



# Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

**WEEKLY  
BULLETIN**

## Laikipia Revolutionizes Food Support Distribution System

**T**he County Government of Laikipia has come up with transformative system to distribute food support for more than 40,000 vulnerable households while observing the social distancing guidelines.

The system based on mobile phone technology might inspire change in the traditional model of relief food distribution in the country which normally happens through the networks of government administrators.

Under the *lisha familia* initiative started by the county government and well-wishers, a small number of the targeted households in Kanyoni village, Nanyuki ward received electronic-vouchers on their mobile phones when the system was subjected to test-run on Friday. After the successful test-run, the system will be ready for roll out to the rest of the county.

This proved workable when the pilot households were able to redeem the e-vouchers and collect foodstuffs from a designated collection point on Saturday.

The system helps in observance of the social distancing guidelines as it allocates each household a specific time to collect foodstuff to avoid crowding the collection point. There are various collection points

in the county.

In addition, the initiative is using data from the household economic survey captured through M-Jali when the county government was registering households for the universal healthcare through the NHIF scheme.

It's also data from the national government's cash transfer programme as well as from hospitals on people with pre-existing conditions. National government administration officers together with Nyumba Kumi members are also involved in confirming and updating the data in case there have been situation change.

It has enabled the government to use verifiable data to carry out the interventions and eliminate feelings and allegations of unfairness, nepotism, political affiliations and even theft.

**Dear ESTHER JUDY ,**  
County Government of Laikipia has gifted you a COVID-19 food voucher code **COVID-19-KWDGAJ**, Redeem on **2020/04/17** at **.15:30**. African bible on the ground (Benedict, Nanyuki, Kenya For more information call **0716 031031**. **TO STOP RECEIVING THIS SMS DIAL STOP \*456\*9\*5#**

A team drawn community volunteers was involved in the cleaning up and processing all this data to ensure the food support goes to the deserving.

"We are doing this so that only the targeted beneficiaries get the support...we will no need brokers to come up with lists of their beneficiaries as the been the case in the past, as we are using verified data collected scientifically," Governor Ndiritu Muriithi told the team verifying the database of the households.

Only those the targeted can receive the e-

### Laikipia Coronavirus

### Information Hotlines:

0110 094 440

0738 055 343

0721 799 365

**County Government of Laikipia**

## Zero Contact Distribution

No cross contamination  
No unwanted waste and pollution  
No crowded food distribution points

**What is Required**

The County Government of Laikipia has to have a database of:

1. Beneficiaries - ( Name, Telephone number, ID, Constituency, Ward)
2. Collection Points - (supermarkets, distribution points, local kiosks)

Collection points will require internet access to access Zero Contact Distribution System (ZCDS)

**How it Happens**

1. The household/beneficiary will receive an E-voucher via SMS.
2. The household/beneficiary will visit a participating collection point with their phone.
3. The distribution / collection point logs in to (ZCDS) portal and input the E-voucher.

**How it Works**

The infographic shows a circular flow: Tracking → Creation → Issuance → E-Voucher presentation → E-Voucher Confirmation → Redemption → back to Tracking. Key components include the County Government of Laikipia, Distribution Management System, SMS Code to beneficiary, E-Voucher Pin generation, and Supermarket / Kiosk Collection Point.

voucher and the person at the collection point can be able to verify that it the intended beneficiary who has received the food support.



## Covid-19 Will Slow Down County's Development Pace

**R**e-organisation of the budget will slow down the tempo of country's development pace, as the as national and county government channel funds towards preventing Covid-19 pandemic from spreading.

Following a directive from the national treasury to stop further commitments of funds for development in the new coronavirus, the County Government embarked on a budget restructuring process that saw it reallocate finances from previous priority areas to go towards mitigation of the effects of the virus.

With the outbreak of Covid-19, projects, such as development of quarantine and isolation centres and support for vulnerable households as well as support for local SMEs which are aimed at miti-

gating the effects of the disease have become the priority.

