

Turkana County

Assembly opens - Pg 9

County governor flags off 33 county vehicles

By Eripete James

The Turkana County Governor Hon. Josphat Nanok flagged off 33 vehicles bought to beef up security and improve the mobility of offic-

ers in their respective areas. The function took place recently in the County headquarters offices in Lodwar.

"Improvement in the mobility of our administrators' takes effect on

this launch day and will help beef up security in the war torn areas, respective wards, sub-counties and improve on service delivery," Governor Nanok said. Insecurity

Cont'd on page 4



Lodwar: Governor Hon. Josphat Nanok exchanges Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) focusing on water and health with Catholic Bishop Dominic Kimengich. The Governor was accompanied by water minister Beatrice Asukul. Accompanying the Bishop is the diocese water engineer Mr Joseph Nganga.

Destruction of Aloe in Loima

Destruction and uprooting of the Aloe plant is rampant in Loima sub-County is an illegal trade carried out by dealers who buy and export of Aloe-gum (Aloe stone) according to the committee member of Lokiriana Aloe management Unit (AMU) in Loima Mr. Edipo Ekal.

Speaking at His office after receiving report from the Lokiriana AMU, Mr. Eliud Emeri director of Turkana Bio Aloe Organization (TUBAE) condemned the illicit trade by the Somali traders who are taking advantage of the poverty levels with the current spread of hunger leading to destruction of the endangered *Aloe-turkanensis* species.

"TUBAE in liaison with both the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Lodwar and the Ministry of Energy, En-



Mr. Eliud Emeri director of Turkana Bio Aloe Organization (TUBAE) condemned the illicit trade taking advantage of poverty levels resulting in the destruction of Aloe turkanensis

vironment and Natural Resources are planning for environmental stakeholders meeting to draw up a strategy to mitigate massive destruction of not only Aloe but other valuable natural resources in the County" says Mr. Emeri.

The pastoralists are being used by the businessmen to harvest wild Aloe which is contrary to the **Convention on International Trade In Endangered Species** (CITIES) which Kenya is a signatory. The Kenya government in mid-eighties banned Aloe trade which has not been lifted to date. The Aloe stakeholders, KWS, KFS, KEPHIS, NMK and development partners have developed management strategy to enhance its propagation an sustainable exploitation

Cont'd on page 8

Tullov donates kshs 20m to Turkana school feeding programme

By Mary Tioko
Turkana Mirror

Tullov Kenya is collaborating with Turkana County Government to address the worsening drought situation and has committed Kshs. 20m towards a school feeding Programme to be implemented in the County through the Kenya Red Cross.

More than 50 Early Childhood Education centers within Turkana County are expected to benefit from the programme. The ceremony was officiated by Turkana County Deputy Governor, Hon. Peter Ekai together with Tullov Kenya country manager, Martin Mbogo. Also present was Dr. James Kisia, deputy secretary general, Kenya Red Cross and the executive of the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Hon Peter Ekai lauded the company for supporting the relief efforts by the government. Mr. Mbogo expressed Tullov's commitment in working collaboratively with the Turkana County government and the Red Cross to provide the needed support and interventions. He added that through their social investment programme, they are also undertaking long term Interventions that are designed to support communities to address the key challenges they face in a sustainable manner.

The Kenya Red Cross said that the feeding programme provides a platform for directly addressing children's nutritional needs by fighting malnutrition and the lack of essential micronutrients that can retard childhood development.

Inside this issue

Plans to improve health and sanitation - Pg 2

Turkana natural resources - Pg 3

Editorial - Pg 7

Turkana beauty and fashion - Pg 11

Loima excels in 2013 KCSE - Pg 20

County plans to improve health services and sanitation

By Mary Tioko and Eliud Emeri

Despite what at times seems to be daunting or unlimited health problems, Hon. Jane Auru Ajele, the County Executive in charge of health services and sanitation has clear plans to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of people in Turkana. Her experience of 28 years with the ministry of health matched with the realistic plans and emerging achievements all point towards success and major improvement in various aspects of the County's health services within the next five years.

The County's health service and sanitation for the next five years intends to upgrade Lodwar district hospital to a referral hospital to enable it provide sufficient and effective services, construction of new mortuary, purchase of oxygen plant to reduce the current sourcing from Kitale, procurement of laundry equipment for Lodwar hospital, renovation of Lodwar hospital



Hon. Jane Auru Ajele County Executive for Health Services and Sanitation at a public function

roofing materials to replace the current asbestos, improve sewage and drainage system, construction of warehouse to stock Kenya medical supply agency (KEMSA) drugs, expansion of X-ray room to accommodate CT Scan equipment and purchase of ten ambulances.

At the sub-county level the ministry plans to upgrade the existing dispensaries to health centres and where dispensaries do not exist one has to be opened. The aim is to support hospital deliveries and easy access to drugs by patients in meeting the millennium devel-

opment goals (MDG 2015). The ambulances procured will be dispatched to the seven sub-counties namely; Turkana North, South, West, Central, East, Loima and Kibish while Lodwar district will remain with two vehicles while the vast and needy Sub-County will be given additional one.

The ministry is analyzing the bidders who applied in construction of both dispensaries and health centres with successful in a process to be notified. More so, the ministry in addressing shortage of staff intends to employ nurses and clinical officers putting in to consideration the Turkana students who are about to complete. The ministry in acknowledging contribution of faith based organization (FBOs) in the County mainly the role played by the Catholic Church among others on health has already set plans to absorb the trained nurses and patient attendants to ensure all health facilities continue functioning.

Since June, 2013 the ministry has managed to train ten medical officers on management courses

Cont'd on page 6

Tough job for County Executive - Roads, Transport, Housing and Public Works

By Rebecca Odhiambo and Joshua Loyanae

It is among the most important ministries in the county. Without good roads, transport and housing there will be minimal development. Even trade within the County and with the neighbours or the rest of the county will be minimal.

Already Augustine Tioko Logiron, the County Executive in charge of Roads, Transport, Housing and Public Works has his hands full because Turkana when it comes to infrastructure Turkana has been ignored by various past national governments and it is now upon top local experts like Logiron, to change the trend and it means allocation of more resources. As the County Executive in charge of Roads, Transport, Housing and Public Works he has to begin with a bang.

The minister has already advertised for construction of 19 roads, three per Sub County. The scope of work is gravelling, grading, drifting and bush clearing which is ongoing. There is also drainage system that goes concurrently with tarmacking of the roads.



Hon. Augustine Tioko Logiron, the County Executive in charge of roads, transport, housing and public works

Roads under construction are to be designed so that there will be no grabbing of land or putting up structures in road reserves. Feeder roads are to be tarmacked before this phase ends and street light installation from Mt Kenya University, Kawalase, Nakwamekwi and Napetet.

He has facilitated in the designing

of ECDs, mortuary, dispensaries and their practical implementation apart from helping sort out the bodaboda and public transport menace within the County.

Profile

He was born in Kapedo, Turkana East. He started his early education at Kapedo Primary school and later pro-

ceeded to Lodwar Boys High School. He later went to Kenyatta University where he got his first degree in sociology in 2009 and Masters of Arts in the same field in 2012. He is now pursuing PhD in Moi University Eldoret and at the same time doing Certified Public Secretary (CPS) in Nairobi.

The minister worked as a research assistant at Turkana South Constituency Office for five years, Peace Field Monitor with IGAD, from April to October 2010 before joining Technology and Development Solutions (TDS Global) as research assistant. From July-December 2011, he did was a researcher with World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF).

In February 2012, he was appointed policy and research officer by Public Procurement Office Authority, a position he held until the time of his appointment to the ministry.

