

Laikipia County

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Our Main Story

How to Arrest Perennial Starvation

We are in the betwixt and between a ravaging drought across the country. Food is in short supply and across the world, we are witnesses to the cruel reality of the vagaries of weather. The order of the universe, to say in whimsy, is, just about, agitated.

While this is the current set of circumstances, it is worth noting

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- EYE CARE AT NTRH
- WORLD FOOD DAY
- SIRAJI COOPERATIVE
- NEW REVENUE COLLECTORS



How to Arrest Perennial Starvation

in Laikipia

H.E. GOVERNOR JOSHUA IRUNGU

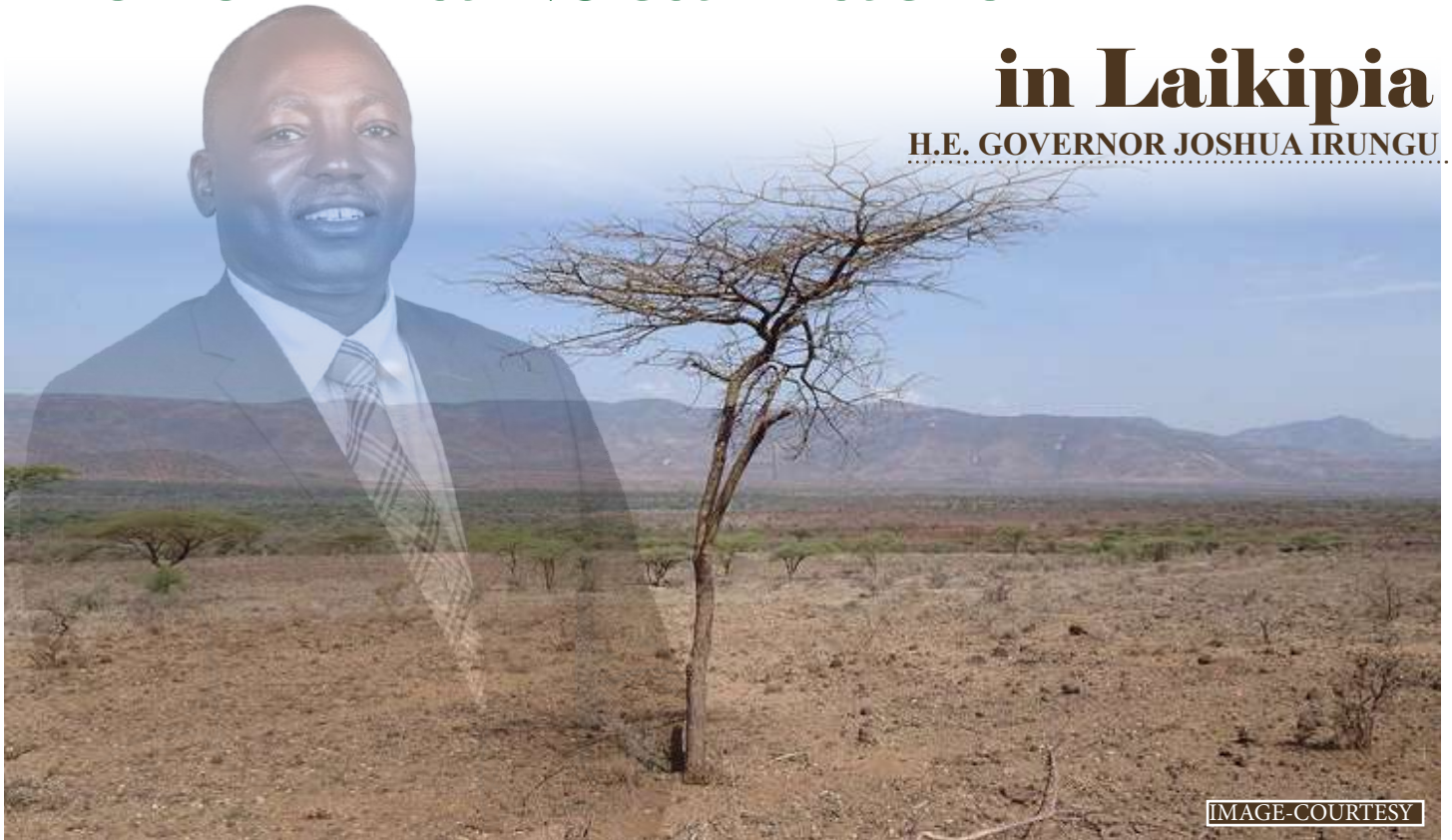


IMAGE-COURTESY

Livestock, as a value chain, can employ thousands of our people. Fodder and feeds production present new opportunities in rangeland cultivation and manufacturing.

