



Special Edition focusing on the efforts the government has put in place eight weeks into Covid-19



Laikipia County: Eight Weeks into Covid-19 Pandemic

Kenya confirmed its first corona virus case on March 13th 2020. The case was a Kenyan citizen who travelled back to Nairobi from the United States through London. The female patient would later be managed to full recovery at the Infectious Disease Unit at the Kenyatta National Hospital, with the story of her recovery receiving widespread mainstream and social media coverage. In Laikipia, the reality of the disease hit home after the government traced all the contacts of the patient since her arrival in Kenya, and caught up with one of them in Nanyuki. The alert caused a quite a stir on the county's social space, and the Department of Health stepped in to assure the public that the government was on top of the matter. The patient was later confirmed negative and released, having been placed under self-quarantine for 14 days. Globally, Covid-19 is a mixed story of inspiring recoveries amid rising death tolls and new infections. Following the confirmation of the highly contagious disease in the country, the County Government of Laikipia went full swing; initiating measures to not only curb the spread of the infectious disease, but also to mitigate its social-economic impact on the population. Two months down the line, the county is better placed to handle an outbreak of Covid-19, thanks to its steadfast preparedness. From the model quarantine and isolation centre at



Nanyuki's ASK Show Ground, to similar facilities in Laikipia University and Ndururu-mo High School serving the western end, the county's capacity to handle a corona virus crisis is better than it was before. To this day, more than 336,000 passengers coming into the county have been screened for Covid-19 symptoms— thanks to the sustained intensified surveillance at the seven border entry points. Credit goes to a multi-agency coordinating team that brings together county and national government agencies, Kenya Defense Forces, British Army Training Unit Kenya and the private sector on a single intensive undertaking to make time-constrained project deliveries. There is a 24-hour Covid-19 Command Centre, where all the alerts converge for the appropriate action. We also focus on the groundbreaking partnership between the government and Dedan Kimathi University of Technology that has seen the development of Kenyan-made ventilators that will serve patients with critical needs in the two

main hospitals of Nanyuki and Nyahururu. The story of our innovation and enterprise development stepping in to address shortage of face masks and PPEs cannot escape mention. We also take a look into the economic adjustment the county planners have embarked on to save the local economy from collapse, the process culminating in the drafting of the supplementary budget that was passed by the assembly this week. Out of this and the generosity of the people of Laikipia, Linda Jamii, the food support for the vulnerable households has taken off successfully, with the highlight of the success being the Zero Contact food distribution system that has seen beneficiaries observe the health guideline of social distancing. ...all these and more are in our special edition of our weekly bulletin as we look at Laikipia, eight weeks after the confirmation of Covid-19.

Laikipia Corona Virus

Information Hotlines:

