



Laikipia

The official newsletter of the County Government of Laikipia

**WEEKLY
BULLETIN**

The Rebirth of Rumuruti Town



Ongoing road works that have given Rumuruti Town a new look

The face of Rumuruti town is rapidly changing, thanks to the transformative agenda of Laikipia County Smart Towns Initiative.

The infrastructure projects currently ongoing has given Laikipia's administrative headquarters a new look, boosting commerce as investors move in to exploit better business environment.

The town now boasts of a new bus park and streets paved with cobble stone, the road construction technology famed for durability.

New street lighting is promising to boost security during late evening business activities, turning a once sleepy transit and livestock trading centre into regional a commercial hub.

New high rise buildings are fast replacing old ones, as demand for residential and commercial spaces drive up construction activities. Smart Towns Initiative is a programme supported jointly by the national government and the World Bank through the Kenya Devolution Support Programme, KDSP.



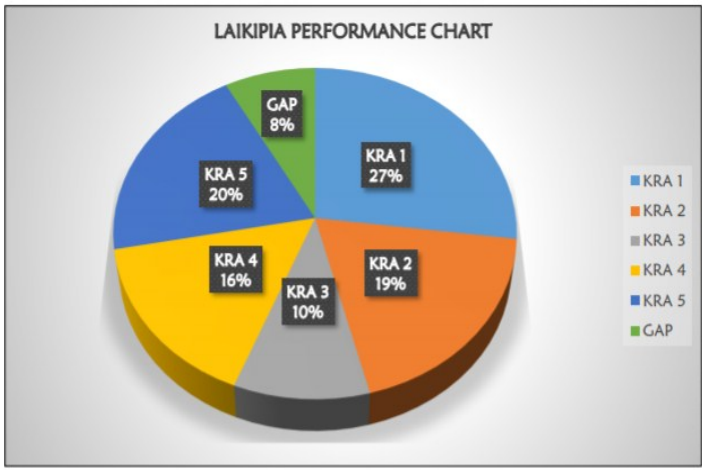
The new Rumuruti Town Bus Park is nearing completion

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Performance Assessment Ranks Laikipia Number Three

Laikipia has been ranked third in the annual capacity performance assessment of the Kenya Devolution Support Programme. KDSP is a program jointly supported by National Government and the World Bank. The overall objective of the programme is to strengthen the capacity of core national and county institutions to improve the delivery of devolved functions at the County level. In the 2018/2019 financial year, Laikipia performed exemplary well in various areas of interest under assessment achieving a total of 92% in five key result areas. This is an improvement from 79% in the previous ranking.

The county got 27 points in management of public funds -Public Financial Management which was key result area number one. Prestige Management Solutions which carried out the assessment found the county to have performed ex-



tremely well in investment management including Social and Environmental safeguards (KRA 5) and awarded 20 points. On planning, monitoring and evaluation (KRA 2), the County was 19 points for the good work 16 points were garnered from Civic Education and Public Participation (KRA4), while the rest 10 points came from Human Resources and Performance Management (KRA 3). Other reasons that made Laikipia rank high according to the report include timely submission of financial statements to the Office of Auditor General, presentation of Budget to the county

assembly on time, preparation and submission of quarterly financial reports to the county assembly and copies to the Controller of Budget, National Treasury and CRA, proper use of all the 25 procurement IFMIS steps Fund from KDSP in the previous ranking was used to finance some of the he following projects; construction of X-Ray Block in Rumuruti Hospital, Smart Town Initiative, improvement of Ndemu Dispensary, grading and gravelling of road to Doldol Hospital, improving Kiwanja Ndege water storage, Mugumo Water improvement and Suguroi water improvement. In the second grant that will be received as a result of the high performance, Laikipia plans to utilize the money to implement the following proposals on projects: Improvement of Nanyuki Market to a better standard, focus on Kinamba Water distribution, and improve Mukurian Water distribution.



A street in Rumuruti showing before and after receiving a facelift



Ksh. 27m Health Insurance Cover for Vulnerable Families



An officer attending to one of the beneficiaries of County's Imarisha Afya Programme

The County Government of Laikipia has rolled another phase of health insurance payment to benefit over 12,000 families who have been found not to be able to afford insurance cover.