The minister has captured all departments that are public works, housing, transport and roads in his work plan, not only in the county but also sub counties as well. ■

Sustainable exploitation of Turkana County's natural resources as solution to poverty

Story by: Mary Tioko

Poverty levels in Turkana County have drastically increased due to poor approaches to development. The County Executive member for Energy Rhoda Arupe Liyor says that Turkana County is endowed with gypsum, gold, Aloe, bamboo, water aquifers not forgetting energy resources oil, solar, wind, geothermal, hydro and gas.

According to the Executive member Turkana's valuable natural resources have never been tapped and mapped to establish viability yet Turkana is a rich-poor county at present but the County government through my office has planned formation of environmental committees at various levels which will be composed of technical persons, environmental civil society organizations and community members from the areas where these resources are found.

"The value of devolution and transfer of functions to counties will assist in speeding up development. This month (March) my ministry will engage the five public departments- KEFRI, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wild Service, Meteorological and Energy plus community based organizations in tree planting to improve the vegetation cover. We shall establish three tree nurseries in each of the thirty wards with priority given to riverine and urban settlements to ensure survival of the trees and other vegetation." Hon. Liyor said during an interview in her office in Lodwar.

The County executive member has much experience in the energy and has worked with various community groups on development agenda. This gives the county an upper hand to effectively accelerate public involvement in sustainable exploitation of natural resources to alleviate poverty. The economy in quarry areas has improved with the reduction of construction material import from nearby counties.

Hon. Liyor urged the youth and private sector to be creative and explore value addition in private sector to enable them control economy of the County. There has been illegal trade in wild Aloe, gypsum, gold and precious stones by individuals and companies without County government notice.

She said the existence of gold as real but requires clear framework to avoid environmental destruction to both human lives and livestock as experienced now in gold mines sites. Hon. Liyor also added that her office in liaison with trade counterpart will come up with value chain analysis on quarry stones which have aesthetic value and authentic for first class construction.

The minister said there are cases reported by the public on environmental degradation in Loima and Central



Hon. Rhoda Arupe Liyor Executive member for Energy, Environment and Natural Resources

sub-Counties and urged the perpetrators to cease or face the law. Prosopis (Mathenge, Turkana people call it etirae) has drastically affected fishing sector with about 40% of the lakeshore being encroached causing injuries to fish and fisher forks.

She highlighted that it has turned to be a disaster for it cannot allow growth of other plants. Despite it improving vegetation cover and economic activity in a few areas in Letea and Kamarngole; my office through KEFRI has trained community members on management of prosopis and its sustainable exploitation which has made groups supply posts, rafters and charcoals to Kakuma Township with UNHCR getting poles for refugees' houses.

On Aloe, the ministry congratulates work done by TUBAE-African Development Trust previously known as Turkana Bio Aloe Organization across the County specifically in Loima, Turkana South and West where aloe has been propagated artificially, communities trained on its management and value addition.

The County currently has three Aloe cottage industries at Kalemungorok (South), Namoruputh (Loima) and Kakuma (West) with three Aloe-gum production sites at Oropoi, Letea and Napopongoit where Aloe sap has been processed to Aloegum (stone).

During an interview at TUBAE office, the Executive Director Mr. Eliud Emeri stated that the organization works with forty eight aloe groups across the county who have been trained whose artificial aloe acreage is seventy eight acres excluding wild population. The community commercialized groups through training by the organization in partnership with Kenya Industrial Research Development Institute (KIRDI) based in Nairobi, KEFRI Karura are making

finished products namely; aloe soaps, lotion, shampoo and liquid detergents, baby powder, various **cosmetic** and medicinal products

Under the County government, the ministry of energy, environment and natural resources plans to set three tree Nursery for each ward of the 30 wards where the local CBOs will be granted money to support in improving the vegetation cover. The cabinet member added that the ministry wants to explore on bamboo (ebune) which is becoming a world leading source of income under the flora where the ministry sent two professionals for training in Nairobi to support the county government in technology transfer

The County ministry will expect our community groups to sensitize the public and facilitate planting of fruit trees and non-edible species for shade purposes in our society added Hon. Liyor. During the tree planting exercise the local media houses will be informed in educating the public on environmental conservation and afforestation.

Apart from environmental education, the ministry plans to designate biodiversity in Lotikipi, Nariokotome (the cradle of mankind in the world) as means of county natural resources protection. Lokitaung mountains are sites where aged birds reside waiting for death. Lotikipi plains has a small lake where birds take refuge to hatch, this is a special place for tourists attraction in future.

The ministry through KWS has planned for environment stakeholders meeting to focus on challenges, achievements, form committee and plan for sectoral strategy that will inform policy makers on requirements and possible approaches to them. On energy power connectivity, the ministry has allocated 100 million to supply solar plants. The allocation was meant

to connect power from Lokichar to Lodwar which was too little since this was a drop of water in the ocean. The plans are on-going and schools and health facilities have been identified which we view as a contribution to increase schools performance.

Being a newly transferred function to the County government, since June, 2013 the ministry has managed to conduct community consultative meetings in all sub-counties to sensitize on environment conservation, oil exploration which is still an on-going process though national function, training of committees, formation of community forestry committees, setting of county ministry offices, consultative planning and budgetary, procurement of ministry materials and transfers to the county, environmental education on tree planting at every house hold level.

Sponsorship of training of trainers (ToTs) on bamboo and value addition at national level. More so, the ministry has profiled environmental organization in the County and will facilitate them in tree planting and setting of nurseries. The ministry plans to implement more activities this march where members of the public will be highly involved.

Despite these achievements, in a very short time, the ministry has faced numerous challenges including understaffing with departments having only offices in Lodwar in relation to the vast area of the County, delay in disbursement of funds from the national government to the counties. This derails projects implementation.

The ministry is keen on participatory approach to ensure the County has relevant technology and data on valuable natural resources for the ministry to conduct research and inform both the County government and public on needs and priorities. ■

Fire razes cash, property worth kshs 750,000

By Mark Erukudi

A business woman lost cash and property, worth over Kshs. 750,000 when unknown people razed her house in Kalemungorok centre, Turkana South sub-county.

A shocked Mrs Margaret Lokol Apalotome, who is a business woman, lost cash which included fees for her brother who is a form four student. The fierce fire destroyed all documents including three identity cards, certificates and ATM card.

The loss included commodities belonging to her partners from Kapelibok and Nawoyeregae that were also in the burnt house. These included seven bags of beans, three bundles of wheat flour, 60 liters of cooking oil, one

50kg bag of sugar, one 90kg bag of cabbage and three bags of cassava.

She reported the loss to the Kalemungorok Administration Police Post, who began immediate investigations and advised the mother of two to also report the matter to the nearest police station and not deputy county commissioner office in Lokichar.

Angry members of the public feared that the unknown evil people were likely to burn neighbouring premises especially when the burnt premise was known to store goods and even cash belonging to partners and associates from Kapelibok and Nawoyeregae who also suffered major losses in the burnt house.

One of the neighbours, Esther Erukudi, said that "I



The person who did this should be punished said Esther Erukudi (Centre)

believe that the person who did this should be severely punished if found." The neighbours volunteered to give Mrs

Lokol shelter, clothes and utensils.

Mrs Lokol who wept uncontrollably sought help from

friends, humanitarian organization, leaders of national and County governments. The centre still lacks fire services.

County Governor flags off 33 county vehicles

From page 1

has been the order of the day in the County where we have lost many innocent lives, suffered property destruction and lost livestock in deadly attacks, he added.

The Governor said that they were yet to receive ten ambulances that will be deployed in various sub-county hospitals to improve emergency services. "We have procured well equipped ambulances that make it easy to give appropriate emergency treatment to a person in need even before being rushed to reach the nearest health facility." The Governor said.

County drivers' induction sessions focused on the guidelines and rules governing County assets given out while sub-County and ward administrators were to be taken through capacity building session on management, roles, responsibilities and powers delegated to them.

