



Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

**WEEKLY
BULLETIN**



Kariunga dam

Riding on the success of Solio Water Project in Laikipia Central sub-county, the County Government of Laikipia is rolling out another water-for-production project to 300 households in Segera ward, Laikipia North sub-county.

The Kariunga-Mutirithia-Naibor Integrated Irrigation Project, which is about 20 kilometres from Nanyuki town, aims at increasing production of high value crops such as tomatoes, avocado, French beans, capsicum, onion, cabbages, among others.

This is expected to stimulate the economy around Naibor, Jua Kali, Kariunga and Mutirithia area and transform the lives of about 2,000 people.

Once complete, 300 persons will be engaged full time farming with an additional 600 employed in the farms as casual labourers. Scores of others will be employed indirectly.

The farmers will be trained on good agronomic practices, value addition and marketing. Introduction of fish farming in both Kariunga and Naibor dams.

Makurian-Osirua

An aggregation center and cold storage facilities will be introduced and the farmers encouraged to form producer organization/marketing organizations. The project will also be a boost to livestock production by targeting 30 lead farmers to grow Rhodes grass which should result in

Government Targets 300 Segera Families for Water-for-Production

increased milk production.

Water for the irrigation will be sourced from Kariunga and Naibor dams and Habitat and Mutirithia boreholes.

On Wednesday, County Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries advertised for works borehole drilling, and equipping, desilting of Naibor (Muritirithia) Earth Dam, reticulation and distribution of water from Kariunga Earth Dam, reticulation from Kariunga-Habitat Borehole, reticulation from Mutirithia borehole and construction of two 225 cubic metres masonry tanks.

The scope of the project include construction of water irrigation infrastructure, promotion of efficient irrigation methods mainly drip irrigation, high value fruit trees/nurseries especially Hass

avocado and high value horticultural crop like French beans, capsicum, tomatoes, onion, cabbages, among others.

It will also incorporate improvement of roads within the area covered by the project as well as provision of water for domestic use. The project is expected to be ready by March 2020.

Also underway is the Makurian-Osirua water project which will deliver water from northern slopes of Mount Kenya to 7,600 households (20,000 people) in Mukogodo East ward through gravity. Water is an economic enabler and Governor Ndiritu Muriithi's water-for-production initiative is aimed at transforming the lives of many households by increasing agricultural productivity.

More Financial Institutions Eager to Support Laikipia SMEs

Stanbic Bank is the latest financial institution seeking to collaborate with the County Government of Laikipia to provide support for local Micro and Small Enterprises.

The bank officials led by Ms Pauline Mbayah, Head of Stanbic Foundation, met with HE. Governor Ndiritu Muriithi to discuss potential participation of Stanbic bank in the county's Economic Stimulus Programme.

In the programme, KCB, Co-operative, and Family Bank are partnering with the county government to give affordable loans to Laikipia businesses as a way of helping them restart after devastating effects of Covid-19.

The county government is discounting interest on the loan by 5 percent.

Stanbic Foundation also donated 18 computers to the county as part of a programme to provide digital skills to micro and small businesses as well as young people to enable them to use those skills for economic empowerment.

The computers will train and support young



people to acquire digital skills to enable them become economically productive online. The training will also be extended to 200 Business Development Officers (BDOs) to enhance their IT skills. It will be crucial as they are involved in supporting development enterprises to increase on their productivity.

The Stanbic bank will also work to support SMEs with working capital for those engaging in manufacturing and agricultural activities. "We look forward to a fruitful collaboration with Stanbic Group," Governor Muriithi said.

What Did They Tell Governor Ndiritu Muriithi?



Interventions That Are Giving Nanyuki HIV-Free Babies

By David Serem

At the NTRH Mother and Child Health Clinic, a key area of focus is the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV (PTCMT), where a significant increase in the number of HIV-free newborns has been recorded thanks to early interventions.

The medical staff are ever keen on follow-ups on the health of expectant mothers and their unborn babies. This is an area whose outcome the department staff is extremely proud of.

This is because the outcome—which is a HIV-free baby—is a delicate walk through all the stages of pregnancy right from conception to delivery, then a one-and-a-half-year period of close monitoring to ensure the mother is in strict adherence to the medical advice given to promote her wellbeing and that of the child.

The process is never an easy one and the staff must use a holistic approach to ensure the rights results are achieved. It takes a combination of medical expertise, communication and negotiation skills, as counselling plays a big role in the success of the interventions.

Negotiation skills are the most useful in the event a mother defaults on her medication, necessitating phone calls and engagements to win her back.

