



Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

**WEEKLY
BULLETIN**

Bracing for the Big Takeover



HE. Governor Ndiritu Muriithi signs a memorandum of understanding with officials of a firm that is building a 40MW solar power plant in Rumuruti. The County Government is preparing to take over the function of electricity reticulation in the county

The County Government of Laikipia is bracing itself for a takeover of all functions that have remained under control of some national government agencies contrary to constitution.

Top on its list is the function of electricity reticulation (distribution) and collection of the 2 percent Catering Levy despite which Constitution of Kenya 2010 explicitly says are functions of County Governments.

It is most likely that Laikipia is going to be a pioneer in taking up the function of electricity reticulation. Despite the existence of clear provisions of the law on the functions of the different levels of government, Kenya Power has continued to operate an electricity distribution system in the county.

Under the Constitution of Kenya 2010 which transformed the governance of the country from centralized to devolved system, the functions of energy policy and energy regulation have been assigned to the national government while those of electricity and gas reticulation as well as county energy regulation have been assigned to the county Governments.

Under the Fifth Schedule of the Energy Act, the County Governments' functions include county energy planning, county energy regulation and county operations and development.

Laikipia is currently creating an organizational structure that will enable it perform all the functions assigned by the constitution. This involves putting in place the relevant laws, corporations, structures and infrastructure to enable it undertake the roles.

The organizational structure will be responsive to functions spelled out by the constitution. For instance, it has already established directorates of Energy and Mining.

The County Attorney Mr Alexander Muchemi said the County is in discussion with Kenya Power on how it could execute its constitutional mandate of electricity reticulation. "The county Government would be happy to take over all electricity distribution infrastructure within the county previously invested by and belonging to the national government to facilitate smooth transition," Mr Muchemi said.

Catering Levy

The county is also targeting the Catering Levy which is collected by the national government through Tourism Fund.

In October last year, Governor Ndiritu Muriithi told a committee of parliament that the national government was collecting the



Laikipia County Attorney Alexander Muchemi

levy yet it is a function assigned to the County Governments.

The Fourth schedule of the constitution which distributes functions between the national and county governments includes electricity and gas reticulation and energy regulation as a function of the county government.

It also provided under the Fourth Schedule of the constitution that the National Government is responsible for tourism policy and development while trade development and regulation including local tourism, are function of the County Governments.

Despite clear provisions of the Constitution, the Tourism Regulatory Authority has continued to regulate tourism activities and Services County wide.

Laikipia Shrugs off Pandemic Woes to Register Growth in Own Revenue

Laikipia defied the challenges related to Covid-19 pandemic to improve on own source revenue collection in the first half of this financial year.

By December 31, 2020 the county had collected in Sh322 million in revenue which is better than the first half of 2019/2020 when the County Revenue Board collected Sh289 million.

The amount is three times what was collected during a similar period in financial year 2016/2017.

“We would like to appreciate Laikipia citizens for paying their dues in terms of taxes on time,” Finance CECM Murungi Ndai said when he presented the Executive’s half-year financial results last week.

The county government has made a tradition of releasing its financial statements to the public as required by law and also to inculcate a culture of transparency and accountability.