from front page

that this vexatious phenomenon has been with us for the past few years. It has been a year's failed crop after another. Our farmers' toil has gone to squander in the pitiless actuality of infecundity. It is this abscess that we must treat. To get started, we must interest the Government's thinking in the business of edifying our populace' means of productivity.

"A rising tide doesn't raise people who don't have a boat. We have to

build the boat for them. We have to give them the basic infrastructure to rise with the tide." – Rahul Gandhi

We need to equip our people. As the zephyr of tech sweeps across Silicon Savanna, we must equip our digital natives with the skills needed to enable them to compete in that space. Government must show intention and purpose to create an enabling entrepreneurial ecosystem that provides challenge funds and seed capital, nurture angel investments and

above all bring international best practices to our local economy. We need to pin down the opportunity that is our ebullient youth -and bluster it to potency.

We need to equip our people. Most of Laikipia's land mass falls between agro-climate zones 2 (Nyahururu), 3 (Ol Jabet, Ol Ng'arua areas) and 4 (Vast Laikipia plains) and 5 (towards Isiolo). Laikipia's soil is fertile and, in most areas, productive agriculture can be achieved through



Laikipia's soil is fertile and, in most areas, productive agriculture can be achieved through forthright irrigation, proper variety selection as well as conservational tillage.

forthright irrigation, proper variety selection as well as conservational tillage. We must pioneer the most ambitious revolution in production acceleration. We will bolster the economics of agriculture.

Livestock, as a value chain, can employ thousands of our people. Fodder and feeds production present new opportunities in rangeland cultivation and manufacturing. Animal husbandry practices will be tailor-made with a focus on profits. Feedlot farming will gradually replace nomadic pastoralism.

Opportunities in renewable energy, recycling and conservation have been on an upward trajectory in part because of advances in technology and increased focus and awareness. Advances in solar panels technology, storage batteries and high-efficiency wind generators put renewable energy in the race to sustainably replace its traditional competitors. The economics of Renewable Energy continuously exceeds the industry's expectations.

We will therefore tailor our development agenda around water (for agricultural use), reclamation of range lands (for fodder production), technology (ICT, Internet and Outsourcing) and Renewable Energy (Wind and Solar). Together, these enablers, when correctly blustered, will set us on a path to greatness.



**Governor Irungu and County Commissioner Mr. Joseph Kanyiri
Flagging-off relief food in Nanyuki.** [IMAGES-CGL-KIPRUTO KIMEI]



EYE care at NTRH



Eye examination is recommended at least once a year and the good news is that NTRH's eye clinic is on daily while surgeries are on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The facility's eye clinic is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week to ensure efficient service delivery

Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital has consistently demonstrated its dedication to providing the highest quality eye care services.

Their round-the-clock **EYE CLINIC** provides holistic eye treatment; from itchy eyes, infections, age-related cataract to trachoma, and complications resulting from non-communicable diseases such as glaucoma.

Some of these complications can result to irreversible blindness but if identified early the progression to total loss of sight can be averted.

In keeping up with, 'Love Your

Eyes' theme for the World Sight Day this year, eye examination is advised at least once a year. The good news is that NTRH's eye clinic performs daily eye checkups and surgeries on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

A dedicated team of medical professionals is always on hand and ready to meet the needs of clients. The team is comprised of Dr. Samuel Irungu, cataract surgeon; Dr. Julio Rodriguez, ophthalmologist; and Sadia Abdille Dakane, ophthalmic nurse.

By Ann Ngunjiri

Vision impairment is a major global health concern as it is linked to a decline in quality of life and lowers survival expectancy in the middle-aged and elderly population. It has long-term serious consequences in all aspects of life, including the ability to work, interact, and connect with the surroundings.

Therefore, there is need to prioritize good vision as a primary sense that allows people to live, work, and contribute in our societies to their full potential.