The school bursary programme is among the areas whose budget has been refocused to fighting the life-threatening disease as schools remain closed during this period of the health crisis.

Other important areas that will face disruption up to July 1 when a new financial years begins, are construction of ECDE centres, roads, water and vocational training centres will also experience slow infrastructural development progress on the as they face the budget cuts.

In the supplementary budget tabled before the county assembly last week, county seeks to reallocate Ksh. 741 million from development to support the fight against covid-19 which has been spreading fast across the world.

However, the roads rehabilitation through

the leasing program will remain uninterrupted throughout the entire period of covid-19 crisis, facilitating continuity in roads maintenance project in part.

Budget reorganization is a three step process that starts with the county treasury approval for proposals indicating the areas of funding. This follows a cabinet approval before proceeding to the county assembly for endorsement, allowing the government to initiate spending.

The executive is, however, in authority to spend finances from the supplementary budget as the county assembly works on the adoption, as provided for in the Public Finance Management Act.

The government is eying a further 250 million shillings from fundraising to support Covid-19 interventions in health, food support for the vulnerable among other areas. Additional funding will be sourced from donors.

## Covid-19 Brings Out the Synergy in Government Agencies, Private Sector

**V**arious government agencies and private sector players have brought to the fore unparalleled synergy in Laikipia County's war against the spread of Covid-19.

A multi-agency coordination committee that includes H.E the Governor, County Commissioner and Nanyuki-based KDF leadership and the county's security and public health senior management have been steering the war from the day the country registered the first case.

County Secretary Karanja Njora says the County Covid-19 Multiagency Committee, which is co-chaired by the Governor and County Commissioner, is responsible for the seamless coordination of the activities in place in preparation to contain new coronavirus.

"We are gaining new experiences on coordination where smooth flow of information has helped us to make timely decisions." Mr Njora.

This has witnessed the coming together all the government agencies as well as other partners such as the British Army Training Unit in Kenya (Batuk) to fight the disease as a team.

The multi-agency teams were responsible for the successful operationalization of a 24-hour command centre and the swift conversion of the Nanyuki ASK showground into a model quarantine and isolation centre.



*HE Governor Ndiritu Muriithi, KDF's Brig. J Mwamburi and County commissioner Daniel Nyameti try out locally made face masks*

The renovations involved fixing of water and electricity connections, fumigation, opening of new and existing sewer lines. This exercise also saw the quarantine rooms equipped with private toilets and washrooms to factor social distancing.

The County Secretary said the multiagency senior management team has been addressing other social-economic interventions in a faster way.

Immediately after the country reported the first case of Covid-19, the team made a decision to

install screening points in all the county's entry points which are operated 24-hours.

The steering team meets twice a week to review the progress in the level of disease surveillance and to ensure all the right interventions are done.

Surveillance and enforcement of guidelines are also done by multi-agency teams. The county also appraises all stakeholders via video conference at 4pm every day.



# Combating Covid-19: Laikipia's Behind-the-Scene Team

By Muriithi John

**T**he new Covid-19 pandemic has brought a new world order literally.

Things are no longer happening the way they used to only a few weeks ago. Tight and uncomfortable adjustments have been made, right from the family unit, the society, nationally and internationally. It's the new normal.

Everyone's life has changed drastically changed, infected or not. Most affected are the working class where as a significant number has been forced to work from home as per Government's directive, a development that has reduced their output significantly.

But there also this other category whose new normal includes literally working day and night to keep citizens safe from the new coronavirus. They include ambulance drivers, medics, and security agencies, among

many others. Some have been putting tireless efforts behind the scenes to make things happen.

Those providing essential services have seen their workload increase threefold, performing tasks that ordinarily were not part of their daily routine. Their muscles and at times patience is being stretched to the limit, doing essential duties with total dedication, all in an effort to prevent the spread of the deadly virus.

These are the heroes and heroines of the war Covid-19 as Laikipia County spares no efforts in keeping the virus at bay.