0110 094 440

0738 055 343

0721 799 365

Coronavirus: The Timeline

Date	Event/Activity
March 13:	MOH announces the first Covid-19 positive case in the country
March 15:	President Uhuru Kenyatta asks people to work from home except those offering essential services
March 16:	The Laikipia County multiagency team orders the setting up of screening points in various border entry points to the county are set up
March 17:	The County Assembly adjourns its sittings as it seeks to comply with MoH directive to maintain social distance
March 18:	HE the Governor holds the first virtual meeting in the morning, followed by two others in the afternoon
March 23:	County government issues a circular asking staff to discharge duties from home, except those offering essential services
March 25:	President Uhuru Kenyatta announces 7pm -5am curfew across the country starting 27th March 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none">* NTRH converts one of the wards into an isolation and treatment unit* Screening of every visitor entering Laikipia health facilities starts* Ban of any form of gatherings and assemblies in the county* Closure of miraa and muguka dens* MoH orders restaurants to provide only take-away services* Entertainment joints ordered closed* PSVs ordered to maintain passenger manifests, carry half of their capacity and provide sanitizers to passengers
March 26:	Training of health officials in the county <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Suspension of market days. Old Market food traders asked to spread out to Nanyuki Stadium, Thingithu Estate Phase 1 &2* Suspension of mitumba market operations which are non-essential
March 27:	The 24-hour County Communications and Command Centre begins its operations <ul style="list-style-type: none">* NAWASCO announces suspension of water disconnections in low-income areas of Likii A, Majengo and Kwa Mbuzi
March 28:	Fumigation of Nyahururu and Nanyuki markets
March 31:	Face masks produced by Laikipia SMEs after training by Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (Dekut) start retailing locally <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Extension of payment period for single business permit and land rates to 31st May
April 2:	Laikipia receives the first bunch of 1,000 Personal Protective Equipment produced by local SMEs in partnership with Dekut <ul style="list-style-type: none">* One person is quarantined at NTRH. Samples sent to Nairobi turn out negative
April 3:	MOH announces Laikipia has a Covid-19 positive case <ul style="list-style-type: none">* County confirms the patient is a Laikipian who was quarantined in Nairobi after returning from a trip abroad
April 6:	President Kenyatta announces cessation of movement into and out of the Nairobi metropolitan area and the counties of Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale for a period of 21 days
April 7:	HE Governor Ndiritu Muriithi appoints a COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund Committee
April 9:	HE Governor Ndiritu Muriithi announces 20%-10% pay cuts for county senior managers to go towards Covid-19 mitigations <ul style="list-style-type: none">Call for innovative ideas that would help fight the COVID-19 pandemic
April 18:	Lisha Jamii initiative zero contact food distribution system piloted at Kanyoni Village, Nanyuki ward
April 23:	A walk-through sanitization booth and two sets of zero contact hand-washing points installed at Nyahururu County Referral Hospital
April 25:	The President extends nationwide 7pm to 5am curfew by a further 21 days. Extends cessation of movement order affecting Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale counties by 21 days
April 27:	MOH announces partial reopening of eateries and restaurants
May 4:	County Assembly of Laikipia passes the Supplementary Budget for financial year 2019/2020 to help in the fight against Covid-19
May 5:	Installation of Walk-through sanitization booth at Nanyuki’s New Market
May 6:	Fumigation of railway carriages and engine in Nanyuki town <ul style="list-style-type: none">* LCRB announces 100% waiver of interest and penalties on outstanding land rates from 6th May 2020 to 6th June 2020* MOH announces it will bear the cost of targeted Covid-19 testing and quarantine

Laikipia Pioneered Entry Points Screening to Curb Virus Spread



A health officer takes temperature readings of a passenger at a roadblock on the Nanyuki-Nyeri Highway. Right: A security officer flags down a motorist at the roadblock

Following the confirmation of corona virus in the country the County Government went into full swing on its prevention strategy, pioneering the first ever inter-county surveillance in Kenya by establishing screening points for all the passengers coming into Laikipia through the seven border entry points. To date, the government has sustained intensified screenings for passen-

Every passenger is subjected to screenings for body temperatures at the seven entry points, with those exhibiting higher-than-normal temperature readings subjected to further checks to ascertain the cause. Contact records for all the passengers are taken for easy tracing should the need arise. Out of this, the government managed to put suspect cases under quarantine for closer controlled monitoring. Luckily for Laikipia, all of the suspected cases turned out negative for Covid-19 after the tests.

The heightened surveillance would later be extended to hospitals where everyone entering is now has their body temperature checked, and their contact details recorded to enable easier follow-up when need arises. In the latest report, the border surveillance teams have screened over 336 thousand people coming into the county. This step has ensured the government remains fully informed on the Covid-19 status in Laikipia. To this day, Laikipia is still a Covid-19 free county.

Constant Communication to Inform, Sensitize Public on Covid-19

Since the confirmation of the first case in the country, the county government has kept the public informed on the significant developments all through. From advocating for people to stay home as the first line of defense, to sensitization on the need for frequent hand washing, social distancing and the proper use of face masks, the government has exploited all the available channels to pass the correct information to enable the public to be part of the Covid-19 prevention campaign.