Siraji Sacco's Upward Growth



Siraji Sacco's ultramodern banking hall in Timau town

Siraji Sacco, a major partner with Laikipia County Revolving Fund through the Directorate of Cooperatives, recently opened an office block to serve its ever-growing members.

Siraji membership has grown from 88 members in 1996 to over 12,000 as of May 21, 2022 with an asset base of Ksh 500 million.

The new office is located in Timau town and will be known as Siraji Sacco Plaza.

“Our members will now be served in ultra-modern banking hall with our segmentation of products and services meeting the needs of our clientele,” Frankline Mwirigi, Siraji Sacco Chairman said during the official opening ceremony.

The event's Chief Guest was Managing Director Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Cooperatives (KUSCCO) George Ototo. Other key guests were Laikipia County Cooperatives Director Rosemary Ngugi, Siraji Sacco Chairman Frankline Mwirigi, Siraji Sacco members, and

Siraji employees led by CEO Felix Ochieng’.

Cooperatives continue to gain pace in Laikipia County, a sign of steady growth of cooperatives in the county, owing to conducive environment created by government for them to thrive.

“Saccos are integral in the financial system as they continue to provide services to thousands of households across various sectors of the economy,” Said KUSCCO Managing Director George Ototo.

Siraji Sacco owes its growth to that culture which enables members to embrace savings on a regular basis. The Sacco has provided a platform that ensure members take advantage of economies of scale to fund projects of interest.

When it comes to financial freedom, the ultimate goal for every person is wealth creation. To achieve that freedom, individuals are encouraged

Siraji membership has grown from 88 members in 1996 to over 12,000 as of May 21, 2022 with an asset base of Ksh 500 million.

to inculcate the culture of saving.

“Being a reliable and stable home-grown financial institution, I want to encourage more members to join us to realize our dreams and theirs of achieving financial freedom”, Siraji Sacco Chairman Frankline Mwirigi said.

Siraji is a Sacco with good track records headed by an experienced management team. By encouraging Laikipians to save, they will be in better position to cushion against life's unexpected turns.

By Nahashon Maina:

IMAGES-COURTESY



Health Team Conducts TB Screening at NCRH



IMAGE-CGL-ESTHER NJOKI

Department of Health appreciates that promotive and preventive medical outreaches do not only save lives, but significantly reduce health budgets for patients, if symptoms are detected and arrested, before graduating to full-blown disease.

County TB and Leprosy Coordinator Mr. David Muriithi, well known as ‘Muriithi wa TB, and Nyahururu County Referral Hospital Lab technologist, Mr. Josphat Lokwanya, among other health workers, set out to screen the entire Nyahururu GK prison community, including wardens, their families, and inmates, for tuberculosis.

The exercise was held on 17th to 20th October 2022, in a collaborative intervention between County Department of Medical Services and Public Health, in conjunction with TB program Radiography team, from Nairobi.

Nyahururu County Referral Hospital took the lead role by unleashing its laboratory human resource in the four-day preventive and promotive services whose main focus was on TB screening.

The team was able to screen 701 inmates and prison officers, collected 218 sputum samples for analysis by a gene expert, 210 chest x-rays, and 1 culture.

During the four days exercise, the TB presumed inmates had their samples subjected to Free State of the art molecular/bacteria DNA amplification testing at NCRH, as well as mobile Digital X-ray screening.

Emphasizing the importance of the intervention, TB coordinator Mr. Muriithi said successful TB control at the prison is crucial and of great importance bearing in mind that even the incarcerated deserve same rights to quality health as the free folks.

“Prisons experience late TB diagnosis and this endangers the lives of the prisoners and the officers in these institutions. This situation is worsened by inadequate treatment,

overcrowding, poor ventilation, and repeated prison transfers that catalyse transmission of TB infection,” Muriithi explained.

Such proactive healthcare approach is a strategy County Government’s Department of Health is taking, together with partners, in appreciating promotive and preventive medical outreach do not only save lives, but significantly reduce health budgets for patients, if symptoms are detected and arrested, before graduating to curative stage.

The TB team has been working tirelessly to decrease TB transmission in the community by providing safety measures, education, test, and treatment for tuberculosis. This great effort has made Laikipia be recognised as the best county in Kenya in quality TB care in 2021 by the National Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases Program.