Here is a sample some of the individuals who are part of a team manning the 24-hour county command centre, a multiagency unit coordinating the Covid-19 disease surveillance across the county. There are many others that we have not featured here.

## George Keya– Security officer/driver



Ensures that staff reporting for the night shift arrive to work safely. Similarly he oversees safe arrival of staff going home. He was also involved in distribution of masks and public awareness campaign against the coronavirus. The disease outbreak has dramatically redefined his work.

## Duncan Kinyua– ICT

He is credited with development of a data entry tool used at the Command Centre. Mr Kinyua's duty is updating the tool, Command Centre – Laikipia County, to



fit in particular situations. He is also consulted in case computers fail to function properly.

## Veronica Wahome – ICT

Her task is to ensure that all the equipment at the Centre are working around the clock. In case of malfunction she



does the fixing. She says she is really enjoying her new working station where she interacts with staff from other departments as it has broken the monotony of "talking" with machines the whole day at her office. "I am excited to work with people from across the departments," she says.

## Faith Wambui-ICT



Her work is to update the data received through the hotline numbers while on duty. Calls from her office at the Count Headquarters are at times redirected to her and she has to multitask to ensure all run smoothly. Ms Wambui had been used to the normal working hours of 8am to 5pm but she says she is adapting well with the new shifts which stretches into night.

## Snr Sgt Zipporah Mwangi - Kenya Police Service

Coordinates with security officials using the established protocol in case of an alert. She directs alerts to their relevant officer within the security chain.



## George Macharia– Disease Surveillance officer



His duty entails listening and analyzing suspected cases and giving the callers appropriate directions regarding the same. He also responds through contacting local health facilities on suspected cases.

## Jennifer Kimani-Health officer

Monitors medical cases that are reported and offering appropriate feedback. She also links suspected cases to relevant health officials while at the Centre.



## Jackson Wanjau – Enforcement Officer

He ensures the security at the Command Centre is tight during this period of Coronavirus. He alternates with his other colleagues from Enforcement in the three



shifts of the day. Although not used to working during holidays and on night shifts, he says the coming of coronavirus has provided him with a good experience on the same.

## George Koome – Enforcement

Supervision and ensuring proper coordination of work between the staff.



## Wangui Kiragu - Kenya Police Service

Ensures adequate security at the centre and liaising with security agencies in case of an alert.

## Senior management and Middle-level Managers

Senior county management has been working round the clock to provide solutions to tame the spread of the virus. The top managers hold several virtual meetings every day - activities that runs even on the weekends. The first meeting begins at 7.30am followed, by management one at 9.00am and another at 4.00pm.



# Nanyuki Fashion Designer Turns Focus To Combating Covid-19 Pandemic

By David Serem

**A**t Clej Supplies Limited shop along Kimathi Road in Nanyuki Town, Jennifer Kariithi is leading a team of five workers racing against time to meet an order placed for protective masks and gowns.

A surge in demand for the protective gear following the outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease has prompted the producer of protective clothing to engage extra staff to facilitate a 24-hour operation to meet the demand.

At the time of this interview, the team was putting together 400 protective gowns for clients within the county and outside.

“We are contemplating expansion. We are bringing in more machines and staff to maximize our production,” said Ms Kariithi. The SME is now producing over 2000 face masks in 24 hours. The SME is one of the beneficiaries of a partnership between the Laikipia County Government and Dedan Kimathi University of Technology where Laikipia innovators are trained on



*Clej Supplies director Ms Jennifer Kariithi at her shop in Nanyuki*

the production for the Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs). The enterprise has suspended production of clothes to focus on delivering the protective gear to the clients, who are increasing with each passing day. The innovator has already delivered personal protective clothing to the county department of health, which has procured their services to plug the shortage of the products. The protective wear will go into protecting county front-

line staff as they combat Covid-19. against contracting the viral scourge, a fact that Ms Kariithi says makes her enterprise especially keen on the quality of the final product. The county innovation programme is in charge of supervision for quality of the products made by the local enterprises. The programme has linked the Laikipia innovators with Kenya Bureau of Standards for guidance on quality standards.