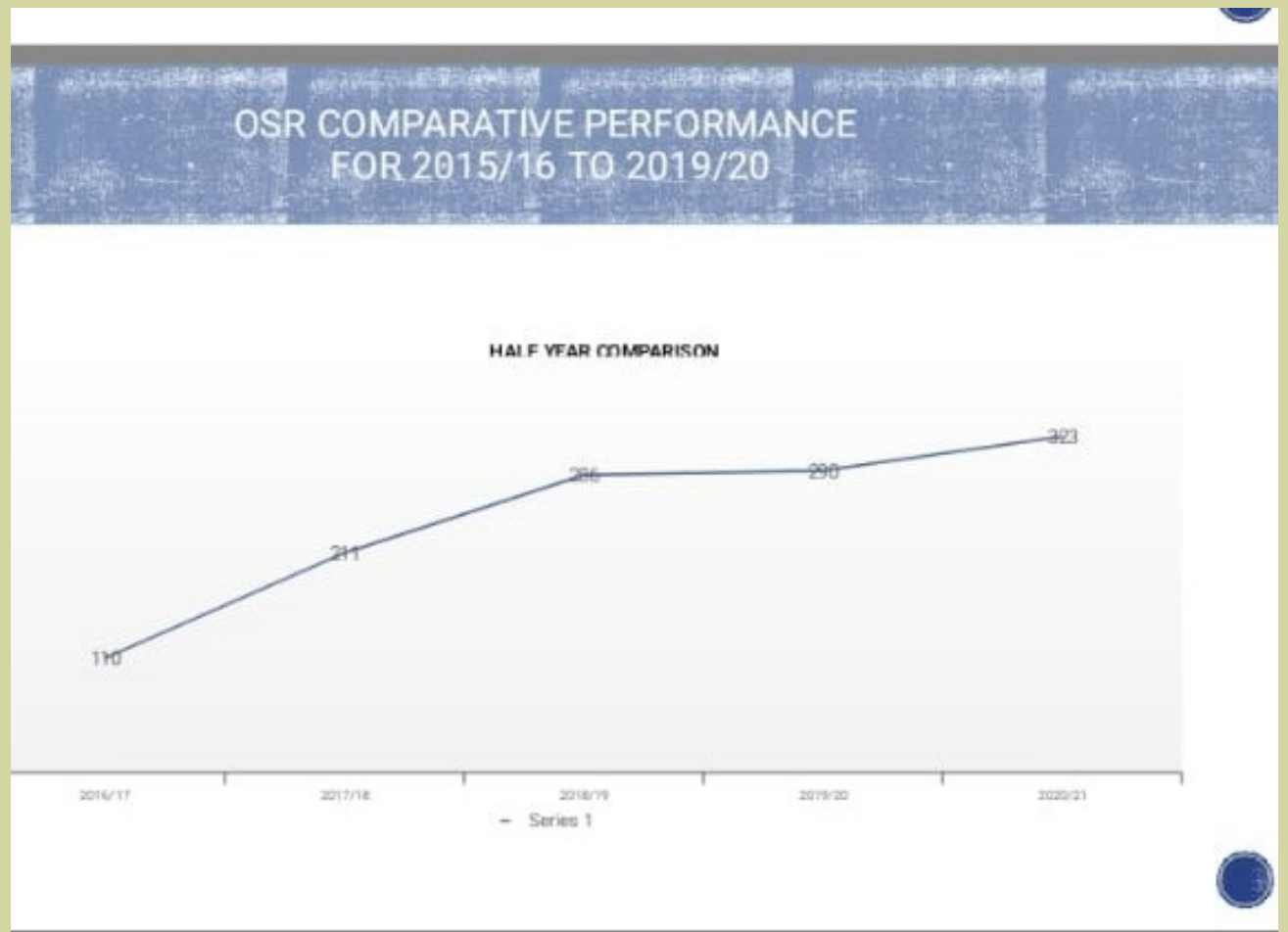
During the occasion Mr Ndai noted the importance of such a culture of availing the information for public scrutiny.

The exercise is also important in gauging whether the government is still on track in implementing its mandates.

It will provide suppliers of goods and services with relevant information to scrutinize the financial soundness of various institutions in the county government of Laikipia. It will be used by financial institutions partnering with the county and also contractors when dealing with the government.

This will create confidence among various stakeholders as it contains ways in which the county spends its budget.

“We want to involve the public in every step of our financial utilization right from planning, budget execution, financial reporting and auditing,” Ndai says. The report detailed all the monies received from the national government as



Laikipia’s own source revenue has tripled over the last four years

equitable share allocation Ksh. 4.1 billion a decrease from the initial allocation of 4.7 billion. The county targets to collect Ksh. 1 billion in own source revenue.

During the half year 2020/21 the county collected own revenue amounting to 322 million. In the half financial year 2016/2017 revenue collected was 110 million. During the same period for 2017/18 it jumped to 211 million. The own revenue collection has been increasing steadily as the following year in 2019/20 the amount was 289 million for the half financial year.