The medical outreach was closed by Governor Joshua Irungu who commended the health workers for the thoughtful, life-saving exercise. He appreciated the Nyahururu GK prison too for partnering with Laikipia in such a noble health exercise for the benefits of inmates, officers, and their loved ones.

Department of Health appreciates that promotive and preventive medical outreaches do not only save lives, but significantly reduce health budgets for patients, if symptoms are detected and arrested, before graduating to full-blown disease.

Esther Njoki

HE. Pastor Dorcas Distributes Relief Food in Solio



“My brothers and sisters, I will implore all of us to also embrace the spirit of sharing. We learn to embrace each other in times of need, and in times of abundance.”
HE. Mrs. Rigathi

HE. Mrs Dorcas Rigathi interacts with Solio residents while distributing relief food in Tigithi Ward.

In the wake of the ongoing drought ravaging around 24 counties in Kenya, Her Excellency Pastor Dorcas Rigathi visited Laikipia County to flag off the distribution of relief food to the residents of Laikipia East Sub-county.

H. E Governor Joshua Irungu and Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri among other county leaders accompanied her. This event took place at the Solio Settlement Scheme village 4 on 24th October, 2022.

This is part of the National Government’s initiative to support hunger-stricken Kenyans. The food donation is estimated to cater for about 500 families residing in the settlement scheme that have been adversely affected by hunger.

Mrs. Rigathi urged the residents to develop sustainable environmental practices such

as planting trees, which will help minimize the harsh effects of climate change.

“My brothers and sisters, I will implore all of us to also embrace the spirit of sharing yourselves. When we lack, we be together, and when harvest comes, we celebrate together. No one should die of hunger when others have extra food they could share with a needy families,” She urged.

Laikipia is one of the areas that have been hard hit by the ongo-

ing drought. More than 180, 000 Laikipians are facing hunger with some students missing classes due to hunger.

The Governor had earlier on launched a feeding programme which would ensure all schools are able to provide meals for their students to prevent school dropouts and students missing classes. This programme was launched on the 19th of October.

The Governor stated that although there are hundreds of people struggling with lack of food, the County Government would give the first priority to students in both primary and secondary schools to ensure that they remain in school especially those set to sit their final exams.



By Jackline Mariga



County Kick Off Energy Plan



An interviewer conducting the survey in Doldol, trying to understand the resident's source of energy.

Early October, the County Directorate of Energy, in collaboration with CARITAS launched a project dubbed Sustainable Energy Technical Assistance, SETA - designed and funded by national government, Ministry of Energy.

Before full roll-out, the project will start with a pilot project involving 11 counties, Laikipia County being one of them.

In its initial stage, the main objective of the Sustainable Energy Technical Assistance project is to first identify household energy needs.

To properly understand the scope, and beneficiaries of the project, a survey was conducted in all 15 wards and was completed by the end of October 2022.

Ward Administrators were instru-

mental in the process, making door-to-door visits in targeted areas of the rural and urban centers.

The questions revolved around mwananchi's primary source of energy, and possible energy consumption per household. Data was cap-

The Energy Report shall be instrumental in informing County and National Government energy distribution decisions in institutions and in Laikipia villages.

tured through questionnaires. The data will inform the existing energy gaps.

This is the first phase of the SETA whose goal is to identify all energy needs at the household, institutional, and departmental levels, as well as aligning it with the Governor's Manifesto for renewable energy.

Second phase of the project in the month of November will involve key informant interviews in various departments and institutions and marrying them with the field survey.

Upon completion, the findings of the report shall be instrumental in informing County and national government energy distribution decisions in institutions and in villages.

By Nancy Muthoni:



CHV'S Full Recognition, a Huge Score to Healthcare



IMAGE-CGL-DAVID SEREM

During inauguration, Governor Irungu announced that CHVs shall, going forward, be recruited on full-time basis, appreciating the immeasurable role the selfless community 'doctors' play in the healthcare service, in Laikipia County.

The County Health Management Team has welcomed H.E Governor Joshua Irungu's commitment to invest in community healthcare.

During his inauguration, the Governor announced a policy shift on how Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) shall be engaged. In a bold move, he announced that CHVs shall, going forward, be recruited on full-time basis.

County Deputy Director of Nursing Services, Mr. Francis Ruga, believes that governor's announcement opens up a whole lot of new possibilities in health management.