The function brought together County officers, executive committees, Members of

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- Governor Josphat Nanok

the County Assembly(MCA), chief officers, sub-County and ward administrators.

The Governor challenged the officers to ensure the constitution is upheld and devolution is realized in the smallest units of the society. "We want the community you serve to realize how the new governance and services offered get continue getting near," he said.



Photos Right: The county Governor Josphat Nanok flagging off vehicles which he said will improve service delivery and beef up security in the sub-counties.

- Pictures by Eripete James

Turkana county finds right land policy implementer

By Eliud Emeri

Turkana County over the years has been facing land conflict and massive ownership among the private sector and political cartels. Speaking at his office in Lodwar Hon. Peter Lomulen Lokol the Executive member for Lands, Physical Planning and Urban areas management informed residents of Turkana County of his plans and determination to bring land conflict to a standstill.

“My office has inherited numerous cases with massive and mushrooming conflicts mainly in Lodwar Township caused by the former local authorities. Land’s office since last year to date has been engaged by members of the public to contain the alarming fights among village residents especially from Nakwamekwi and Kanamkemer.” Says Hon. Lokol.

The civil society organizations dealing with environment and natural resources have assured the public of their commitment to support the County government in minimizing land conflict for the benefit of the local residents.

Mrs. Mary Tioko the Manager of Akicha radio confirmed relevance of the land’s executive member as rightfully placed where he can maximize his professionalism in ensuring the County has the right land policies and laws which require to be enacted by the County assembly.

The executive member being an holder of masters in public administration with 15 years experience in project management and policy analysis with public benefit organizations (PBOs) both national and international levels, has restored hope to the residents of the County on how land will be managed not only in urban areas but across the County.

Hon. Lokol cited his outstanding performance in his previous docket as program coordinator for CEZAM (an implementing agency for Kenya United States –African Development Foundation – US-ADF food security project in Turkana, Kenya) before he resigned last year.

The ministry of lands in Turkana County government has already developed Lodwar integrated urban development plan which is in its final stage of approval by the Lands Commission and Ministry in Nairobi.

Members of the public in Lokori, Lodwar, Kakuma and Lokichar have been sensitized in the public forums on land policies and laws pending recruitment of the County lands management board. The County government through lands office managed



Hon. Peter Lokol at Kanamkemer ward's resolving land conflict and encroachment to nursery school site



Member of the County Assembly Hon. James Ikeny Kanamkemer ward (Turkana Central) who commanded higher votes in 2013 elections better than some MPs in the County.

to mobilize members of the public to apply for the vacancies advertised by the Lands commission where twenty three turkana professionals have been shortlisted. The County has so far benefitted from the Council of governors where lands office was given a slot to participate in management of land discourse at the national level.

The Executive Member has represented the County in forums that revised the community land bill for 2013 and development of the County land management board regulation. As part of its achievements; the lands office in cooperation with civil society organization dealing with environment since last year managed to settle about twenty five cases of land where the previous local authorities allocated land to more than one person with no consultation to the department of survey and physical planning.

The ministry is developing county land regulations which will be presented to the County assembly soon for approval which if passed shall give

direction in management and ownership of land. As part of civic education to the public on county land structures, “The County land management board has three main roles: being in-charge of public land, resolving land conflicts and also oversees land use,” said Hon. Lokol.

The ministry since June last year is experiencing numerous challenges to operationalise high public expectation on land since the constitution has mainstreamed land issues clearly. With high illiteracy levels, the ministry as part of citizen participation is planning to utilize the local FM radios and County newspapers in education the public to actively participate on land issues and forums. In respect to the law which has not been passed, the County operations are still pending enactment of the community land bill before May, 2014. More so, the delay to form the County land management board has also hampered solutions to issues raised by the public. The inadequate staff is a

major problem where those existing have negative attitude in addition to relevant staff with right expertise and equipment to execute duty when assigned.

Being among the largest counties nationally, Turkana faces logistical problem to respond to emergencies from the public. The office has old vehicles and sometimes officers are forced to use taxis hired by clients to survey and plan their own lands. The County government is working on the issues to repair and purchase new ones to address the challenge. The documentation handed over by the local authorities (Turkana county council and Lodwar municipal council) has numerous gaps.

After setting filing system in place, the lands office has unreliable records where land was allocated to people without committee resolution. Cases have been reported of some land owners having allotment letters which are not in the register and some allocates same land. “The County government last year banned any transactions on land pending constitution of the County lands management board. We are doing this to curb the rampant cases in my office and in Lodwar law court” says Hon. Lokol.

The member of the County Assembly (MCA) for Kanamkemer ward Hon. James Ikeny supports the County government plans to regulate allocation and ownership of land in his ward to curb the current alarming influx of people taking advantage of the poverty levels of his electorates who are disposing land to meet their day to day living. Speaking at Kambi Mpya the MCA joined TUBAE – African Development Trust land educators’ team who were sensitizing members of the public on importance of land survey and planning which will regulate the residence developments to ensure access roads exist and room for water and electricity connections.

Speaking at Kanamkemer primary school where the public was gathered, Hon. Peter Lokol disclosed the enforcement of the Lodwar integrated urban development plan soon and called for the public to support it for betterment of our town. He added that implementation of the plan will displace and cause some destruction but it will be the beginning of long waited issue of title deeds and warned Chiefs from engaging in any land business as reported by the public. To address this, the county government will come up with clear framework of compensating the affected persons and business.

Cont'd on page 10

Nakwamekwi internally displaced persons camp

Nakwamekwi IDP Camp in Turkana County was established in February 2008 after the 2007-2008 post election violence in Kenya which led to displacement of people and loss of life.

"The camp has a population of 186 household registered by the government of Kenya," said Mr. Areman Kerio the chairman of the camp. The camp experience a lot of havoc that affect human living in all aspects of life. This include

1. **Housing:** The camp has 186 houses which are without doors, windows, un-cemented floors. The materials used are of low quality and this shows that the houses cannot last longer and dangerous for human living.
2. **Health:** The camp does not have any health facility.
3. **Sanitation:** poor sanitation is due to inadequate latrines, the absence of dustbins. This contributes to a lot of diseases like cholera, tuberculosis, typhoid, diarrhea and many others.

4. **Aid from the government:** the camp does not meet basic needs. On inception, supporting agencies included the ministry of Special programs, Share International, Dioceses of Lodwar and World Vision.

5. **Land:** Due to increase in population, the land can no longer accommodate the individual's household expansion and development.

The community of this camp and their chairperson calls for intervention from the government, development partners, Faith Based Organization and well-wishers to offer their support so as to live like other people since it's not their wish to live as Internally Displaced Persons [IDPs]. The constitution of Kenya 2010, Chapter four entitles every Kenyan to have the right to life, good health, education and better living conditions.

Report by Peter Loregae.

CONFLICTS

Two killed in fresh attack

By **Emeri Laban**
Reporter *Turkana mirror*

Insecurity gripped Lobokat ward where two herdsmen were killed and atleast 300 donkeys were driven away by the raiders on the chilly morning of 22 January 2014 in Kainuk Division, Turkana south sub county.

Speaking at Turkana County Assembly, Hon. Eguman said that two people were killed while herding their donkeys at the belly of Malmalite River in kainuk by the neighbouring Pokot County.

Insecurity as topical emerging is-

sue has slowed down the development in the area. It is causing more deaths to the people, Loss of land and key development is not taking place due to fear that blocks the respective community.

Hon. Eguman requested the government to recruit more Kenya police reserves in insecurity prone areas. He also added that they are working with non-governmental organizations for instance Red-cross, World Vision and Oxfam and also initiating programme about peaceful co-existence to avoid unnecessary fighting the respective areas.