The deployment of early interventions, which earned accolades as the most outstanding by UNICEF during a visit last week, has yielded fruits.

At the MCH Clinic, the medics walk the mother through all stages of her prenatal period to ensure the mothers on ARVs observe the guidelines that will raise the safety



of her baby. Mothers are put on medication prescriptions to suppress the viral load, hence limiting the chances of transmission to the unborn baby.

The mother is put on continued medication even after delivery to cut down the possibility of transmission through breastfeeding.

At six months, the baby is tested for HIV, and thanks to the latest acquisition of Point of Care machine for Early Infant Diagnosis, the turnaround time for the tests has been reduced to just a few hours, down from a lengthy period of up to two months when the hospital relied on KEMRI labs for this procedure.

This is a welcome relief for mothers as the

hospital is able to make timely intervention decisions upon receiving prompt results.

Monthly records show that the interventions have yielded impressive results. More often than not, a month passes without a single HIV positive child.

Standard procedures at birth make sure the medics eliminate the risks of the infant contracting HIV from the mother during the process.

By engaging mentor mothers, the clinic has been able to scale up the success of its PMTCT campaigns. Due to their experience, mentor mothers have a big influence in their communities, where they encourage mothers to be keen on their hospital visits for their own health and that of that of their children as well.

Lately, also, husbands are accompanying their wives for the clinic visits, a trend that healthcare providers at NTRH are excited about, as it is a sign of responsible parenting taking root. The medics say such couples are given first priority, as such gestures of responsible parenting are community role models.

Testing and counselling couples together has a far much higher impact as compared to dealing with the mother alone.

To scale up this intervention, NTRH has cast its sights on an even more specialized mother and child care in the near future. An upcoming Mother and Child Hospital Complex is set to revolutionize healthcare provision for the target clients in the region. The 140-bed complex, which is now in the process of being equipped, will house all the referral needs for pre and postnatal needs for both the mother and the child.



The Inside of the NTRH's state-of-the art Mother and Child Unit

Search for Consultant for Nanyuki Bulk Water Supply Project On



By Muriithi John

The much anticipated Nanyuki Bulk Water Supply is finally crystallizing after the process of getting a firm to carry out the technical study of the project.

Last week the Nawasco took for a site visit consultants seeking to bid for the technical study of the project which includes the dam, the transmission line and the treatment works station. This will to help the bidders have a glimpse of the real issues on the ground as well as the scope of work before bidding.

The winner is expected to come up with a design of the mega-dam which is expected to have a depth of 35 metres to hold four million cubic metres of water.

It is expected to supply 223,000 people within Nawasco's 286 square kilometers jurisdiction with a reliable water supply. This includes the

population in the neighboring areas of Nyeri and Meru.

USaid through WASH-FIN is funding the study as well as the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA).

The National Treasury has already approved a PPP model to be used to fund the project.

The dam will help in collecting surface water which causes flooding and destroys property because of lack a streamlined way. The floods also adversely affect traffic within Nanyuki town especially after heavy rains.

Nawasco took the consultants to the proposed site to allow them appreciate the scope of the project in terms of components.

Nanyuki's population is growing rapidly and the need for reliable water supply is also growing by the day. Unpredictable weather patterns have not helped matters for the residents.

The idea is to store enough flood water which

otherwise would go to waste, and release it when there is no rain.

The visit came as a part of the series of feasibility studies that are normally done to ascertain all aspects are well-taken care of and show why the project is crucial.

The government is keen to allow consultants to conduct preliminary environmental impact assessment to warrant little disturbance of the ecosystem. The project also looks at proper disposals which will not adversely affect the environment.

The geotechnical investigation results from the site establish a construction of a safe, cost-effective project with maximum yield from the vital natural resource.

The feasibility studies and geotechnical investigations will advise the projects design and material to use.

Water for production dominantly features in the governor's manifesto and the results are seen from lobbying for such a mega project on top of the numerous boreholes drilling and equipping.

The transformation that has taken place in Solio is a success case example of the real meaning of understanding water as life.

Availability of reliable clean and enough water allows for economic empowerment of a society through irrigation. Clean and reliable water raises high hygiene levels and a reduces disease burden on community and government.



Nanyuki Traders Encouraged to Take Economic Stimulus Funds



Directorate of Innovation, Enterprise, and Development program organized an awareness event for SMEs operating in Nanyuki on ways to access credit facilities from government and financial institutions. The directorate has been engaging innovators and entrepreneurs by assisting them to access financial support, mentorship, and product development. It brought on board business operators to seek and explain the importance of applying for the loans. County government of Laikipia has also partnered with financial institutions such as KCB, Cooperative bank and Family bank to offer affordable loans to enterprises operating in Laikipia to stimulate the economy and cushion them from the effects of COVID-19.