## County Leasing Programme to Extend to Other Assets

**L**aikipia County’s vehicle leasing programme will extend to all the movable assets it procures, as it moves away from the costly and lengthy purchase process. The devolved unit has already procured vehicles and construction equipment through leasing, has expanded the programme to include all the movable assets such as cars, tractors and other machinery. The first consignment included graders, tipper trucks and water bowzers.



*A leased truck at work in Laikipia*

County Chief Officer for Finance Njenga says leasing is proving to be a viable alternative as compared to buying vehicles and other assets. “We pay for the leased machines in quarterly installments, meaning we can do so much with the little capital we have while at the same time facilitating continuation of the various projects for which the equipment are procured for,” said Mr. Njenga. One of the major advantages of the leasing is that the process frees the government of the time consuming process of asset maintenance which are now undertaken by the leasing company. In the arrangement, the leasing deal allows the government to pay for the equipment as it uses, giving it the advantage of ensuring uninterrupted project continuity. Mr. Njenga explains that the leasing process is initiated by a government department requesting for the vehicles they intend to get hold of. Thereafter the department of finance facilitates the link between the leasing company and the department in need. The county government procured the first consignment of equipment under the leasing programme in October 2019. They included graders, tipper trucks, water bowzers and pick-up trucks. The equipment leasing programme has seen accelerated road rehabilitation projects in the few months of operation with works having been undertaken in Olmorani and Salama Wards.



# Combating Covid-19: Why Government Is Training Hotels' Staff



A training at NTRH. The government has contracted hotels that will accommodate frontline health staff treating Coronavirus patients

**T**he County Department of Health has launched a programme to train hotel staff who will be serving medical staff working in isolation and quarantine centres. The waiters and waitresses are strate-

gic in ensuring the medics who are on the frontline are catered for well while they also protect themselves from contracting the virus.

Health Chief Officer Dr. Donald Mogoi

has confirmed that hotel workers from five establishments have already been trained on catering procedures.

"We have completed training sessions for members of five hotels. This is a beginning and we intend to roll out the same to others across the county as we collaborate in fighting this pandemic," said Dr. Mogoi. There have been several cases where those serving the infected have ended up contracting the disease.

In case the caterers are infected chances of spreading the virus are high owing to their nature of work that involves coming into contact with many people.

To avoid such a situation, the county government launched the programme to train the food handlers.

Health officers treating Covid-19 patients cannot go home because they can easily transmit the virus in case they have it to their families.

They would be accommodated in the hotels whose staff have been trained on how to handle them.

**World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines is that those handling food.**

"If an infected worker handles food, it is possible that they could introduce virus to the food they are preparing, or on-to surfaces within the food business, by coughing and sneezing, or through hand contact," warns WHO. Caution should be taken when handling food, whether in the hotel or at home.

Hygiene will help us in a big way to curb the spread of the virus.

## COVID-19: How You can Protect Yourself and Others

### Wash your hands frequently

Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

**Why?** Washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand rub kills viruses that may be on your hands.

### Maintain social distancing

Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.

**Why?** When someone coughs or sneezes they spray small liquid droplets from their nose or mouth which may contain virus. If you are too close, you can breathe in the droplets, including the COVID-19 virus if the person coughing has the disease.

### Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth

**Why?** Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once con-

taminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and can make you sick.

### Practice respiratory hygiene

Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.

**Why?** Droplets spread virus. By following good respiratory hygiene you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and COVID-19.

### WHAT IS SELF QUARANTINE?

Self quarantine is an act of individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19 separating themselves for 14 days to monitor if they develop symptoms.