A sound in fire

By **Palale Illikwel**

People rushed to rescue a child in a house fire only to realize it was the distress sound of a cat trapped in a box inside the house.

The house was partially destroyed in the fire with most properties lost. The owners were at work when the house caught fire in Towokayeni village in Kakuma last month. Area Chief Anna Ligo said the fire might have been caused by cigarette remains dropped by a smoker passing by the house and most likely the

wind then blew it to the house. She said the home owners will be assisted by the government through some of its organizations. She appealed to smokers to be more careful. Narrating the cat's dilemma son of the family Peter Ejore said that the cat might have entered the box because it had been left open for it to shut itself and lock the cat inside leading to its death in the fire. The residents were shocked because of the sound from the burning house which seemed to be that of a child. They saved some items but it was too late to save the cat.

County plans to improve health services and sanitation

From page 2

with gender rule a priority. In supporting outreach programmes and response to emergencies, the ministry procured tyres to all sub-county vehicles, purchased computers, furniture, stationeries to various offices in the sector. The minister supported doctors to attend health conferences in Mombasa and Makerere University in Uganda. Effective service delivery will not be attained without regular supervision and field visits, the sector recently supported both the county health management and sub-county teams in conducting surveys and inform the sector on the current status of the institutions. The minister reported that two patients who were unable to settle medical bills in Eldoret were paid by the County government through her office.

"The county hired orthopedic surgeon who conducted operation of thirty patients here in Lodwar. The office has already deployed medical officer of health to Kibish sub-county who will assist in provision of health services". Hon. Ajele said. She added that the ministry supported this year's World AIDS Day. Campaign has already started



Hon. Jane Ajele (Mama Tosha) in charge of Health and Sanitation during a public function

in the County to ensure the blood bank in Lodwar Hospital is appropriately screened, stored and utilized in blood transfusion. The blood banks will among others utilize blood donations from our schools and willing members of the public.

Despite all these great achievements, the health sector is facing challenges which require more support to be addressed in improving its service delivery to the public.

Shortage of staff; specialists like orthopedic surgeon, dental technologists, dentist, ear nose and throat (ENT) surgeon, pediatrician (children) to name but a few. These will be hired from time to time based on financial and public need, shortage of drugs where the ministry will procure essential drugs and dispatch to the facilities, low response to cost sharing fee by public, vastness of the county with government vehicles being

grounded which require to be repaired, poor infrastructure (pathetic roads and poor communication in some areas) and insecurity which has also resulted to destruction of solar plant in Lorengkippi by unknown raiders.

The Executive member is well versed on diseases or health problems facing the County and beyond. She attended Kenya Medical Training College (KMTTC) Machakos from 1983-1985; KMTTC Nairobi awarded Diploma in laboratory technology 1990 to 1992; KMTTC Nairobi 2000 to 2001 awarded Higher National Diploma in Microbiology; Senior Management course in Kenya Government School Baringo awarded Diploma in Management. Her responsibilities have included laboratory in charge, District Medical Laboratory Technologist for 10 years and County Laboratory Coordinator for six months.

As a whole she Hon. Ajele has vast experience including management skills in the field of testing, analysis and identification of diseases considered to be the foundation of medicine and health services. ■



Turkana citizen journalists end communication barrier

The Turkana Mirror newspaper a long waited dream was realized when sixteen citizen journalists drawn from across Turkana County begun the on-going forty five days Citizen Journalism training organized by TUBAE –African Development Trust supported by Kenya Media Programme (KMP). The media training is being conducted by ScienceAfrica as a consultancy firm with wide experience in the sector both national and internationally.

The County has been experiencing communication barriers attributed to biased reporting and stereotype mentality among people and even major media houses when it comes to Turkana where dailies are read a day after others and “unofficially sold at double price because of “remoteness.”

The image has been tarnished with some personalities and institutions taking advantage of recurring hunger and starvation to raise funds with no clear accountability for the assistance or aid given apart from there being no practical involvement in the setting of early warning systems to curb or mitigate against the circle of tragedies.

The newspaper under the auspice of TUBAE is pursuing the media agenda as a tool to bridge the communication barrier as means of giving residents an alternative source of relevant and credible information on various aspects of development more so under the devolved system of government.

The Mirror as the name indicates shall enhance information and news sharing and progressively update the county residents on the

daily happenings. The trainees are being taken through the media curriculum to equip them with necessary and relevant skills and knowledge that will empower them to professionally engage with county and national authorities focusing on accountability in provision of quality services in line with the national law.

The trainees will be deployed to their respective sub-counties where news will be gathered from the grassroots and transmitted to the news room in Lodwar and finally disseminated to inform and educate the public and even policy makers who may not be aware of the occurrence or new development on certain specific issues.

The main focus will be on the socio-economic development in the county where members of the public, duty bearers, development partners and stakeholders on the ground will be fully and engaged regularly in the reporting to ensure news and information is all inclusive. Apart from the monthly publication, daily highlights of crucial and important news will be

accessed electronic form through our link; www.tubaeturkanapeople.org.

TUBAE in partnership with AKICHA radio intends to engage the county government in introducing press conference on quarterly basis where both the Governor and

increase newspaper distribution and relay feedbacks thus helping keep the entire county informed while our on-line services will also avail timely and credible information to the Turkana in the diaspora and all with the interest of the county.

In supplementing the development issues, the paper will be following up the proceedings in the County Assembly; County Executives service delivery, security, infrastructure, education, health, oil exploration and mining, natural resources, culture and food situation. We shall relate these issues to devolution with focus on improved living standards and people participation.

Turkana being like others in semi-arid lands (ASAL), “ will in terms of development need to run while others walk” because of a situation that was regrettably compounded by historical injustices and marginalization by the centres of political base. In achieving the intended goal, the proposed project will improve the current information barrier in the county and make the public informed of the progress and challenges faced. This will enable them to be actively involved in their own development and be fully engaged with right institutions.

The constitutional rights will be exercised by the public and support the county government in delivering the development agenda. The publication will be open for comments, contributions from various stakeholders in enhancing information sharing in the county. Turkana Mirror aims to be a leading publication and dependable source of information in Kenya and beyond. ■

The publication will focus on breakthrough and successes in various development spheres, challenges, human interest stories which are unique to the county, service delivery and marketing of local innovation, products and services.

his Executives will address the county on the current status of key county affairs; achievements, challenges encountered, mitigative measures deployed and plans for the next quarter. Besides being a forum for transparency and accountability, the press conference will help to separate facts from inaccurate information or worse rumours which aim at demoralizing various policy makers in development agenda.

The publication will focus on breakthrough and successes in various develop-

ment spheres, challenges, human interest stories which are unique to the county, service delivery and marketing of local innovation, products and services. The trainees being drawn from the grassroots will

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ATTRACTIVE PLACES

Attractive Eliye Springs source of Lake Turkana?

- Locals believe it formed Lake Turkana



Attractive Flamingoes of Lake Turkana



By Eyan Erick Aleper

The Turkana believe that the famous Eliye Springs was discovered when unknown thirsty person walking along the lakeshore came across a hidden borehole. He opened it and drank the cold sparkling water. However, after doing so, he left the borehole open so water flooded the place and hence forming the Turkana Lake.

There are many attractive scenes including the beach along the shores of the Lake. Mrs Christine Arot the owner of one of the lodges told the Turkana Mirror that “we are receiving many tourists as from the beginning of the year who enjoy the beautiful and unspoilt scenery and spend money which in turn helps pay workers and is also used to develop or improve the place.

Besides the beautiful sceneries and beaches, the beautiful locally made beads, baskets, necklaces and other art crafts are sold along the shore to promote business and enables residents of Eliye boost their economic status.

In the nearby Kalokol town, fishing is the main economic activity and lorries with refrigerators are common. Despite poor infrastructure they transport fish to distant places including Kitale, Eldoret, Kisumu and Nairobi.