The event offered an opportunity to engage with county officials on ways in which youths and Saccos can be able to access loan funds.

The county has three loan facilities; Enterprise fund, Cooperative Revolving Fund and economic stimulus loans from financial institutions.

The programme involves handholding of business by business development officers to help them shift to manufacturing-focused production.

The programme also seeks to transform business ideas into viable enterprises able to support and employ other citizens, thereby contributing to creating jobs in the county.

“We want to encourage individuals who have ideas to visit our innovation office and be assisted,” Governor Ndiritu Muriithi said.

The Governor noted that the work of the government is to stimulate the economy to expand and grow and be able to employ more people. Through stimulating the economy through various financial interventions, an economy can absorb more people in jobs, since the government cannot afford to employ many people directly.

Individuals can be able to access the loans facilities to enable them to jumpstart their businesses. The county seeks to increase the uptake of the loan facilities currently available to all qualified individuals and Sacco members. Facilitating businesses operation in the midst of the pandemic will ensure that citizens are protected from losing their daily income and be able to contribute to the growth of the economy.

Kirimara Water Project Members Meet to Resolve Management Issues



Members of Kirimara Water Project in Umande ward held a fruitful meeting with government officers to solve the issue of water shortage around the area. In attendance were Ms Juliet Water, Environment and Natural Resources department of the county government, Chief Wanjau Wag'ombe and Ward Administrator Kamweru Wachira. A follow-up meeting will be held this week. Election of new management committee members will be held later this month. More updates will be communicated. The CO Dept of infrastructure Eng Mwangi Muturi

and Roads inspector Brenda Mbwiri also inspected progress of roads around Kirimara which are undergoing improvement. Thanks to the PA (Mr Kimathi) to MCA Hon Mugweru for the follow up. The work is commendable. H. E. The Governor and MCA Umande Ward have a very good working relationship that is making Umande Ward is scaling greater heights in terms of development. Let's keep up the Spirit. Thanks to Umande Ward Residents for your patience. More roads are going to be upgraded, among other projects.

– *Kamweru Wachira, administrator, Umande*

Laikipia Cooperatives Grow their Assets Despite Covid-19 Pandemic



Governor Ndiritu Muriithi presents a trophy to officials of Nabosa at an event in 2018

By Nahashon Maina

The asset base of Laikipia cooperatives societies hit a high of Kshs 6.3 billion in 2020, demonstrating the movement's resilience amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.

The county has a total of 195 active cooperatives operating in the financial sector, transport, and marketing sectors comprising Boda Boda, women, farmers, jua kali, and youth saccos.

Due to the involvement of many citizens in cooperatives societies, the county government has put various interventions to assist smooth operations. The department has assisted various cooperatives in capacity building, facilitating registration, and enhancing governance to promote transparency.

The county government of Laikipia has been stimulating the economy to cushion enterprises from the adverse effects of the pandemic through the provision of affordable loans.

Opportunities

The Department of Trade, Tourism, and Cooperatives has also been advancing cooperative societies' loans through Laikipia County Revolving Fund. This has enabled the cooperatives to play a critical role in contributing to the growth of the county's economy.

The County Cooperatives Revolving Fund is a fund specifically for cooperatives that must have been duly registered and audited, operating within Laikipia County, and have been economically viable. The fund offers an interest rate of 6%.

"Cooperatives in Laikipia are enabling people to save together and

also be able to provide credit which is affordable and accessible to their members," Director of Cooperatives, Rosemary Ngugi said.

Marketing cooperatives have provided employment opportunities to many farmers to earn regular incomes. Some are operating cereal stores after buying produces from farmers to contributing to food security in the county through proper storage.

"We have been able to merge two cooperative societies in Wiyumiririe and Makutano areas, Laikipia East to be able to collect about 3000 litres of milk per day, cooling it and able to sell in the market earning high milk prices for their members," Director Rosemary said. Before the merge, the cooperatives were selling the milk at an average Ksh. 32 per litre, but after they merged, they can sell it for Ksh41 per litre at the gate price. This has brought a lot of economic activity to the areas.

Business Development

Cooperatives have created many jobs in Laikipia. With the support from Business Development Officers (BDOs), they have been able to venture in value addition activities to grow and employ more Laikipians. Their operation in almost every economic sector is critically important to ensure more citizens are secure jobs.