Innovative

The government is focusing on innovative ways of financing its transformative projects within a strategy of growing its economy four

fold through production and manufacturing.

The county has seen adopted innovative ways like floating of a development bond to finance projects. The county can borrow up to 20 percent of its revenue which will be based on the most recent audited books 2019/20. The revenue last year stood at Ksh. 7.11 billion, which means the county will be able to borrow Ksh. 1.4 billion.

To restart the economy after the devastating effects of Covid-19 pandemic, the county government in partnership with several commercial banks led by KCB and Co-operative Bank unveiled a business stimulus package targeting over 5,000 Laikipia. This is geared towards supporting the economy by having shs 3.3 billion affordable loans to cushion businesses from the effects of COVID-19.

It will be available at a rate of 7% interest for individual businesses and 6% for cooperatives. This financial year, a number of projects are ongoing while others have been completed. The Infrastructure Department has completed a total of 277 kilometres of graveled roads and graded 673.8 others through the innovative county Leasing program. “Previously building 1 km of road using a contractor would cost Ksh.1 million but now the same kilometre is being constructed at Ksh316,000 through the leasing program enabling the county to save a huge amount,” Mr. Ndai said. The county has also finished the Solio water project and already 1,800 households have metered connections. The target is 5,000 households. In health, Nanyuki Mother-Child Hospitals has been completed and the remaining part is to equip it. In agriculture the county contributed more than 30 thousand tons of maize seedlings among other items to the residents of Laikipia.



Steady growth in revenue has enabled the county to maintain its development momentum. With agriculture accounting for the bigger portion of the Gross County product, rural-urban connectivity is key enabler as the county focuses production and manufacturing

George Macharia's experience as a Frontline Soldier Against Covid-19

.....in any War, even a good soldier can be shot and get injured

The onset of Covid-19 pandemic in Kenya heralded one of the toughest segments of George Kariuki Macharia's career as the Principal assistant public health officer in Laikipia. On daily basis he would be keenly tracking the pandemic patterns, tracing those in contact with the infected, coordinating testing of the contacts, supervising burials of those who died– to keep the citizens safe.

Working closely with those infected with Covid-19 was not tough but risk too. In any war, even the best soldier get hurt. At some point the Covid-19 got Macharia. He bravely fought. After his recovery, he set aside time to use his experience as a Covid-19 survivor, to educate the masses through radio on how to keep safe from the disease.

In recognition of his efforts, Macharia earned an individual spot award in November and two others in teams that were proactive in fighting off the pandemic. After weeks of hunting down on this gallant soldier, our team finally caught with him at Nanyuki Teaching and referral Hospital and are the excerpts of the interview:



George Kariuki Macharia

Q: Tell us about yourself

A: My name is George Kariuki Macharia, principal assistant public health officer currently employed as the disease surveillance and response coordinator in Laikipia County.

Q: What does your work entail?

A: My job is to coordinate officers in the field as they do their work. I'm also in charge of looking at diseases look at the trends, collect data, analyze data and alert the public in case of an outbreak or threats.

Q: What are your education qualifications?

A: I have a diploma in environmental health sciences, a certificate in field epidemiology, a certificate in integrated disease surveillance and response, and a certificate in malaria epidemiology. Currently, I am pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Health Sciences at Mount Kenya University.

Q: As the Disease Surveillance Coordinator in the county, tell us how your typical day looks like.

A: My day begins at 8.00 a.m. I start by receiving various reports from facilities, handling positive COVID-19 cases from the Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital and Annex, compile county reports and sending them to the county director, CEC, and other relevant agencies.

Q: What attracted you to this medical field?

A: I was working at the community strategy. I'd say the creation of more posts got me my current role. Working with community is interesting and in two years' time as the best within Laikipia which got me granted a desktop to allow me work easily.

Q: What steps do you take when doing disease surveillance in Laikipia county?

A: I start by looking at data, the current disease trends and also following social media. I also receive phone calls from the community, listen to rumors and then drill deeper into their authenticity.

Q: What is the hardest situation you have ever

encountered in line of your work and how did you manage the situation and what was the outcome?