However, poor infrastructure remains a big problem. Sometimes it's very hard to access the places or even transport fish from one destination to another because of many potholes in the main road for the traders at a time some of their fish gets to the market when it is spoilt. ■



From page 1

which TUBAE is doing in Turkana with its 48 Aloe Cooperative Groups.

The illegal trade makes residents in rural areas exchange food with the Aloe-sap. The work is tedious using crude harvesting methods which destroys the entire plant thus which no regeneration. The business benefits the buyers making the local people more prone to hunger dues to massive environmental destruction baring the land.

The Aloe-sap goes at Kshs. 500.00 per five litre jerican which when boiled gives three kilogrammes of Aloe gum whose market price is Kshs. 300.00 per kilo. This is only a third of the actual cost of the product sold thus benefiting the traders. The illegal trade and exploitation has been going on for a long time

with no action taken against the wrong doers by the relevant authorities or duty bearers.

The destruction of these wild Aloe plants has reached a point where the plant is now facing extinction in some areas. The emerging climate change conditions and pesticide use also contributed to the destruction and decline. The communities in Loima are calling both the County and the National government to intervene and protect or conserve the plant. There is need to train residents on sustainable exploitation of the plant in alleviating poverty. Relevant authorities in the County need to execute their duties to ensure the existing laws and policies on Aloe are enforced for the future generation and conservation of these endangered species. ■

Lodwar's California Market needs improvement

By Faith Kiprono

The California Market in Lodwar town needs urgent improvement. According to Mr. Ibrahim Kimani the public health officer, the highly congested or crowded market needs latrines and bathrooms there is need for more space.

People are in danger of getting cholera, typhoid and other diseases associated with unhygienic condition if there is no way of improving the state of the market.

Californians as the residents

are known, have been in this state for a long time and more support is needed for public health activities and nongovernmental organizations with capacity to help improve the market.

Therefore, the market is open space with no shelter for goods be sold. During the rainy season, the residents suffer from floods because the market is located at a flood plain.

Residents said that Government and NGOs should be sympathetic about California market and also try to expand and improve the market. ■

Loima Girls Secondary school opens

By: Peter Loregae

Girl child education has been boosted in Loima sub-county with the opening of Loima Girls Secondary School.

The school was proposed by the sub-county leaders in conjunction with the County Government and this led to fundraising through harambee and allocation from the County

government. It will be the second girls secondary school in the sub-county, after Turkana Girls Secondary.

The newly selected Students joining form one are temporarily learning in Lorugum Primary School as the construction finishes. Girl child education in this sub county has been low due to lack of secondary schools. ■

CDF Chairman orders Kshs1.5m renovation finalized

By: Joshua Loyanae

Renovation at Kapedo Police Station must be promptly finalized to meet all the required standards and inputs as stated in the Kshs.1.5m contract while all other contracts funded by the Constituency Development Fund will soon be evaluated.

The chairman of CDF Turkana East, Mr Daniel Emekwi told the Turkana Mirror that "work by different contractors funded by CDF will be closely monitored and evaluated in the coming weeks and that the renovation at Kapedo Police Station was not done to maximum satisfac-

tion, Mr. Daniel Emekui said when contacted on phone.

There have been public complaints that contractor didn't supply the materials for roofing instead he painted rusty old ones said one of the former occupants of the rooms. The renovations were allocated Ksh.1.5m. last year, Mr Emekui said. For the last seven years many projects in these areas were not completed at times even allocation of more funds.'

The proposed Kapedo Police Station where renovations were not done fully. The rusted iron sheets were removed but fixed back after being painted. ■

Cobra in the sitting room

By: Palale Illikwel

Residents of Nakururum Centre are living in fear of poisonous snakes and other wild animals invading homesteads in search of food.

Nancy Atabo and her three kids recently escaped death narrowly after they found a huge

cobra coiled in the sitting room. They were rescued by five men who killed the cobra. The snake had earlier killed the family's eight chicken. Two village elders explained that the snakes and wild animals come down from the hills in search of food that often includes water, rats and chickens..

Three die of food poisoning

By: Palale Illikwel

Three pupils were recently confirmed dead after taking porridge that left many others complaining of stomachache in a school at Kakuma refugees camp.

Doctors from International

Rescue Committee hospital rushed to treat other affected pupils at the school. District officer Mr. Samwel Ochode sent his condolences to the families of the deceased and said more investigation will be done to avert such tragedies.

Kshs. 47 Million building hope for legislations in Turkana County

Story by: Rebecca Odhiambo and Eliud Emeri

The Turkana residents celebrated the official opening of the Kshs. 47 million Turkana County Assembly building in Lodwar town. It involved much renovation and expansion and will now accommodate offices and legislative activities by the County Assembly Members.

Opening the building, the Speaker to the Senate Hon. Ekwee Ethuro, challenged the MCA to utilize the new facility for the benefit of the Turkana people as a conducive environment for legislation and ensuring the resources devolved are well utilized to speed up development.

The Senator Hon. John Munyes, Deputy Governor Hon. Peter Ekai Lokoel, Speaker to the County Assembly Hon. Geoffrey Kaituko and members of the National Assembly reminded the MCAs of the oversight role and representation in making the executives accountable to the turkana people.

The Deputy Governor in response to the fear of delay in utilization of funds assured the leadership and the residents that the County government plans to spend the 1.5 Billion before the next financial year.

He added need of citizen participation in the entire process and need for the public to exercise their constitutional rights in access to information. The civil society organizations present were challenged by the public to be keen on how funds and contracts are being given to some persons without experience. The public highlighted roads contracts which have not been implemented or initiated. ■



Deputy Governor Hon. Peter Ekai, Speaker County Assembly Hon. Geoffrey Kaituko, Hon. Ekwee Ethuro Senate Speaker and Hon. John Munyes



Hon. Ekwee Ethuro, Senate Speaker is welcomed by the County Assembly staff



Lokichoggio traditional dance troupe



The new County Assembly building opened by Senate Speaker Hon. Ekwee Ethuro.

WATER

Kalemungorok: No water, pumps broken

By Erukudi Mark
(story and pictures)

The new County Government which has inherited myriads of problems also faces serious challenges when it comes to provision of clean or safe drinking water for all.

Hand and solar pumps serving water-points at Kalemungorok Center that hardly function while the shallow or open wells contain inadequate water for the increasing population and can only serve ten families using about 200

litres each.

Alice Lopeyok, the water point manager, said that “water shortage remains a long-term problem hindering development and has negative effects on healthcare provision, schools and businesses while some pupils leave school to assist businessmen in fetching water for sale.”

Boys and girls aged 10-12 spend over five hours waiting for water at distances over three kilometers. However the residents of the area are no-

mads who face the problem of water scarcity with their animals. The Pastor, James Lomuria, says that when thieves stole community solar pump suffering has increased because water is a basic and is life.

Without water there is no development and possibility of progress in Kalemungorok and residents urge the government to help them achieve their targets, and also request humanitarian organizations to initiate water supply from the nearby river Turkwell. ■



Turkana County finds right land policy implementer

From page 5

“The policies my office is developing will be determined by the approval and allocation of funds by the County assembly. Land executive reacted to public question on relocation and compensation. The public got informed of the on-going recruitment Town administrator who will be the secretary to Lodwar town management committee under the lands office whose role shall be provision of service delivery and development of Lodwar Township.

The Ministry plans to survey eight urban areas; Lokori, Lokichar, Lorugum, Lokirama, Lokichoggio, Kakuma, Kalokol and Lokitaung as part of implementation of the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP). Members of the public were called to be patient as the office plans to improve service delivery in



Picture of Area Chief Mr. Lotuko addressing public baraza on land at his Kanamkemer Location in Lodwar town.

the County.