"Community is the way to go," says Mr. Ruga, "and countries like Cuba have shown that it is possible. At the

beginning of the program in 2018, we discovered the low-hanging fruits that come with investing in community health, and such plans are much appreciated,"

Mr. Ruga continues: "We have data to demonstrate immediate and vast drops in communicable and hygiene-related ailments like diarrhoea and amoebiasis (intestinal worms)."

In some wards, data shows huge drop of hygiene related cases. So the policy shift is an encouraging move from current engagement where CHVs are engaged on part-time and volunteering terms, an arrangement that at times, demoralizes their selfless efforts,"

Laikipia County is ranked high-

est in NHIF uptake countrywide, a remarkable outlook attributed to CHV's efforts in 2018 through 2019. It is a documented fact of their role in tracking expectant women and following up on those who defaulted in immunization, antenatal and postnatal clinics.

These efforts greatly contributed to reduced complications and deaths during childbirth. Follow-up efforts for reproductive health education, family planning, and nutritional well-being also increased from 32% to 60% on average.

Immensely, their input have been registered in overall community hygiene. Like in establishing simple hand-washing facilities, ensured households had pit latrines, and waste pits.

"Health and nation-building are inextricably linked," the deputy director says, "and the surest way to ensure healthier people is to invest in primary healthcare systems as a cost-effective way of addressing disease burdens that inevitably arise. In this conversation, CHV's contribution cannot be overlooked."

Mr. Ruga appreciates creating a proper framework for CHV's formal engagement will take time. That it's a complex consultative policy-shift conversation that will involve all stakeholders in the executive, health, elected leaders, and Public Service Board, but Governor's intentions, he says, "is profoundly noble and worthwhile."

By David Serem

Walk Wild Event

IMAGE-CGL-COURTESY

Mukogondo forest is home to the Yiaku people and is the only one of Kenya's 372 gazetted forests under the sole custodianship of an indigenous community.

The ILMAMUSI Community Forest Association will hold its inaugural Walk Wild event, which is scheduled for November 19 of this year in Mukogondo forest.

The event will involve a 10 km trek where visitors will get to explore and hike through the trails of the vast forest and assist in planting 1,000 native tree seedlings as part of the Forest Restoration Initiative

The event is part of an ongoing initiative to market the forest as a tourism destination for activities such as camping, bird watching, safaris, hiking and eco-research as well as to raise funds for restoration and conservation of Mukogodo ecosystem's landscape.

The event's partners include the County Government of Laikipia,

Laikipia Forum, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forest Service, Borana Conservancy, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, African Nature Investors (ANI), Laikipia Conservancies Association (LCA), Northern Rangeland Trust, community lands among others.

ILMAMUSI is an acronym made up of the ranches that surround the Mukogodo Forest Reserve: Ilingwesi, Makurian, Mukogodo, and Sieku. Formed in 2003, This umbrella group oversees the protection, preservation, and management of the forest reserve as mandated under the Forestry Conservation and

ILMAMUSI is an acronym made up of the ranches that surround the Mukogodo Forest Reserve: Ilingwesi, Makurian, Mukogodo, and Sieku

Management Act.

Mukogodo forest is a government gazette reserve located in Laikipia North-Sub County. It is one of the few remaining indigenous forests of important size in Kenya. The forest hosts a critical corridor of regular elephant movement between Samburu lowlands, the Laikipia plateau, and the Mt. Kenya Forest Reserve. Its rolling hills blanketed in native trees are home to the Yiaku people and is the only one of Kenya's 372 gazetted forests under the sole custodianship of an indigenous community.

The forest's bio diverse resources are under threat due to land degradation, over grazing, depleting waster resources and human encroachment.

By Pauline Mwiyeria



World Food Day, Laikipia

Department of Agriculture has always encouraged and facilitated peer learning amongst farmers by bringing in trainers in those sessions, who introduce new, smart and modern technologies into their farming methods.

IMAGES-CGL-MOLLIN WANJIRU

The Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries DALF, in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), organized a farmer's Field Day in Umande, Laikipia East in Commemoration of the world Food Day this year.

World Food Day is marked annually on 16th October, and this year's theme is 'Leave no one behind.' This is in effort of ensuring better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life.

Over 30 exhibitors showcased on different farm technologies, farm inputs and value addition of various products. Over 700 farmers were intensively trained by the experts on Climate Smart Agriculture practices and technologies.