Messages of hope from the different departments and senior officials of the county government dominated social media timelines, giving timely developments to the residents within the country and abroad who are constantly online to catch real time updates, as billboards with information regarding Covid-19 remind motorists and pedestrians of the need to observe the health directives that have been issued by the government.

Internet users from all corners of the world trooped to the county online communication platforms, which recorded unprecedented traffic as people sought to familiarize themselves with the information about the government interventions to counter the spread of Covid-19. The county website recorded visits from people in as far as Europe, America and Asia.


COVID-19

ENGAGE WITH LAIKIPIA GOVERNOR
Discussion on the current response to Covid-19 pandemic in Laikipia County.



97.1 FM
CENTRAL EXPRESS

4 - 6 pm
FRIDAY,
10th April 2020

HON. NDIRITU MURIITHI
GOVERNOR, LAIKIPIA COUNTY



HOST Wilson Kibe aka Slim

www.laikipia.go.ke



SMS
 0792 862 856

or

Call
 0742 727 516

For business
 0725 491 648

An online poster announcing a scheduled radio interview with Governor Ndiritu Muriithi on the County preparedness to combat Covid-19

To this day, the county communications team has held sustained daily online meetings from 7.30 am to plan and review the strategies to be used to deliver timely communications to the public.

To promote communication reach to the section of the public who may not be able access social media, senior officials and county health officials have taken to local radios to pass out the relevant information about the health and social economic impact of Covid-19.

The use of public address systems has ensured proper sensitization on Covid-19 reaches out to members of the public in towns and the peripheral locations of the county to cut the risks of community transmission.

This effort also saw the executive team up with the county assembly, which had gone for recess, to advance communications to facilitate behavior change to reduce the risks of spread of the disease.

A Centre Where all Responses and Alerts are Coordinated



Left: A section of the staff manning the 24 hour Covid-19 Command Centre in Nanyuki.

The Laikipia Covid-19 Command Centre was established to act as a central point of coordination for all the surveillance activities in readiness for any corona virus related outcome.

County health, security and enforcement officials are in charge of the station that has been operating 24 hours from the day it was established. The officials work in three shifts spread across the 24 hours of operation.

The centre receives communications from the public through the Covid-19 hotline numbers, and plans on the necessary action to be taken

should the conversation need to be followed up.

For instance, the centre received residents from Karandi area in Laikipia West alerted the command centre of new comers in their neighbourhood. County health officials and the enforcement, acting on the alert, were prompt enough to make timely follow ups.

Through the command centre, a team of health and enforcement officers were dispatched to assess the health status visitors.

The command makes use of a computer tool, Command Centre-Laikipia County, that manages the data for all the calls coming in. Officers in charge feed the information coming in, and advise on the way forward based on the assessment of the health experts.

An alert that is deemed urgent, the officer on duty makes a call to nearby health facility to make follow-ups. Enforcement officers are sent to check on alerts that report on people who are seen to be flouting guidelines such as social distancing.

Multi-agency Coordination Team Effort Behind Covid-19 Interventions

The confirmation of Covid-19 in the country demanded urgency on every intervention front, owing to its nature of rapid infection.

With this in mind, the government marshaled human and capital resources to the efforts to prevent the entry and contain any possible outbreak of corona virus.

From the onset, Laikipia County has demonstrated a brilliant multi-agency coordination that has birthed seamless operations at all the stages of preparedness.

From pioneering the border surveillance operations through screening all passengers entering the county, to operationalizing an idea, fully equipped quarantine and isolation centre in Nanyuki's Agricultural

Society of Kenya Show Ground, the government has sustained a steadfast operations to firm up its preparedness.

The sustained border surveillance has been a remarkable success, thanks to a seamless collaboration between the national and county government agencies. County security agencies teamed up with health officials to ensure the screenings were into the night prior to the nationwide curfew that was issued to restrict night movements.