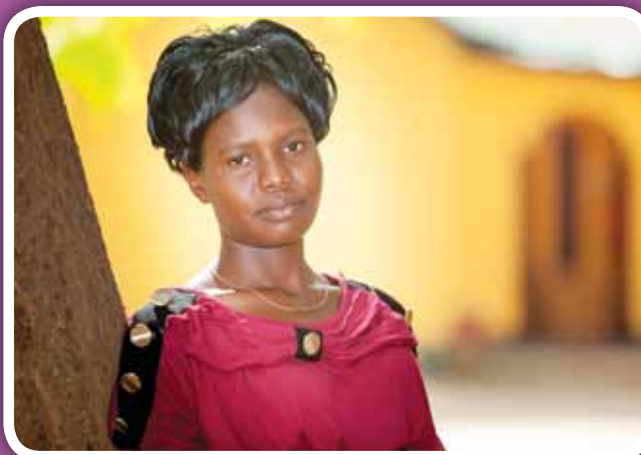
The public stated how surveyors

and physical planning offices over the years have been collecting money

from the public without receipts. The lands executive member informed of a clearly developed induction plan of his staff to ensure effective and efficient service delivery is upheld at all times and any staff reported to have colluded with public unlawfully will face disciplinary measures since public are informed of their constitutional mandates. “Waturkana si wajinga tena. Wamesoma na wanajua haki zao, The Turkana are nowadays informed and are aware of their rights- People have to trade lawfully” says the Land’s executive member.

The ministry congratulates the role of the civil society in taking lead to sensitize members of the public on their rights and proper utilization of natural resources. He urged them to cooperate and consult in times of need. ■

Beauty and Fashion



Model: Ms. Beatrice Aule aspiring to be a medic, currently developing her skills in journalism

Photography courtesy: Reynold Mainse

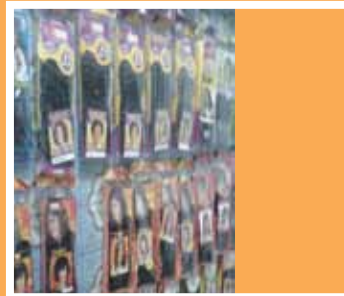
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Turkana Mirror Pictorial



Turkana County Citizen Journalism trainees. They are undergoing three months intensive training and mentoring conducted by Science Africa and supported by Kenya Media Program / HIVOS. See editorial, page 7.



Mr. Elim Lokol, cyclist taking basket for sale in Lodwar Township



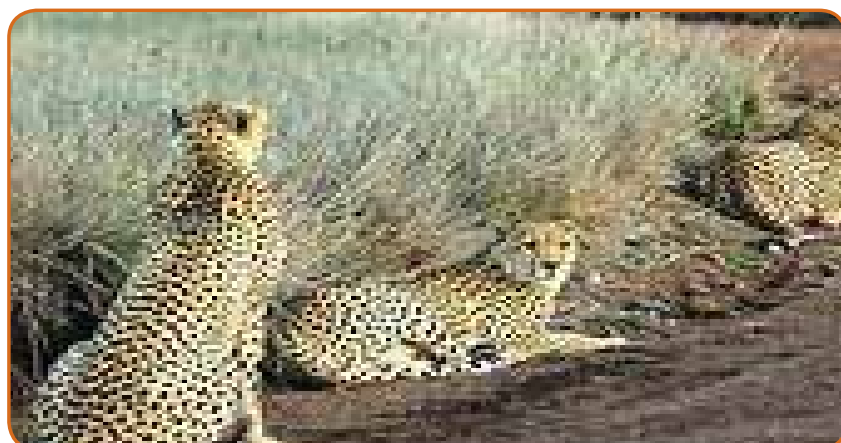
Rig at the oil well in Turkana



Mr. Paul Eripon using a log for fishing in the lake



Trade in Lodwar Town



Cheetahs at Arara in Turkana

Education is an equalizer

By Rebecca Odhiambo

Literacy and education is the only way to create a well-informed human resource capable of impacting on the country's sustainable development, towards and beyond vision 2030. Speaking during the annual PTA meeting at Riverside Adventist School, professor Lokapel Elim, the Turkana county education board chairman, said that most people are surviving from economy of education.

Kenya's schools are so good but the parent who should be joining hands to build the schools and shape the future leaders are demanding too much yet are very lazy to check on their children's performance but at the same time expecting the teachers to perform miracles.

"Education is the only equalizer that makes the son of a peasant dine with that of a king at the same table" said the professor. He appealed to parents and teachers to work hard and join hands for the betterment of the future.

On the other hand, the Adult and Continuity Education Officer of Turkana Central, Mr. Dominic N. Ngoko, who was among those present said that education has no age limit though people misunderstand his office to be educating the older people only, yet they give second chance to the unfortunate children, youth and adult, out of the formal education, an alternative or flexible manner to access literacy. Mr Ngoko has taken wide strides to ensure that neglected street children who are willing to go back

to their former schools or identified schools like the Riverside Adventist School, Tukwel Girls and Lorgum Boys are to return to their respective classes.

This was made possible by the county government in conjunction with the children's department and business men who donated money and other necessities. He added that the children find the street to be the only alternative as some are orphaned while others are forced out by the hostility of the parents who are doomed with ignorance illiteracy and poverty.

He appealed to the government at large and the NGOs to step in and allocate some funds to the street children as he is planning to build an educational rescue Centre as part of permanent solution to the problem. ■

School in blame game over missing KCPE results

By Palale Illikwel

Parents of Kakuma Girls' Primary School have blamed the school teachers from last years missing results. But school head mistress said the teachers do not know what happened as well. "The school teachers don't believe as well and the only child who got her results got for four papers only. How did it happen?" She asked.

The D.O, Mr. Samuel said it is the first time

for a school in Turkana West to miss results. He advises all the school heads to be keen on pupils action at school for a similar thing to happen again. The chief, Mr. Nakaya, said that the missing results is the fault of the candidates because they know what they did. One parent of the pupils who missed the results became mad with her daughter, beating her until almost killing her thinking she was the only one who had missed her results. ■



The neglected tourism sites in Turkana

By Zacheaus Otaba

Ancient Namorutung'a, is one of the historical and tourist attraction sites in Turkana that have not been fully exploited in terms of their tourism and cultural potential and are not well-marked for easy identification. The beautiful stones have a history that is generated and circulates around the traditional dances of the Turkana people, known as Edong'a.

However, the common and the easily access site along the Lodwar-Kalokol highway and only 15km from Kalokol town, seems to be neglected since it has not been fenced and no mark to show it.

When we reached the place, we got Ero Lotokoromoe, the watchman who guards it, and seems to know little about it. He informs us that the place was a dancing field

long time ago. People used to gather at the spot to celebrate after the day's activities, where they sang and danced leisure songs.

One time when people had gathered to dance, an unknown lame man who was believed to be a witch-doctor came to join them in the dance. He warned the participants that he is interested in dancing but, if he danced vigorously and funnily, they should not laugh. "I am interested to dance with you but if I dance funnily don't laugh at me," he warned.

But human beings are forgetful not to mention violating instructions. As the man danced some sparks of fire or flames came out of his body and produced bad odour. Everyone bust out in laughter. The people instantly turned into stones up to date. This acted as a punish-

ment for those who violate instructions, after they have been warned. These have remained to be heavy stones-only recognized by few and now fed with other small stones.

The various sizes of stones indicate various ages of the people that were present in that dancing place when the lame man came. Today when you visit the site, you will find many small stones put on top of the big ones. Those are some of the presents that have been put there by some visitors as a sign of respect to the ancestors.

According to Lokoromoe, the guard, people have been putting even money and other valuable things to honour the ancestors.