On crops, the farmers were taught on the quality and highly adaptive seeds that are favourable in Laikipia East. The Kenya Seed Company came in handy to help the farmers get a better understanding on the seeds to use.

In animal husbandry and live-

stock production, the extension officers educated farmers on the best breeds for milk and beef production. The farmers also had a chance to understand how to prepare quality and affordable feeds which are readily available, and the methods of handling milk and increasing production at the farm level.

On livestock diseases, the veterinary section officers enlightened the farmers the preventive measures and treatment to be administered.

Farmers were also encouraged to conserve water, and embrace ways to sustainably practice fish farming

and aquaculture to boost nutrition and improve livelihoods.

Farmers were encouraged to adopt various technologies and to plant highly adaptive high yielding seeds which are productive in their respective areas to minimize on low harvests.

DALF has always adopted farmers field days and on farm demonstrations as best models of capacity building our farmers - enhancing extension services as they help reach many farmers at a go and encouraging peer learning.

By Mollin Wanjiru



Countywide CIDP Public Participation Meetings



Laikipia North



The County Government of Laikipia conducted a 10 day CIDP countywide public participation from 18th to 28th October 2020. All public participation meetings were held at sub-location level where 220 meetings happened. This is the 3rd generation CIDP, 2023-2017, themed, 'Economic Development, Wealth and Job Creation for Laikipia People.' It awaits views and suggestions compilation, analysis, and subsequent consolidation of Laikipia County 3rd Generation CIDP.

Laikipia East



Laikipia West



Images collated by Kelvin Nderitu:



Rumuruti Hospital Facelift to Benefit Laikipia West



Plans to restore financial independence will also be expedited to ensure uninterrupted service delivery in areas such as pharmacy, laboratory, and general maintenance, which have been hard hit by constrained cash flows.

Residents of Rumuruti Sub-County are set to reap the gains of a revamped health facility upgrade as the county government accelerates the upgrade of Rumuruti Sub-County Hospital.

Governor Joshua Irungu, on his second assessment tour early October, pledged to complete stalled projects and initiating new ones.

The projects will see the full equipping of the x-ray block, which has stalled for a long time. The X-ray block will serve chest and orthopedic patients in the region who have previously been referred to Nyahururu County Referral Hospital.

The completion and equipping of the theatre with an ultrasound machine is expected to coincide with this project.

The hospital is also set to greatly improve its lab work with the acquisition of an array of equipment and a reliable supply of lab reagents for better service availability. These include equipment for processing TB sputum and fully automated biochemistry machines for processing renal and liver function tests.

The equipment will also benefit diabetes patients in the region from the processing of three-monthly sugar levels. This will in particular impact

on patients whose samples are referred from Melwa, Mutara, Thome, Mouwarak, Sosian, Nakwang, and Lonyek.

The project will also see the completion of the male ward, which has partial partnership support. Other projects currently underway include the construction of a septic tank to meet the sanitation needs of the hospital.

Plans to restore financial independence will also be expedited to ensure uninterrupted service delivery in areas such as pharmacy, laboratory, and general maintenance, which have been hard hit by constrained cash flows.

These efforts are aimed at increasing the hospital's revenue generation from 12 million shillings to 50 million shillings in one year from insurance payments, with all of this expected to be ploughed back into hospital operations.

With hospital having its own master plan, this will be its guide of helping it realize its vision of becoming a multi-specialty and super-specialty healthcare provider in the future.

By David Serem



Induction of New Revenue Collectors



IMAGES-CGL-KEZIAH KIRERA

New Revenue Collectors being inducted to work by their supervisor in Nanyuki town

The County Government of Laikipia, on Monday 31st October 2022, took newly recruited revenue officers through a day-long induction exercise. The exercise took place in Nanyuki and Nyahururu.

The main objective of the training was familiarizing the officers with guiding laws and regulation of revenue collection.

Thoroughly, they were taught on Finance Act, which is the legal framework of their operations. To instill them on values of transparency, accountability; and community in-

volvement in revenue mobilization sensitization among others skills.

This marked a major milestone in revenue collection as it is the first time revenue officers have been recruited through the County Public Service Board. Unlike previous officers, these officers will enjoy all benefits enjoyed by other public servants, with a gratuity and schemes of services.