The county government, through the Imarisha Afya Initiative, has set aside over Ksh 27 million to cater for annual health insurance cover for the targeted households, partially and fully.

Laikipia County continues to lead in the in the country on insurance uptake through NHIF. Data from the mobile based data collection tool MJALI shows over 4,000 households Laikipia households are much vulnerable, and therefore are unable to pay for their health insurance on the national scheme NHIF.

These households will have all their insurance cover paid in full by the government. The remaining 8,063 households, which data shows that they are relatively able to pay for their insurance, will benefit from a half payment of the annual cost of insuring a household, which is Ksh. 6,000 for NHIF Supa Cover.

E-Learning Assisting Laikipia students

Laikipia is piloting an e-learning system targeting Form-Four candidates as education institutions remain closed due to the rising infections of Covid-19 in the country.

County executive committee member for Education Ms Tabitha Mbiriri said the system developed in collaboration with the Teachers' Service Commission and some teachers who are ICT and science subjects champions is meant to help the candidates revise as the re-opening of schools remain uncertain.

Selected teachers have been tasked with uploading the content for revision to the Moodle system which will later be converted into a user-friendly module for revision.

"Students will have to be enrolled into the learning system for them to be able to access the revision content which will be monitored and assessed by the respective subject teachers," Ms Mbiriri said.

While the system is automated and a learner can proceed at their own pace, it has been programmed to limit them to follow a certain sequence of activity as will be determined by the teacher such that they must perform the first activity before proceeding to the next one.

The county is encouraging form four students to enroll and download

revision materials using an android mobile phone, desktop or laptop computers. The system administrator will also be generating the progress report of each learner periodically.

Piloting of the system is ongoing at Gatero Girls high School, Thome Boys' and Ngenia secondary schools, while Karaba secondary school in Laikipia West sub-county is currently serving as the host of the server since it has a history of e-learning.

The county is encouraging form four students to enroll and download revision materials using an android mobile phone, desktop or laptop computers.

The team behind the pilot phase includes 16 Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology and Physics teachers, one lead teacher, one system technician and a supervisor. They were trained using WhatsApp, YouTube and phone calls. By last week 52 percent of 179 Gatero students, 17 percent of the 52 students of Ngenia and 56 percent of 68 targeted students from Thome Boys have enrolled for the e-learning.

Roll out of the programme will happen after the pilot ends in one month to accommodate all the form four candidates both in public and private institutions.

Ms Mbiriri said with the availability of funds a duplicate system targeting standard eight candidates would be initiated and well as exploring the possibility of teaching online.

New Internet Connectivity to Boost Service Delivery at NTRH

Hospital made a major leap in streamlining service delivery, after it was successfully connected to the national optical fibre network late last year.

The Hospital is now linked to the National Optic Fibre Backbone Infrastructure, NOFBI, a step that will see it benefit from affordable, faster and reliable internet connectivity for better service delivery.

With a strengthened ICT connectivity, the hospital is better positioned to explore new capacities like telemedicine, where, for



instance, a doctor can be consulted from far to interpret an x-ray image.

The internet connectivity is a boon for the customers, as it introduces convenience on automated billing platforms that is far easier

A new ward at Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital. The health facility is now linked to the national fibre optic network to improve service delivery

to trace for accountability. The automation of hospital operations is set to dramatically reduce patient files and notes. This not only brings down the cost of operations for the hospital, but also adds to customer convenience by reducing service time as their files will no longer be physically moved.

The ICT connectivity through the is also set to boost the facility's connectivity to the countrywide Health Management Information system, making storage, access and sharing of data easier to better evidence-based decision making.

Equipment Leasing Programme Facilitates Rapid Rural Connectivity



Rural transport connectivity in Laikipia is undergoing an unprecedented transformation, thanks to the construction equipment leasing programme.

The pioneering initiative is rapidly opening up rural transport corridors in record short time span, an achievement that continues to draw interests from other counties. The improved connectivity is set to improve the people's social-economic status, as farming, trade and security are much dependent on efficient transport.