Turkana County is blessed by such historical sites since its lake region has two such scenes One at Namorutung'a and one at Lomani-

mania, a distance of four kilometres apart along the same highway. This indicates that these were two neighbouring dancing places for the people in Lake Turkana

The site which seems neglected by the stakeholders and is left in the hands of three guards from the community. The Kenya National Museums has contracted them to guard and maintain the site by putting up temporary fence. The open scene exposes it to people who steal the stones for their personal interest and even break it down.

Such attractive scenery is also found in Turkana East sub-county, which has the same features but it is not utilized. With the decentralization of the government ministries, the county government has to step in and save the deteriorating situation in the tourism department. ■

Eliye Springs

By Eripete James

It was one glorious morning when I got to finalize my preparation for a historic field trip together with several colleagues. We got into the vehicles we had hired for the trip. The terrain was muddy our vehicle was skidding. The road was filled with potholes but the driver was experienced enough to overcome. We arrived at the Eliye spring to a welcoming weather

Our mission was to find out all about Eliye Spring. I had seen adverts in the internet on Eliye spring. This was a chance to pay a visit myself. I found the area was fantastic and could not imagine Turkana could have search beautiful world class tourist attraction sites.

The spring is found in Eliye Spring Resort Lodge along the shores of Lake Turkana. In an interview yesterday, Paul Ligo the care taker of the spring described the spring as a gift from nature. "I was born in Eliye village and am



now over 60 years. I found this spring existing here. I cannot explain how the water is springing from the ground. Only God the creator can give a vivid

answer. This water flows right deep to the lake", Paul said.

He said that the community around the spring benefits from it in several

ways. They get water for their animals; some households which cannot afford water fee fetch their water from the spring which is only 2kms from the village. Water from the spring is pumped by a powerful engine to the community for their commercial and domestic uses.

More so the facility generates money for the community. The tourists who visit the resort lodge for their accommodations never miss to visit the spring. The entry fee per person is Ksh. 100. The money collected goes back to the community to support proposed development project.

They community has proposed that since the water from the spring is clean and drinkable, it can be filtered, purified, ionized and bottled for commercial use. They can also sell the water to the lodges along the lake and distributed to key business wholesalers and retails. By doing this the community can realize the significance of the spring in improving their life style. ■

CONFLICT

1992 Boundary changes causing unnecessary conflicts

By Joshua Loyanae

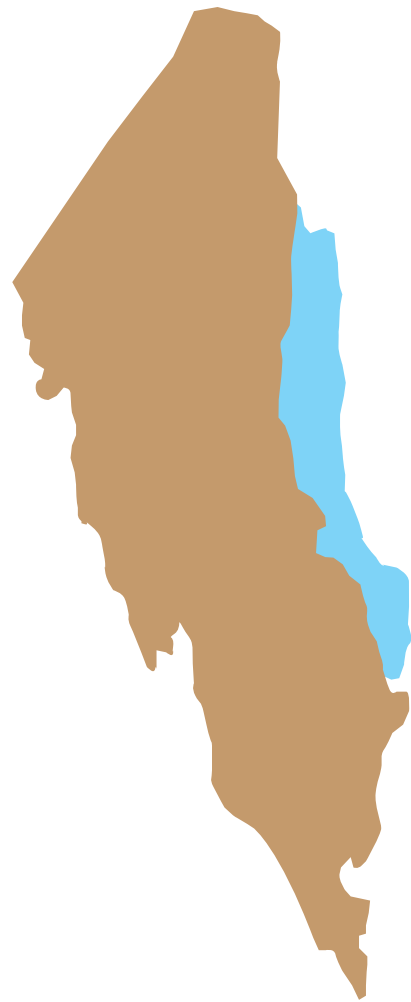
The Turkana living along areas prone to insecurity like Kapedo and Lorogon suffer when lives are lost, livestock taken and poverty levels rise. However, a major factor is the 1992 boundaries map which generated political and administrative undertones fueling ethnic affiliations.

The existence of two maps 1963 and 1992 generate unnecessary differences among the poverty ridden residents of the three affected counties that include are Turkana, Baringo and West Pokot. The KANU regime that ruled with iron-fist used the Parliament alter the maps without appropriate consultation with the stakeholders.

The carving of parts of Turkana is shown if one logged into www.kenyalaw.org to see Turkana map 1992 and 1963 respectively. After introduction of this map, many administrative units were created inside Turkana in Lomelo division. These include Patpat sub-location, Silale location, Akujatis sub-location and Kapedo north sub-location. During 2009 Population census East Pokot district had captured Kapedo centre in their side.

There is need to stop any form of political instigation as

a tool used by many to garner votes. Politicians use lies to get votes by among other things, if



you give me your votes, I will make neighboring areas to be on our side. The pledges which are

never fulfilled fueling animosities among the communities in these areas.

Ironically areas known for insecurity are among those endowed with resources. Lorogon is the most fertile area supported with water of River Turkwell hence hydro power plant. Kapedo has several sites for extraction of geothermal power at Silale Caldera, Moruangikokolak, Lomaro and Rupa or Barrier. Precious stones like green garnet, blue sapphires and trona or soda ash are found in these areas.

Constant raids have impacted negatively in this areas resulting to loss of lives, animal driven away, displacement of populations from their original areas, closure of schools and centres, freedom of movement is infringed in this areas necessitating people to live in confined areas for their own safety. Economic activities have been curtailed for fear of attacks like the harvesting of doum (palm) trees for making brooms, baskets, mats for fishing along rivers and trona extraction.

Two years have elapsed since the case for the boundary was filed through Barongo and Company Advocate in Kitale High Court which was later transferred to Supreme Court for a final verdict on interpretation of constitutional provisions. ■

GENDER VIOLENCE

No woman need to go through this...

- Girl's ended in pregnancy, baby's death, uncontrollable passing of urine

- She attempted suicide four times, Urine problem
Corrected

By Elim Baasha
Reporter *Turkana Mirror*

Things have changed unlike before when Napeyok could not control her urine. It just oozed out and there was nothing she could do about it.

She was in Primary School when her cousin who lives in the same town -Lodwar- said that she was needed urgently home. On her way she had to pass through a narrow lane with crowded rental houses.

"When I was just getting there someone suddenly pushed me through one of the open doors, which was quickly shut as I fell inside," she recalls. There he was this cousin; married, a father of two who pinned me down as I struggled and screamed but he was too strong for me, she says.

The last thing Napeyok expected to be aftermath of her ordeal was pregnancy. But that was exactly what happened. When she went into labour nine months later, Napeyok was unable to give birth normally and the doctors performed an emergency operation but the baby was already dead.

After three days, Napeyok could no longer control her urine. "Even though I knew what this man had done to me was very wrong I feared to tell anyone about it."

Napeyok an outgoing teenager started to keep herself, she dared not visit friends and relatives just in case they got to know about her embarrassing condition. She bought several towels and cut them into small pieces which she would change after 30 minutes to prevent urine from leaking.

At the beginning of 2014 Napeyok was very tired of that condition. She had already attempted suicide four times until a Catholic Sister said "Napeyok's situation can be rectified." She took her back to Lodwar District Hospital where doctors performed a successful operation.

Today Napeyok is very much okay but there could be thousands of Kenyan women who are suffering in silence from different conditions because of ignorance, shame or fear of stigmatization. ■

Insecurity: Four centres raided

By Mark Erukudi
Turkana Mirror Reporter
Turkana South

Turkana County leaders and those of the neighbouring communities need to take urgent steps including dialogue and stiff security measures needed to stop endless bloody conflicts aimed at stealing livestock.

The recent raids of Katilu, Juluk, Kainuk and Kakong'u within a week, is a strong indicator that insecurity has become the single major continuous issue causing death, severe injuries and hindering the much needed development especially in Turkana South sub-county.