All these operations have been successful, thanks to the efficient steering by the multiagency committee that is co-chaired by the



Governor Ndiritu Muriithi, left, Brigadier J. Mwamburi of the KDF and County Commissioner Daniel Nyameti try out locally made face masks

Governor and the County Commissioner. Overall, the collaboration has seen the fruitful partnership between the national and county governments agencies, the Kenya Defense Forces, British Army Training Unit Kenya among other agencies.

Systems Set to Battle

Covid-19



A county government worker fumigates business premises in Nanyuki Town

Laikipia has zero Covid-19 cases so far, and, in a bid to maintain the status, the government has put in numerous measures

Several facilities have been identified as quarantine and isolation centers to add to the already existing ones in the two level four referral hospitals in the county. Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital (NTRH) has a capacity of 17 beds for isolation. Nyahururu County Referral Hospital on the other end is a 34-bed capacity facility for quarantine and 15 beds have been set aside for isolation purposes.

Nanyuki ASK Show Grounds has also been identified by the county management and health officials to be a quarantine and isolation facility in circumstance there will be such cases in overwhelming numbers. The facility has 34 prepared rooms for and 30 for isolation. It will be under the management of NTRH.

Various managements of hotels within the county have also come forward and offered their facilities to be used for the same reasons. A total number of 551 rooms within the hotels have been mapped out.

Other centres identified for the same reasons are Nanyuki High School which will accommodate 300 people in isolation if the numbers will rise to such elevations, 80 isolation beds in Laikipia University, Ndururumo High School with 15 bed capacity among other facilities that are being considered.

Health department has also embarked on massive trainings across the county. All health officials have so far been trained on case management. Community Health Volunteers have been equipped with relevant skills and trainings on Covid-19 preventative measures to pass on with people on the ground.

“We have equipped all our health officials with pertinent expertise on case management, identification of signs and symptoms of coronavirus, preventative measures and keeping safe. The training we are offering to the staff is dependent on the roles each one is playing,” said Dr Donald Mogoi, Chief Officer Health.

Of the 11 hotels that will give accommodation to the front-line staff that come into contact with suspected coronavirus patients, five have been trained already by the department. The exercise for the rest has commenced to ensure all get the knowhow of handling their customers.

The department has been offering sensitization materials to the public and intends to continue doing so. Radio stations, banners, fliers, posters and social media are used to communicate.

Health Investments to Combat Covid-19

In the wake of Covid-19, the Department of Health in Laikipia has made various investments to keep the virus at bay.

The department has ensured people are complying to the directives of social distancing, wearing of masks and regular hand washing. All running businesses are required to have clean running water for washing hands or sanitizers for hand disinfection. Such spots have been erected also in matatu stages.

People without face masks or those not flouting the rule of hand washing are not to be served in the businesses, as

Basic Covid-19 screening in health facilities in the county has been normalized. Temperature taking of all visitors using a non-contact thermometer has been adopted so as to track ones temperatures, which is the basic indicator for a person with Coronavirus.

Nyahururu County Hospital has made investments of two sets of peddle technology for hand washing. They ensure no contact with the soap dispenser and tap. An automatic disinfection spray booth has also been set up at the gate of the same hospital. In order to track all people entering the county and ensure they are Covid-19-



An automatic walk-through sanitization booth at Nanyuki's New Market

government tightens regulations to ensure observation of proper hygiene.

The government has pursued further interventions to safeguard public places with likelihood of many people gathering. In Nanyuki's New Market, for instance, an automatic disinfection booth has been installed, where one gets sanitized by fine sprays of disinfectants upon passing through it. In Nanyuki Central Park, a 1,500-litre tank with clean water and soap has been set up. All these are aimed at keeping Coronavirus at bay.

free, Laikipia became the first county to put medical staff at the borders of the county for temperature monitoring. Travel histories for the visitors are also taken to check if there is a high likelihood of the person having contacted the virus.

Passenger manifest has been adopted in the matatu industry. A list of those on board a matatu is well kept so that in case of a suspected case, there will be a clear follow up of those who came into contact with the patient



Part of the modern pediatric ward at Nanyuki ASK Show Ground quarantine and isolation facility.

