will create youth employment

through infrastructure development and improve service delivery through efficient land management, expanded roads, rural market modernization, and enhanced conservation efforts."

A steering committee will be established to oversee the plan's implementation across the county.

Article/Images: June Yator



# First Annual Celebrations of Mazingira Day at Kanyoni

To mark the inaugural Mazingira Day, H.E. Governor Joshua Irungu, EGH, and Principal Secretary for Defence Dr. Patrick Mariru led a tree-planting event at the Nanyuki 4th Brigade Garrison Barracks in Kanyoni.

This initiative focused on environmental conservation, with 100,000 seedlings planted and 500 fruit trees distributed to the local community, aiming to rejuvenate the environment and support biodiversity.

The day highlighted environmental awareness, aligning with Kenya’s goal of restoring 10.6 million hectares of degraded land by 2032 and planting 15 billion trees. These efforts are vital to combating climate change and increasing forest cover, crucial for a sustainable ecosystem for future generations.

Governor Irungu emphasized community involvement in conservation, urging Kenyans to participate in tree planting and sustainability initiatives. He noted that these efforts improve not just aesthetics but also air quality, soil health, and wildlife habitats.

Accompanying the governor



were Deputy Governor H.E. Reuben Kamuri, CECM for Water Ms. Leah Njeri, Chief Officers Mr. Stephen Lopian (Environment), Mr. Burje Mohamed (Devolution), Ms. Jecinta Koree (Education), and Mr. Samuel Njuki (Economic Planning).

Other attendees included

representatives from the Kenya Defence Forces, BATUK, Nanyuki Air Base, Standard Chartered, Kenya Forest Service, NEMA, The Nature Conservancy, and the Laikipia County Environmental Committee.

Article: Terry Maina



## Council of Governors: Governor Irungu Elected to Chair Water and Natural Resources Docket

Laikipia Governor H. E Joshua Irungu, EGH was on October 7, 2024 elected by his colleagues in the Council of Governors (CoG) as the chairman of the Water and Natural Resources.

Governor Irungu has been spearheading efforts to bring clean reliable water closer to the people in the county as mentioned in his manifesto that no Laikipian will have to trek for over a kilometre by 2027 in search of this basic commodity. His efforts were recognized nationally and hence the governors from across the country saw it fit for Governor Irungu to help escalate the matter countrywide.

"This is a great responsibility that I embrace with a strong commitment to advancing sustainable water management and natural resources conservation policies and practices across our nation," Governor Irungu said after the election.

Laikipia has already acquired an own rig machine, which includes a test pumping unit and a terameter, to detect and help in drilling more boreholes in each of the 15 wards in the county.



"I commit to double our efforts in mobilizing and building synergies among all key stakeholders to bring all available resources, talents and energies to address challenges of water scarcity and climate change to protect and equitably manage our natural assets for the benefit of present and future generations," the County Chief said.

H.E Ahmed Abdullahi EGH, Governor Wajir County, H.E. Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga, EGH, Governor Nyeri County and H.E Stephen Sang, Governor Nandi County were also elected as the new Council of Governors Chairperson, Vice Chair and Whip respectively.

Article: John Muriithi  
Images: Courtesy



# Senior Executives from Safaricom Foundation Visit Laikipia Health Service

On October 3, 2024, the Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital (NTRH) received a high-profile visit from Safaricom CEO Peter Ndegwa and senior executives from the Safaricom Foundation.

The Safaricom team conducted a needs assessment tour of the Laikipia Health Service, focusing on maternal healthcare and child welfare. They were welcomed by Deputy Governor H.E. Reuben Kamuri, Health CECM Albert Taiti, Health CO Dr. Timothy Panga, NTRH CEO Dr. Sammy Kilonzo, and other county health officials.

During the visit, NTRH CEO Dr. Kilonzo gave an in-depth presentation on the capacities of Laikipia Health Services and highlighted critical gaps aligned with the Safaricom Foundation's community support program.

The primary need discussed for the County was the development of a modern, expanded New Born Unit (NBU) that is fully equipped to handle the current workload and provide complex care to improve newborn survival rates.

Additionally, equipping



the maternity unit and supporting the ambulance system were identified as essential needs, all aimed at addressing the three key delays that impact maternal mortality rates.

As part of the visit, the Safaricom Foundation team also distributed "mama kits" to all new mothers in the unit to support their care and that of their newborns.

Deputy Governor Kamuri

expressed appreciation for the Safaricom team, led by Mr. Ndegwa, for considering Laikipia County in their strategic community empowerment plan. He reiterated the government's commitment to seeking and welcoming development partners who can complement the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) implementation.

Article: Kariuki Stevejackson  
Images: Nahashon Muhia

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## Our Vision

**An Inclusive County with Sustainable Quality of Life**

## Our Mission

**Facilitate Integrated Development for Socio-economic Prosperity of People of Laikipia**

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