### WHO SHOULD SELF QUARANTINE?

Anyone who has travelled out of the country within the past 14 days to a nation with sustained reported COVID-19



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF LAIKIPIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND MEDICAL SERVICES



**COVID-19  
PREPAREDNESS**

**Business owners  
must ensure  
SOCIAL DISTANCE  
or risk being shut down  
and permits revoked.**



6ft = 2m







**WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP OFTEN**



# County Hiring More Medics to Battle Novel Coronavirus

**T**he County Government has initiated a process of hiring 368 medical personnel to fight the new coronavirus pandemic. So far 37 of the personnel have been hired.

The medics, who will include nurses and clinical officers among other cadres will be in the frontline to combat the spread of the viral respiratory disease.

The government has already embarked on budget restructuring process that will see it channel more resources towards strengthening human resource to enable the health department battle the disease.

The medics will be stationed at the various quarantine and isolation centres across the county.

Meanwhile, the Agricultural Society of Kenya has officially handed over its Nanyuki Showground to the County Government. A memorandum of un-

derstanding was signed between the two institutions.

The MoU allows the government to fully take over the operations of the facility and use it as a quarantine and isolation centre. The facility has been given a facelift and converted into a model quarantine and isolation centre.

The renovations involved fixing of the electricity power lines, water and sewerage lines.

Spacious quarantine rooms were fitted with private bathrooms to minimize contact between those placed under quarantine as part of the renovations.

Together with Nanyuki High School, the facility will have a 500 bed-capacity to hold quarantine and isolation cases for Laikipia East and North sub-counties.



*A team of community volunteers verifying data of vulnerable households in Laikipia which will benefit from food support.*

## Will Coronavirus Lead to Behaviour Change?

By Muriithi John

One of the positive outcomes from the concerted war against the novel coronavirus is culture change. For instance, the new virus has made people aware of the level of germs that the palms of their hands can harbor. This knowledge will most likely instill behavior change as more people will no longer ignore better hand-washing. Such social transformation would have wide ranging of benefits not only to individual person but to the citizens at large. In 2018, Laikipia County recorded a total of 46,432 cases of diarrhea and dysentery 21,316 for children below five years and 25,507 for those from five years and above. The main cause of the said conditions is poor hygiene. The cases mentioned above – and which are preventable- led to great tax payers' money and other resources being directed towards their cure, not to mention the time used by the medical staff. All these would have been directed towards treating other unavoidable diseases and also doing project works across the county. Poor hygiene

led to great losses hence the need to maintain best hygiene practices to avoid a repeat of the same. How regularly were you washing your hands before Coronavirus came to be known? After you were made aware of the virus, did you become more hygienic? It is true that everyone is making efforts to keep Covid-19 at bay through regular washing of hands/ sanitizing and observing social and physical distances as the health experts are advising. It is only after the virus has hit the world that everyone now realizes that one's health should always top their priority list. The deadly virus has demonstrated that good hand washing practices need using soap and at least 20 seconds in running clean water. This does not mean that only Coronavirus requires such but also other disease-causing germs that may be in our hand without our knowledge. Health experts on the other hand have been given a chance to teach people on healthy living. Very few people used to cough or sneeze using their bent elbows. They would use bare hands without knowing the entailing danger. The social distancing that has

been enforced only because of Covid-19 should actually be the order of the day. At times in queues, let's say in banks or supermarkets, some people have a tendency to occupy one's personal space which makes others very uncomfortable. It gets worse when the queue has mixed genders of varying ages. Matatu industry is another sector that has greatly been rectified by the small but deadly virus. There are some notorious 14-seater matatus which had been carrying more than 20 passengers presenting an unhealthy environment for any human being. It is a sad situation since no one in the vehicle would know if a fellow passenger has a contagious disease. Video conferencing is another aspect that has been largely incorporated in various organizations in the wake of the new pandemic. Today physical staff meetings have been replaced by virtual meetings. This could be the new and cost-effective way for many organisations. How I wish the cleanliness we are experiencing could continue even after Coronavirus is defeated. Habits need to be rethought and changed, to fit the new model that has been forced upon us. The bottom line for good hygiene is availability of enough clean water.