How the County Handled Suspected Covid-19 Alerts

Perhaps the suspected case in Nanyuki's Cottage Hospital stole the limelight due to the press coverage, and saw the county government issue communication confirming the incident, and the steps it had taken to ensure the case does not pose the risk of transmission to the public.

The suspect case was discharged after tests on her returned negative results, giving a reprieve to the residents who had expressed anxiety over the issue.

Another case that caused quite a stir on social media involved a 32 year-old man who presented himself at Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital on April 2nd. The patient, who was flagged down at the hospital's screening point, exhibited cough, headache and fever-all possible symptoms of Covid-19. The patient was immediately quarantined and his samples sent to the national laboratories for tests. The tests results confirmed the patient to be corona free, and it took a statement from the department of health to tone down the anxiety as news of the suspect case spread like a wild fire. Though unreported, the government through the Department of Health has constantly kept a close eye on individuals suspected to have come from places where Covid-19 high risk areas in order to eliminate the risks of community transmissions. Health officials working together with administrators have ensured those suspected to have come from the corona virus risks observe the guidelines on self-quarantine. The close collaboration has seen those put under quarantine monitored and certified free from the



A Covid-19 case management training at Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital

viral disease, having shown no symptoms after the mandatory 14-day quarantine.

As of April 23, the department of health has had a total of 112 cases that it has monitored since the confirmation of corona virus in the country. Out of these, 45 have been discharged from self-quarantine after being given a clean bill of health, and 31 of them are on self quarantine.

Six individuals are currently quarantined in health facilities, with the follow-up of 25 people who have did not

meet the quarantine criteria still ongoing

Some of those still in quarantine are the individuals who the public in Ngobit alerted authorities about. The persons, who are road construction workers, had come from the Mombasa County, which is currently a Covid-19 high risk area.

Government Strengthens Human Resource to Fight Pandemic



The handing over of ASK Showground to become a quarantine and isolation facility

As it readies itself to handle Covid-19 cases which are projected to rise in the near future, the government is hiring more medical staff who will be at the frontline to save lives.

The national government has allocated 121 slots for medical professionals to be deployed in the county to help in strengthening the universal

health care programme and combat the spread of this Coronavirus.

In a recent advertisement carried out by the Department of Health and Medical services, 8,249 persons applied for the 121 positions (6817.4 %). This is almost seventy times more the number required.

Among the applicants include five specialists , 301 medical officers, 1,100 clinical officers and more than 2,500 nurses.

Of the total number of the applicants, 7,579 sent their applications through the county public service board while 670 applied directly to the Public Service Commission.

The county is hastening on the process of ensuring the caregivers join the work force for smooth running of the healthcare department while following the relevant government requirements of hiring process.

Upon conclusion of the interviews, successful candidates will join the work force in the isolation and quarantine-prepared facilities in Nanyuki ASK Showground, Ndururumo and Nanyuki High Schools, and Laikipia University. This is in addition to the already existing facilities in the hospitals across the county.

Apart from those to join, all the existing health staffs have been equipped with the appropriate skills regarding Covid-19. They are all aware of the causes, spread, signs and even prevention ways of the virus.

Supplementary Budget To Strengthen Covid-19 Frontline Efforts, Cushion Local Economy



Governor Ndiritu Muriithi addresses the County Assembly at a past function

Following the confirmation of Covid-19 in the country, Laikipia County embarked on a budget restructuring process to marshal resources to fund corona virus mitigation initiatives.

The process saw the channeling of Ksh. 741 million in the supplementary budget that has since been passed by the County Assembly. Out of this, 200 million shillings has been set aside to expand the County Emergency Fund. Half of this amount will go into financing the food support program for the vulnerable families, while the rest will be used to support the medical interventions of Covid-19.

In total, the government has allocated Ksh. 264 million for the food support program that will see over 40,000 families benefit from the care packages.