A: Around last year just as COVID-19 was announced there was an outbreak of H1N1. The challenge was how to deal with it and inform people about the whole situation keeping in mind they hadn't accustomed to the COVID-19 situation. We had to work on it without informing the public.

Q: Your line of work involves a lot of risks, you deal with many pathogens. What measures do you take to ensure you, the family and those you interact with are safe from them?

A: The main precaution is just taking the minimum precaution by using personal protective equipment. Also, when I get home I head straight to the bathroom before making any contact with my family.

Q: You were recognized as one of the dedicated public servants during the recent virtual Governor's general staff meeting for your efforts in response to COVID-19 within the county, what does it take to be recognized in your work?

A: The recognition was very exciting. On that day I was working at home compiling some reports while following the zoom meeting and then I saw my name flush on the screen. I felt nice knowing that my efforts had been recognized like working for longer hours and making positive impact.

Q: What do you think is the significance of the Spot Awards in the county?

A: I find it as a great motivator to the workers of the county and a good way of rewarding hardworking employees.

Q: What went on your mind when you contracted COVID-19?

A: It was a scary experience and hard because even some of my family members tested positive. I stayed in isolation for more than 14 days and without any visitation. Luckily, I was asymptomatic.

Q: After contracting, you went public with it and spoke about the disease on radio station, why?

A: My speaking about it only came after I realized the stigma that the COVID-19 positive people were getting. People need to understand that it is not a choice that one makes to test positive. It was also to encourage anybody who had contracted the disease that it can be cured and one can recover.

Q: You have been supporting other healthcare workers who have been infected by offering psychosocial support and linkage to care, what made you start this noble gesture?

A: Health care workers really do take care of sick people but no one takes care of them when they get sick. They even go through psychological problems. That's why I begin by linking them to get counselling. I make the little effort to make them feel there are people behind them to offer support.

Q: What is that special thing about you that people don't know?

A: One is that I came to the medical profession after my journey to priesthood got cut short. Secondly, is that I am the most vetted person for the spot awards now for the third time. The first was as a supervisor at a command centre, another in the larger surveillance team and the recent one was individual award I received for my efforts on helping fight COVID-19.

Q: Your parting shot to other workers in the county...

A: I would like to thank medical practitioners for their effort and their contribution towards informing people against the stigma of corona virus. Our county government has been supportive and thus let us also reciprocate by offering support and working hard.

I am thankful to everyone for the opportunity to receive three spot awards.

Valuation Roll Kicks off in Laikipia County

Laikipia County has this year embarked on the process of updating a register on current value on land.

On completion of the exercise, the department of Infrastructure and Lands, which is mandated to undertake the exercise will come up with a valuation roll.

The exercise is important as it enable citizens get the true value of their land in case they want to dispose it or charge it in a bank.

What is a valuation roll?

A valuation roll is a legal document that outlines the properties within a county's jurisdiction. It is the document that empowers a county government to value land. Every county is required to come up with a valuation roll once every ten years.