The programme, which hit the ground late last year, is revolutionizing roads rehabilitation, delivering timely results at lowered costs and more roads within a short time.



Top: *A road undergoing rehabilitation in Ng'arua, Laikipia West. The road is one among many that have been done under the leased equipment programme.*

Above: *A new roller, one of the latest entrant that is set to expand the leasing programme*

With the realized cost efficiency, more funds will be available to engage contractors to do more roads.

The leasing programme received a boost recently after the government acquired more equipment for its expansion.

Segera, Olmoran, Marmanet, Salama, Rumuruti and Githiga Wards have already benefited from the programme, which targets to open up at least 3000 kilometres of roads in reach ward.

Free Livestock Vaccination Campaign to Cushion pastoral communities’ Livelihoods

The County Government of Laikipia has embarked on a free livestock vaccination campaign to protect thousands of animals from highly contagious diseases. The vaccination campaign targets to protect the communities that entirely dependent on livestock from economic damage as a result of mass stock deaths caused by the preventable diseases.

The County veterinary teams have successfully vaccinated 20,000 cattle against the Foot and Mouth Disease, 27,000 goats against CCPP, (a highly contagious disease that affects

goats), with 48,000 sheep and goats getting vaccinated against PPR disease, (a plague that affects sheep and goats).

The recent campaign was started in the wards of Sosian, Mukogodo West and Mukogodo East where majority of the stocks are found, as the campaign is set to be rolled out across more wards.

So far, over 4,000 people in 699 households in the three wards have benefitted from the free livestock



Free livestock vaccination exercise in Laikipia North



vaccination exercise. Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is a highly contagious, rapidly spreading viral disease of cattle, sheep, goats and even pigs.

The symptoms of FMD include; fever, blisters in the mouth and on feet, drop in milk production, weight loss, loss of appetite, quivering lips and frothing of mouth, cows may develop blisters on teats and lameness.

PPR (peste des petits ruminants) is a plague that affects sheep and goats, similar to the eradicated rinderpest in cattle, which if not controlled can easily wipe out the population of small stocks in the county. It is transmitted

through close contact between animals.

CCPP causes inflammation of lungs and accumulation of fluid in the chest cavity, which interferes with effective respiration and causes the goat to die from lack of oxygen.

Farmers and livestock keepers are advised to contact county veterinary officers near them in case they realize unusual behaviours in their animals to facilitate early interventions, as the diseases have the potential to wipe out large animals within a short time.

Upcoming Newborn Facilities to Revolutionize Mother and Child Care in Laikipia

Laikipia County is edging closer to fulfilling its pledge to provide Universal Health Coverage for her citizens, as two mother and child units move fast towards completion.

Currently, contractors working on the two landmark projects in Nanyuki and Nyahururu are on their final touches to deliver the health facilities that are set to revolutionize medical care for newborns and the mothers.

The 240 bed capacity medical facilities are expected to introduce high level medical care to the residents of Laikipia and the entire region. For instance, the mother and child hospital block at Nanyuki Teaching and

Referral Hospital will have 10 delivery beds, meaning 10 mothers are be able to deliver at a go. The modern unit provides better flow of patients from the screening



level, prenatal rooms to the high risk rooms for patients associated with pregnancy like high blood pressure and other conditions. This way, mothers and infants will be guaranteed prompt attention where need arises, without having to move between buildings.

The new hospital wing is set to provide special care for mothers with history of complicated pregnancy who need closer monitoring.

Medical services for the first and second delivery stages, the postnatal and theatre rooms will all be housed under one roof.

Regional Development Bloc Gains Ground as Laikipia Assembly Adopts Agreement

The County Assembly of Laikipia has ratified of a regional bloc bringing together the four counties of Laikipia, Baringo, Isiolo and Samburu on a platform to promote peace through shared development.

The county assembly last week adopted a report that had been approved and tabled by the County Cohesion and Legal Matters Committee.

The document had been approved in full by the seven member house committee.

The development marks a major milestone for bloc since its establishment in 2017, when Governor Ndiritu Muriithi rooted for its formation at the height of the ranch invasions in Laikipia.