To ensure effective administration and introduce provisions to enable audit for the emergency fund, the county government will make use of an advisory committee chaired by County Executive Committee Member for Finance with the finance chief officer, CECM for Health, County Secretary and the county attorney forming membership of the committee.

The county government, in addition, will adopt regulations that allow it to incorporate up to three persons who have the requisite expertise to handle the emergency at hand.

The emergency fund will enable Laikipia County to issue contracts and purchase supplies of necessities like protective gears, food, water and hiring of personnel to support the fight against Covid-19. The fund will facilitate a faster, transparent and accountable release of funds for emergency management.

Further, Laikipia SMEs are the beneficiaries of more than 100 million shillings in low interest loans, an amount that has been set aside in the supplementary budget. The loans, which will be availed to the borrowers through the Cooperative Revolving Fund and the Enterprise Fund with a two per cent interest rate, is expected to help small businesses pull through the harsh economic times.

The SMEs also received a reprieve after the government initiated an extension of deadlines for payments of single business permits and land rates from 31st March to 31st May 2020. Small traders have also been spared closures as the government has considered waivers for penalties on late payment of business permits.

Local suppliers, too, are counting their blessings as the government scales up fast payment to local suppliers, who form the bulk of the government procurement for building services, sanitizers and personal protective equipment.

A further incentive in this direction will involve the fast tracking of payment of 33.7 million shillings in retention money the government owes its contractors. This is cash the government retains for six months after paying a contractor to ensure accountability in standards of the project paid for.

All these initiatives are geared towards strengthening local trade by improving cash flow. A strong cash flow will lead to job retention for most of the people, enabling more households to put food on the table.

“Bulk of these finances will go into frontline health interventions like human resource, food programme for the vulnerable households and strengthening small businesses”-Governor

Lisha Jamii Initiative Targets Vulnerable Households

As corona virus shockwaves hit the small businesses that form the bigger chunk of the local economy, its impact has been felt right to the households as job losses raise.

The county, in partnership with well wishers has since started a programme to support the vulnerable households by providing care packages to sustain them for two months.

The programme, dubbed Lisha Jamii Initiative, is one its kind in that it uses a pioneering innovation that ensures maximum observation of social distancing guidelines during the food distribution exercise.

The Zero Contact food distribution system leverages on phone technology to issue electronic vouchers in form of text messages to the individual beneficiary households for redemption at specified collection points.

The system allows for the beneficiaries to be spread over a set period of time that will allow them to pick up their care package in turns, while avoiding crowding at the same time.

The system has since been subjected to test runs in the piloting stages in Kanyoni and Umande in Laikipia East, as well as Maina in Laikipia West, with remarkable success.

In its rollout stages, the innovation will see Lisha Jamii initiative reach out to more families within a short span of time by allocating each household a specific time to collect their food items. The system, in addition, is efficient in cutting down the risk of spreading Covid-19 and promoting accountability at the same time.

The initiative is using data from the household survey conducted during the households' economic status survey when the county government was registering households with the National Hospital Insurance Fund.

The data, which has been subjected to verification for update, will be used alongside the one from the national census to ensure the food aid reaches the deserving people.



Laikipia SMEs Step In To Plug Essential Products Shortage

In the wake of the global Coronavirus pandemic, numerous innovations have been made in the county, all geared towards combating the disease.

Through the directorate of Laikipia Innovation Development Program (LIDP), various innovators have been thrust into the limelight, a step that is promoting their businesses. The programme director Winnie Mwangi has been in the forefront to identify and nurture creative ideas up to their commercialization. For safe hand washing, Joseph Nderitu, an innovator from Nyahururu came up with an innovative peddle-based hand washing equipment. The machine is operated by pushing on a set of peddles to discharge soap and another one to draw water from a tank. This ensures zero chances of hands coming into contact with soap dispenser and tap as well, thereby significantly decreasing chances of passing on of corona virus bugs.