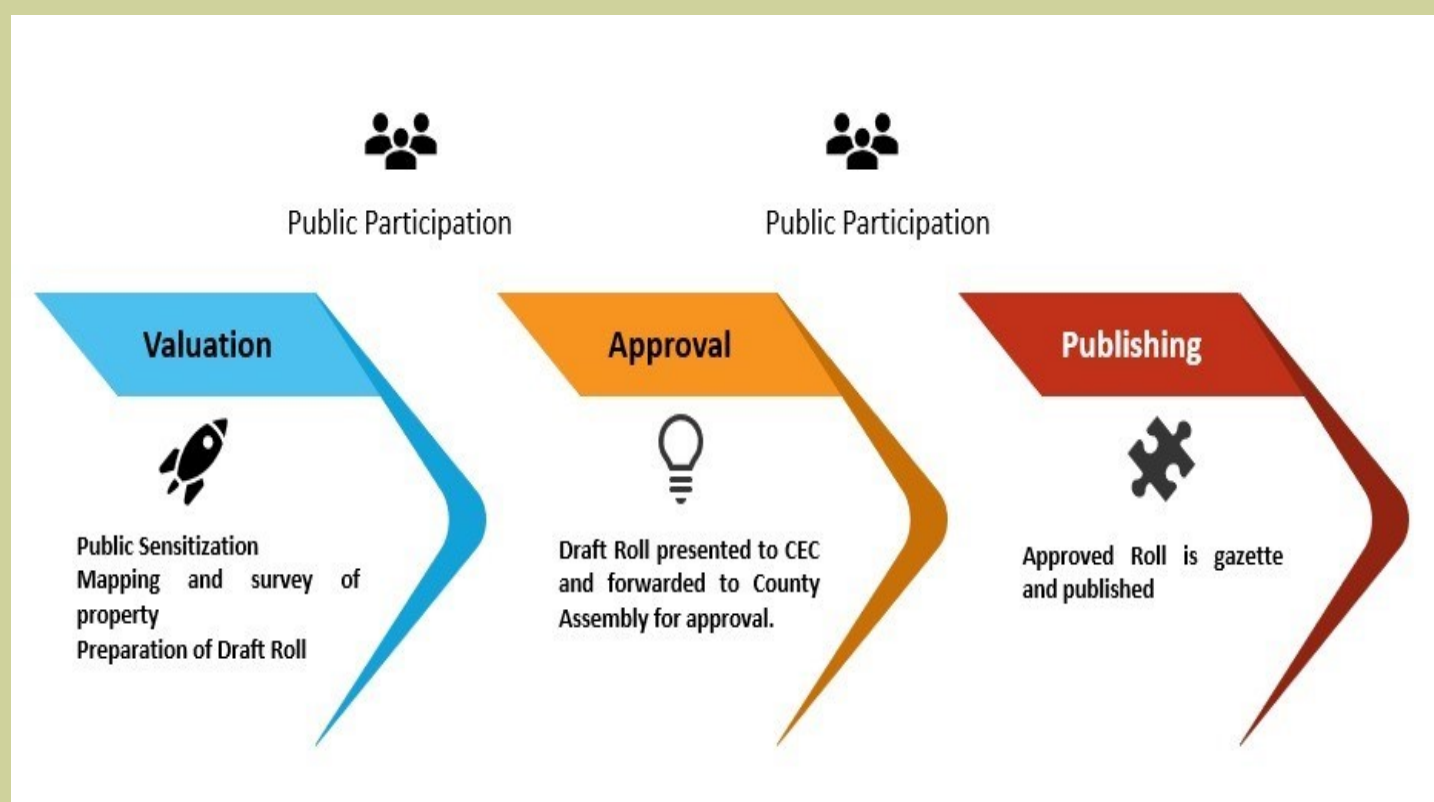
However, the CEC member in charge of a Finance may extend the exercise for a period not exceedingly here years.

In Laikipia, the last two valuation roll took place in 1992 and 2008 for Nanyuki and Nyahururu towns respectively.

The exercise of coming up with a valuation roll involves several steps to determine the real value of any land through gauging its current market price. It involves hiring a professional consultant to conduct the exercise in a fair manner.

When calls for application for tenders were made through an open way, [Zerith Consultants](#) won the tender and the firm is now involved in coming up with the valuation roll for this year.

Several public participations must be conducted to allow members of the public give their views on the rating and valuation of



The Valuation Roll process

their land. The first public engagements took place on January 21 this year in 20 different areas running across the county and had more than 1,000 participants.

The three main processes are valuation, approval, and then publishing. The valuation consists of public sensitization, then mapping and survey of the property, followed by preparation of Draft Roll by Zerith Consultants. Public participation for this phase has already taken place.

The Draft Roll is then presented to the CEC in charge of infrastructure to present it to the county executive before presenting it to the county assembly for approval. Another public participation takes place and members of the public are allowed to review the document.

For private land, the period given is 28 days while a public land takes six months before closure of the review window.

The consulting firm incorporates the new information and publishes the Approval Roll from the county assembly. This is the final draft, Valuation Roll.

Some of the property classified as not "rateable property" includes land include:

- Public religious worship.
- Cemeteries and crematoria.
- Public hospitals.
- Public educational institutions.
- Charitable institutions, museums and libraries.
- Outdoor sports.
- National Parks and National Reserves.