"When people are given credit, they are able to start or restock their businesses. Saccos are enabling individuals to create jobs and be economically viable," Ms Ngugi said, adding that programs such as Micro Credits and Asset Finance helps in the creation of job opportunities through providing necessities such as Boda Boda to members to start their own business.

Sample Referral a Milestone in Laikipia's UHC Model



Laikipia county health managers attending a two-day health strategy forum at the County House, Nanyuki

Lower level facilities in Laikipia will now be referring lab specimen – instead of patients – to other facilities that have a capacity of testing them.

The county's UHC model is based on strengthening the primary level facilities and a well-defined referral clusters.

The sample referral involves empowering health facilities in rural areas to take a sample from a patient, sending it to a facility with a laboratory services for testing instead of referring the patient.

For a long time, health facilities have been referring patients from dispensaries that have no laboratory to health centers that have lab services to receive treatment.

This has led to many patients incurring additional costs of traveling to other hospitals. In a move that is set to revolutionize the health services in the county, a patient will have their sample taken, transported to the lab, tested and results sent back within a few hours, which will enable health providers to know what the patient is ailing from.

"Even if the health center does not have laboratory, the county government will take the responsibility of transporting these samples in order to save cost on patients and ensure health service is affordable," Health CECM Rose Maitai said.

The systems will enable all health centers in the county to work together as a unit to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) to all citizens. This is in a manner that is afford-

able, equitable, and accessible to all.

"We want to maximize services offered at health centers to ensure that even those in the interior of the county can access same service offered at our referral hospital, NTRH and NCRH," the CECM said.

This will be achieved by decentralizing services and ensuring specialized doctors visit rural health centers regularly.

The health officers in all facilities in the county will receive training and capacity building to ensure they can take required samples from patients. This was agreed upon after two days of consultative meeting with managers of the 84 health facilities in the county on the best strategies of improving healthcare delivery.

The meeting also offered a chance to collate feedback from citizens after two weeks of engagement with citizen at health facilities. During two community engagements at NTRH and

NCRH, citizens were able to air their views on the operation of health services they receive. Also, in NHIF biometric registration exercise, county health officials interacted with citizens to give their opinions on the same issue.

The meeting of Health managers sought to ensure adoption and incorporation of citizens' view in strategic planning of health services. Among issues adopted was the implementation of sample referral and business plans for all health centers.

"I am happy on the way health officers in charge are embracing these initiatives that are set to improve health for our people and also make facilities self-sustaining," Ms Maitai added.

Governor Ndiritu Muriithi said his administration plan to deepen and extend the provision of health services to meet UHC goal through sustainable health financing.



Motorbikes issued to Community Health Volunteers in Laikipia. The bikes will be pivotal in sample referral system

Bold, Ambitious Youth Doing Business With Government



Peter Wamae at his car wash at Ukumbusho, Nanyuki



Laikipia has been training youths on the process of doing business with the government.

The beneficiaries have been informed on the relevant documents to present to the procurement office.

Opportunities to do business with government for young people is a better avenue to lift their standards of living.

Peter Wamae, a youngful businessman, is one of the beneficiary of the supplier development programme.

Having been trained on the opportunities available for youth which is a legal requirement for government to set aside tenders for youths, women and persons living with disability.

These special groups have access of 30% of Government businesses under the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities programme.

Whereas many young people have failed to take up such opportunities available to them, Wamae noted that Laikipia county has been actively involved in creating awareness to the special groups.

It is the supplier development training which enabled him to know all the documents required to participate in tendering process successfully.

The county Supply Chain Management office has adopted openness in award of tenders and has increasingly been involving local suppliers to grow economy of the county.

"I have a small carwash at Ukumbusho market

and since I started doing business with county government, I am expanding my work in order to create employment to other young people in Nanyuki," Wamae says.

He's in the process of employing seven youths noting this would not have been possible were it not for the opportunity he got to do business with the government.

Wamae has also been able to set up a beef and dairy cattle farm in Ngobit which he hopes will transform his life completely for the better.

"These opportunities are there for us as youths and since the county government can't do everything for us, we must take up the initiative and be willing and ready to apply for tenders," Wamae adds.

To him, many young people lack awareness of the steps that one must perform before applying for tenders. He notes there is need for them to familiarize with Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) program that facilitate the enterprises owned by women, youth and persons with disabilities to be able to participate in Government opportunities. It empowers youths by giving them more opportunities to do business with Government.

Wamae notes that youths need to be determined and passionate about seizing their opportunities that are entrenched in the constitution. This will enable them to be more financially dependent and successful in life. He adds that discipline in one's work is what drives attainment of a better future.