The creation sees the regional peace and development bloc, formally known as the Amaya Triangle, become a fully fledged legal intergovernmental entity, a step that is set to strengthen its capacity in implementing projects in support of its mandate.

In its new capacity, Cooperation on Peace and Development, will be better placed to engage government



Hon George Meshami, Chair of the County Cohesion and Legal Matters Committee.

agencies and partners in its operations than it was previously.

Hon. George Meshami, Chair of the house committee, expressed joy following the development, saying the move is major a step towards fostering peace among the pastoral communities of the member counties of CPD.

“As a member of the pastoralist community, I believe this will bring us together to champion peace through development. We are delighted as the County Assembly to be part of this milestone achievement,” said Hon. Meshami, who represents Mukogodo West in the county assembly.

“We are going to offer full legislative support to ensure the success of this important government agency,” he added.

Lengthy process

Ms Virginia Wahome, Laikipia County Director for the regional bloc, is optimistic about the new developments.

“It has been a lengthy process since we had to engage the county assembly to come onto a common ground in terms

of understanding of the agreement before giving it the legal status,” Ms Wahome said, adding that this is no ordinary feat since most inter-county blocs remain as agreements with no legal basis.

“This could be one of the first regional blocs in the country to attain such status,” she said.

Isiolo County is well in the process of adopting the agreement next week, further strengthening the cooperation.

Legal deliberations, consultations with other blocs and the process of public participations in member counties also pushed the deadlines further, a situation that Ms Wahome says was threatening to derail ambitions.

Mandate

According Ms Wahome, CPD is ramping up efforts to initiate transformative projects in the entire region to promote peace.

Top on the development agenda is a plan to improve transport and communication infrastructure to boost trade, tourism and security in the region, with the revival of the railway line to Nanyuki and onwards to Isiolo expected to spur the region’s economy.

Water for production is also a priority project for the bloc, with boreholes, dams and water pans expected to be put up to enable communities transition into modern livestock farming.

Solving the water shortages is expected to reduce pastoral community movements, the single biggest cause of resource conflicts.

The regional bloc is banking on feedlots farming to transform livestock keeping into profitable ventures, seeing as the sector has been hit hard by climate change.

Leaders optimistic

Laikipia leaders are upbeat the Cooperation on Peace and Development is going to bring peace and development to the four counties.

“We are at a point that we welcome anything that promises to bring lasting peace to Laikipia,” County Assembly Majority leader Hon. Peter Thomi said.

The Githiga Ward representative regretted that his constituents have borne the brunt of bandit attacks from the side of Baringo County.

Follow suit

Hon. Joseph Suge, MCA for Rumuruti Ward has encouraged the county assemblies to fast track the ratification of the agreement, saying it will promote uniformity in development.

The Rumuruti Ward legislator says accelerated development in Laikipia alone will not guarantee stability, as immigrant herders and invaders from the neighbouring counties remain a constant threat to lives in Laikipia.

“We are pleased that the County Assembly of Isiolo is in the final steps of ratifying the agreement,” he said.

NTRH now a one stop point for acquiring Medical Certificates

Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital, Laikipia County has eased the process of obtaining a medical certificate by converging the processes to one location.

The referral hospital steps in to smoothen the process of the much sought after medical certificates by conducting all the exercises in one location, cutting down a process that would have taken three days to one.

This comes at a time that stringent measures are being laid out to ensure health safety compliance during Covid-19 era.

This service, which started in May, has seen the successful issuance of more than 500 medical certificates to food handlers and the people working in eateries, including security personnel.

Before, clients would be subjected to long queues in banks to pay the examination fee. Upon obtaining the receipt, a client would then proceed to the hospital for laboratory tests for medical clearance.

Following a successful lab test, the client would then be required to go to the County Banking Hall to acquire the medical certificate.

This process started in May this year and has seen more than 500 medical certificates issued. The number started rising upon reopening of eateries and hotels as a medical certificate is one of the requirements for any food handlers especially in this Covid-19 era.

Food handlers incorporate a wide range of workers and not limited to waiters and waitresses. Security personnel in a food store, for example, also fall under these brackets together with cleaners and drivers of similar premises.