Employee induction programs enables new employees adapt faster, gives

them more confidence having been equipped with necessary knowledge. It gives employees a better understanding of organizational processes. It is considered best practice to provide an induction program to employees.

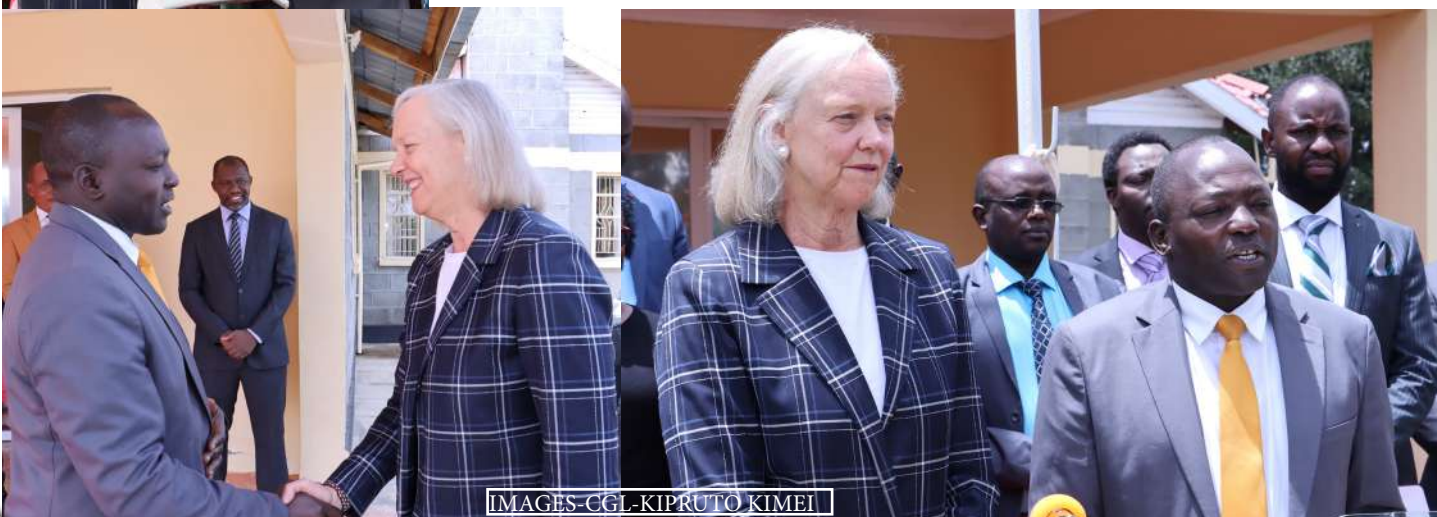
By Keziah Kirera

It is the first time revenue officers have been recruited through the County Public Service Board.





**USA Ambassador to Kenya,
Meg Whitman, Pays a Courtesy
Call to Governor Irungu**



IMAGES-CGL-KIPRUTO KIMEI





EDITORIAL TEAM

Publication Supervisor

Njoroge Thuku,
Assistant Director, Public Communication
njoroge.thuku@laikipia.go.ke

Editors:

John Muriithi - johnnyawira@gmail.com
Kariuki Wangeci - sjl.karis@gmail.com
June Yator - yatorjune@gmail.com
Njoroge Thuku - njoroge.thuku@gmail.com
Andrew Kimemia - kimemia.maina@gmail.com

Layout Designer

Kariuki Wangeci
sjl.karis@gmail.com

Writers/Communication Officers

Mollin Wanjiru - shirohmwangi21@gmail.com
Serem David - davidtserem@gmail.com
Ann Ngunjiri - annngunjiri1997@gmail.com
Pauline Mwiyeria - mwialalphie@gmail.com
Jackline Mariga - jacklinemariga1999@gmail.com
Kelvin Nderitu - kelvinderitu21@gmail.com
Esther Muthoni - esthernjoki@gmail.com
Nahashon Maina - nahashonmaina26@gmail.com
Kimei Kipruto - rutokkong@gmail.com
Nancy Muthoni - catenancymuthoni@gmail.com
Keziah Kirera - kagwiriakirera@gmail.com
John Muriithi - johnnyawira@gmail.com
Andrew Kimemia - kimemia.maina@gmail.com

For contribution or feedback, write to the above editors or writers.