Contents of the Valuation Roll

During the valuation roll exercise, the vital details that must be captured for every property include the name of the owner, the owners postal, email address and telephone number, and the registered or other description of the property.

The physical address of the property, the use and permitted use of the property and the extent of the property are also captured. A record of the market value, vacant site and the improvement value of the property is also noted.

Importance of A Valuation Roll

- To ensure equity and fairness in land valuation.
- To encourage optimum and appropriate use of land in line with physical and land use development plans.
- To ascertain legal ownership status of property.
- To serve as a benchmark for current land market values.



Public participation on valuation roll at Murwarak, Sosian Ward

Beekeeping Helping in Regeneration of Environment at Arjiu Dispensary



Beehives at the Arjiu dispensary compound.

By Steve Jackson Kariuki

Beekeeping is a venture that people start with the aim of earning a living from the sale of honey.

Nevertheless, it has other benefits.

Nicholas Tinai, a community liaison officer at Arjiu dispensary has found a way that the venture benefits the health facility, the staff and the community comprising of patients. Having served as the facility chairman for the last three years, he started beekeeping in the dispensary compound as a project for the staff.

“Although the project is new, we are planning to be giving 5% of the honey to the staff after every harvest,” Nicholas states.

Apart from selling the honey for income, Nicholas says that the product can also be used for medicinal purposes.

Bees are good stewards of the environment since they help in pollination which results in the regeneration of flora.

“This ensures that there is quality air that is essential for aroma therapy for patients who visit the facility with health issues,” Nicholas points out.

Regeneration of the environment helps reduces pollution.

Having gained knowledge from his father, Nicholas developed a passion for beekeeping and did short training. He has also attributed this to interest in studying about the same area and he has been aggressive ever since which he has carried to his adult life.

He started modern bee-keeping in 2018 and currently he has three types of bees.

They are categorized according to the areas and the economic activities of the residents.

The tree types include; *Apis mellifera monticola* (black) bees and *Apis mellifera letoria* (yellow) bees the third one is *Apis mellifera scutellata* slightly smaller in size.

Different bees produce different color of honey mainly depending on the flora and followers’ species that range from yellow, brown, white, black or clear. But what defines a quality honey is the moisture content and smell.

The bee keeping venture has enabled the dispensary staff to have a source of livelihood with good returns when practiced in a modernize fashion.

There is no much needed labor as bees only require small land with minimum labor.

Nicholas interest in bees led him to turn the venture into a profession and he is now a TOT on Apiculture and have been training individual and organized group of farmers all over Mukogodo.

He says that the venture will also help those in the community.

“Through a demonstrated approach on Apiculture business will encourage them to venture into the business and it will make the community to have an alternative source of livelihood,” Nicholas notes.

The dispensary has partnered with WVK IMARA program who are helping Nicholas to support his venture. Beyond that he seeks to establish a workshop for Apiculture making equipment and tools with consultancy services.

Nicholas has done more than 3 inventories on Mukogodo Forest biome and adjacent Rangeland with different Governmental and Non-Governmental organizations. He vast experience doing e several research and being a Co-research assistant on botany thesis from different graduate has propelled him to become a local botanist and professional Nature guide with Field Guide Association South Af-



Nicholas Tinai shows off modern beehives

DG, NHIF Chief Rollout NHIF Biometrics Capture Exercise



The National Hospital Insurance Fund has introduced biometric registration that makes it easier to use.

Customers will not require a fingerprint to access the service.

The rollout of the technology took place at Likii Dispensary at a ceremony presided over by Deputy Governor John Mwaniki and NHIF chief executive officer Peter Gathege.

With Laikipia's NHIF uptake at 64 percent, the DG invited NHIF to come up with the technology to minimize the struggles their customers were undergoing to access the service whenever they misplace their cards to seal any revenue leaks.

NHIF CEO, Dr. Gathege talked of Government's plan of supporting the most vulnerable Kenyans who for now, cannot afford the insurance cover.

One million Kenyans will stand to benefit from subsidy, and 17, 000 of those will be Laikipians.