The government has installed a walk-through sanitization booth at Nyahururu County Hospital and New Market in Nanyuki town, technology developed by Laikipia innovators. The booth sanitizes not only the hands but the whole body; including one's clothes and luggage. It is in vapour form and has negligible negative effects on one's hair or clothing. In partnership with DedanKimathi University of Technology (Dekut), the government is manufacturing 10 ventilators which will help boost capacity of ICUs in the county. Ventilators help patients who have breathing problems by pumping oxygen in their lungs, and drawing carbon dioxide out of the lungs as well.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) are being produced in large numbers by local small and medium Enterprises (SMEs). EM Naturals, a business in Nanyuki town is producing hand sanitizers. Clej



A disinfection booth and a zero contact hand washing facility at Nyahururu County Referral Hospital developed by local innovators. Below: Edith Makena of EM Naturals displays sanitizers she produces in Nanyuki.

Supplies Limited is producing protective equipment like face masks and gowns, Nanyuki Vision Tailors in Nanyuki town and Jimco operating in Nyahururu town are also helping in mass production of PPEs. Partnership with Dekut has been instrumental in helping these businesses through training, in their initial stages.

All the 10 vocational training centres are now production hubs for various goods and services and especially in the mass production of facemasks and other PPEs. Nanyuki VTC is in the process of mass production of adjustable hospital beds. These beds can be adjusted manually to fit a patient's comfort, giving them a competition edge with those imported.

To date face masks and sanitizers are produced locally by Laikipians through the facilitation on training by the county government. This is not only happening in

the major towns but also in the most interior parts of the county. There is massive production due to their increasing demand.

Innovation directorate has been training more tailors across the county for mass production of face masks and other protective gears. Every week, at least 45 tailors are equipped with these skills and then they join the team producing PPEs in the county.



Covid-19 surveillance: Vigilant Communities Keeping an Eye out for New Faces



A section of the staff at the County Covid-19 Command Centre. The coordination centre acts on alerts received from the members of the public

The government has been consistent in advocating for communities to be at the forefront to prevent the spread of the viral disease Covid-19 by becoming extra vigilant and report any suspect cases or visitors living among them.

This effort yielded fruit when residents from Karandi area in Laikipia West alerted the command centre of new comers in their neighbourhood. County health

officials and the enforcement, acting on the alert, were prompt enough to make timely follow ups.

But the more notable sense of community vigilance was witnessed on April 17th, when residents of Kona Mbaya area, Ngobit Ward alerted authorities about construction workers who had recently arrived at a construction site from Mombasa

The County Disease Surveillance Officer reached out to the camp manager and they agreed that he would make an immediate visit to the site.

The Disease Surveillance Officer and a team of other health officers visited the construction site the following day, screened the three workers and placed them on 14 days quarantine within the camp.

Samples from the three construction workers were taken to National Influenza Laboratories in Nairobi where they were confirmed to be Covid-19 negative.

The three remained under close monitoring from the disease surveillance team, and were subjected to a repeat sample collection to ascertain whether their Covid-19 status after the expiry of the 14 days of quarantine.

The health officials conducted a contact listing exercise in the area, with those who had been in contact identified and their profiles registered awaiting the results of the samples sent to the national laboratories in Nairobi

THE STORIES IN PICTURES



Laikipia North: Members of the public who turned to receive the food package from the County Government are seen here maintaining the social distancing guideline to prevent the spread of Covid-19



A lady helps dispense hand sanitizers to other members of the public during the ongoing food distribution exercise in Laikipia North



Top: Innovation: Governor Ndiritu Muriithi and Health CECM Dr. Lenai Kamario tries out the locally made PPEs at NTRH
Bottom: Education CECM Tabitha Mbiriri tries her hand on the



Top: A member of the county government food distribution team helps one of the beneficiaries to carry her package.
Bottom: A food aid package recipient displays her



Roaring back to Life: A repair train cruises on the newly renovated tracks at the Nanyuki Railway Station. Train services are set to commence in June.