"This will only encourage our efforts here in Laikipia because we already started a subsidy dubbed 'Imarisha Afya Initiative' last year - which seeks to support our most vulnerable members," the DG said.

Citizens showed up in large numbers to have their biometrics taken during the rollout at Likii Dispensary, Central park and at Old Market.

By Denis Lomany, ward administrator



Ongoing construction of Mukogodo East ward county government office at Kiwanja Ndege



The ongoing construction of Dol Dol theatre



Nanyuki ECDE Centres Adhering to MoH guidelines



Mt. Kenya primary ECDE

By Charles Thumbi – Ward Administrator Nanyuki

A team of county government officers visited some of the ECDE centres in Nanyuki ward to monitor the progress of learning activities, enrollment, and covid-19 measures being put into place by the ECDE teachers.

The officers included Laikipia East Deputy Sub-County Administrator Mr Legei Tumpes, Nanyuki ward ECDE coordinator, Ms Lucy Mwangi, Administrator in the department of Education, Ms ECDE Muthoni.

We visited Kanyoni nursery, Nanyuki Garrison primary ECDE, and Mt. Kenya primary ECDE.

ECDE NAME	PP1		PP2		TOTALS
	BOYS	GIRLS	BOYS	GIRLS	
Kanyoni Ecde	17	13	11	12	53
Nanyuki Garrison primary Ecde	8	11	16	13	48
Mt. Kenya primary Ecde	35	37	11	16	99

The data collected is per the table below:

Both Mt. Kenya and Nanyuki Garrison Primary ECDE have a feeding program for the

children. At Kanyoni nursery, parents pack food for their children as they report to school. In general, Nanyuki Garrison is highly organized and well managed. The ECDE has two teachers. Cleanliness and the general hygiene of the kids is high at the Nanyuki Garrison ECDE center. The teachers there have two thermo guns (for PP1 and PP2) and an occurrence book where they record the temperature of the kids on a daily basis. Also, all kids have facemasks, and handwashing facilities are enough. Kanyoni ECDE teachers were encouraged to enforce wearing of facemasks as well as improve the general hygiene. The ECDE has two teachers.

Teachers and parents agreed to come up with a daily cleaning schedule to ensure that the nursery is clean and neat –especially classes, dining hall and washrooms.

The head teacher at Mt. Kenya primary school has ensured that sanitation is good within the ECDE center despite the large number of children.

Sports Activities Resume in Laikipia With Strict COVID-19 Prevention Guidelines

Setting firms Odibets has partnered with FKF Laikipia branch to promote football among youths by providing jerseys and balls.

The local teams will benefit from two pairs of jerseys and six balls which will assist them to continue practicing and playing competitive matches. This will motivate many youths to engage in the sporting activities within the county.

Football matches have resumed after a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will be played under strict guidelines.

Laikipia FKF chairman Abdul Kaka confirmed that the ministry of health COVID-19 protocols will be followed during matches in order to curb spread of the virus.

“We are carrying out temperature checks to all players before the kick off including the technical bench,” confirmed Mr. Abdul.

He adds that they have also ensured that every stadium have been installed with water points.

Mr. Abdul says that the number of spectators allowed in the stadium will be 100 to ensure that they maintain proper social distance. According to him, teams will have benefit of playing on the home grounds which will enable them to minimize interaction.



Samba FC and Segera FC during the Match day 1 after resumption of sporting activities

Chief Officer Education, Sports and Social Services James Mwangi says that stadium will be opened on weekends for matchdays only for county league teams. The teams in division 2 will use alternative fields that the county government have been upgrading at ward level to play their matches.

“Currently, we are using the leased equipment to flatten grounds at wards level to improve their conditions,” CO Mwangi says.

The efforts are in line with the county government to promote sporting activities in Laikipia.

Linking Rural Producers with Urban Markets



Street solar lighting in Mamboleo Centre, Igwamiti



Solar street lights program at Cosite, Nyahururu



Shamaneji area, Igwamiti ward where leasing works have been on going

Photos by
Alice
Mbaki



Ongoing periodic maintenance of Machakos Road near NTRH