Kakong'u in particular is losing hope after thousands of

livestock vanished. This was worsened by the killing of brave warriors who volunteer to protect the community from the raiders. Their families remain devastated with the loss of lives and the stealing of livestock many cattle.

Speaking in the Turkana County Assembly Katilu ward MCA Hon James Abei mentioned insecurity is the major problem in Katilu and two neighbouring wards Kaptir and Kainuk. He added that the previous week one person was killed in Kainuk ward during road repair. This has brought fear as armed raiders kill and take away animals to sell.

Hon Abei said that the issue of insecurity has hindered development in the area causing

more deaths loss of property, displacement of population, loss of land, schools closure and key development activities including businesses because of fear.

The MCA, asked the governments to avoid manipulating things in insecurity or taking sides because this worsens the situation yet government has to improve safety in Turkana County.

He also mentioned that they are working hand in hand with community leaders and non-governmental organizations including Red Cross, World Vision, Oxfam and APAD to also help initiating programmes on insecurity aimed at avoiding unnecessary fighting in the respective areas. ■

Decline of agriculture in Kapelibok Irrigation Scheme

By Emeri Laban
Reporter *Turkana mirror*

New changes or improvement in agriculture is not reflected or practiced in Kapelibok irrigation scheme because of poor crop management, poor food storage, insecurity and siltation.

Scarce provision of water is also an emerging issue, whereby the canals which were used as the main sources of water suppliers are blocked.

The farmers have been forced to gather wild fruits, vegetables, and others while taking refuge in the nearest areas like Juluk and Katilu where people are harvesting sorghum and maize.

Insecurity mostly stems from the neighbouring community who disturb farmers tilling their farms by ambushing and kidnapping them when they go to the farms thus threatening lives.

The farmers are urging the government and Kaptir Resource Management Association (KARMA) officials to assist them maximize the irrigation. ■



Agriculture in Kapelibok irrigation scheme before its decline.



Agriculture in Kapelibok irrigation scheme after its decline

PEACE, CONFLICTS & DEVELOPMENT

A Land Deserted but treasured

By Joshua Loyanae

Nadome area is a land deserted for the last 23yrs after heavily armed raiders launched savage attack, drove away livestock leaving many people dead. They few who survived moved to other areas considered relatively safe.

Since then, this village ceased to exist because people fear for their lives and seek their livelihood elsewhere hence displacement of the inhabitants to areas like Kapedo, marigat, Laikipia, Mogotio, Baragoi, Nakuru, Naivasha, Lokori and Isiolo.

Because of this, their lives have never been same. They live in camps where seek casual jobs to sustain their families. Some work as watchmen, babysitters, cattle keepers. Their children do not complete or go far with their studies because of financial constraints. They end up working and marriage follows at early stages of life. Professionals migrated to other area like Lodwar, Lokori and Laikipia.

This village is fertile and productive as shown by the love the people have to this area up to date. It had agricultural fields with oranges, bananas, onions, watermelons, pumpkins, and cotton. Trona found in Kalomale, Geothermal in Moruangikokolak, precious stones like green garnet at Choza and Lokapel.

Roads, Airstrip, Schools, and Dispensary are no longer visible to naked eyes because the area has turned bushy with no inhabitants for the last two decades.

County government and the use of Constituency Development Fund allocation can make people resettle in this area if projects are initiated in this financial year for them to come and pick their lives where they left. Roads to be opened, posting of security personnel, agriculture be introduce again, Dams constructed and boreholes be drilled. ■

Plight of Lodwar's IDPs

By Elim Baasha

IDPs in other parts of Kenya seem to get endless attention when compared to those in Turkana County which is assumed to have had no IDPs because the national media gave it minimal or no attention.

IDPs from the 2007-2008 post-election violence who settled at the outskirts of the town, commonly known as the Canaan Camp have appealed to the government to help them to return to their former homes because hostility from the local community.

Joshua Ekaru the chairperson of the camp says that every robbery, murder, prostitution, increase of street children and destruction of river line trees is also blamed on them.

This is worsened by poisonous snakes,

scorpions and spiders which have killed three people including Maria Nawi aged 54, John Musogor a father of seven and Jacinta Ekiaba a seven year old girl.

They say that their houses were burnt down but their shambas still lie fallow and not occupied. Joshua Ekaru, the chairperson of the camp said that they have suffered in hands of their resident hosts who blame them for the rapid population increase causing overcrowding in hospitals, schools and water points.

The local residents look down upon them nicknaming them *ichakun*, *ibiriun* or *imasun* meaning people who left their land and serve other people beyond the boarder as slaves and deserve no respect. IDPs are urging the locals to practice justice and humanity to prevail between them and the residents of Lodwar town since they were all Kenya Citizen. ■



Incomplete Houses

FAMILY MATTERS

Love can overcome twists and turns of marriage

By Rebecca Odhiambo

Having a family and knowing what bringing up a family is all about are two different things. Many marriages, be it modern or traditional, are ending up very badly. After courtship, marriage comes and this is where the couples get the rude shock about the partner's behavior. Both men and women are ready to point a finger at a partner. Woe unto the children who have to suffer severely when this happens in the family.

Take, for instance, just recently, in Lodwar town, a wife ran with her husband's document including ID, ATM card and other valuable items. In another incidence, a man attempted to wipe his family from the face of the earth by setting his rented house a blaze. Why will aright thinking member of the society do this?

Should we blame this on anger or drug abuse in general? Imagine some people are longing for a complete family as yours while you who is blessed with one; you throw yours to the dogs

Stop the act and think. Pointing finger at one another is not a solution. Remember this is the same partner you had loved, cherished and re-kindled without questioning and you were even ready to die for. Why in the devil's name do you subject your partner to unnecessary suffering, torture and more so wanting to kill?

Go back to the drawing board. Communication without anger will give you a solution. The two of you know where the problem lies. Cool your temper and be ready to talk rather than allowing your temper to control you. She who has once been a woman, and ceased to be so, might at any moment become a woman

Should we blame this on anger or drug abuse in general? Imagine some people are longing for a complete family as yours while you who is blessed with one; you throw yours to the dogs

if magic touch is applied for transfiguration. Taking your partner for granted, means he become valueless to you and this promotes "mpango wa kando" that leads to rejection. Being "sorry" or saying "am sorry" to a woman are words that cannot transform a man. It really pains me to see children suffering because of the parents' pride and superiority complexes they no longer see face to face. The children being subjected to mental stress never applied to be born. It's stupid to make children look like orphans by your daily silly fights. I know that at times the human nature hates more readily than it loves but think of the family cohesion and continuity. The family still remains the basic unit of any communities and nations.

Woman, ignore that bad advice from your single girlfriends who do not even understand the meaning of a

family because their relationships have never lasted for a month. Don't let your education and occupation come before your family. Washing your man clothes, making his food and ensuring he showers before he leaves for work is not being lowly but your responsibility. Sweet words will lure him to lend his hand but antagonism is unnecessary. Let's forgive the bad deeds and love again. Let's give love a chance to rule.

Loving again is not evil. Appreciating your partner the way they are brings out the best in them as their weakness and strength are acknowledged. Love, just as crops in a well-managed farm, needs weeding, top dressing and irrigation. Praise your partner, let gifts and surprises flow again. Love will crown everything as love will make you happy by the truest test of a life successful to the end. ■

Moses weds Ann in Lodwar



Citizen journalism trainees at St Teresa Parish Centre in Lodwar could not resist joining this couple's photographic session at the centre popular for its beautiful and scenic grounds not to mention serene environment.

The newly-wed who only introduced themselves as Moses and Ann, were joined in holy matrimony at Deliverance Church by Pastor Robert Juma Masindano. According to a member of the bridal team, in his brief sermon, the pastor encouraged married couples to consult each other when making decisions and to remain faithful to one another. (Picture: Joshua Loyanae)

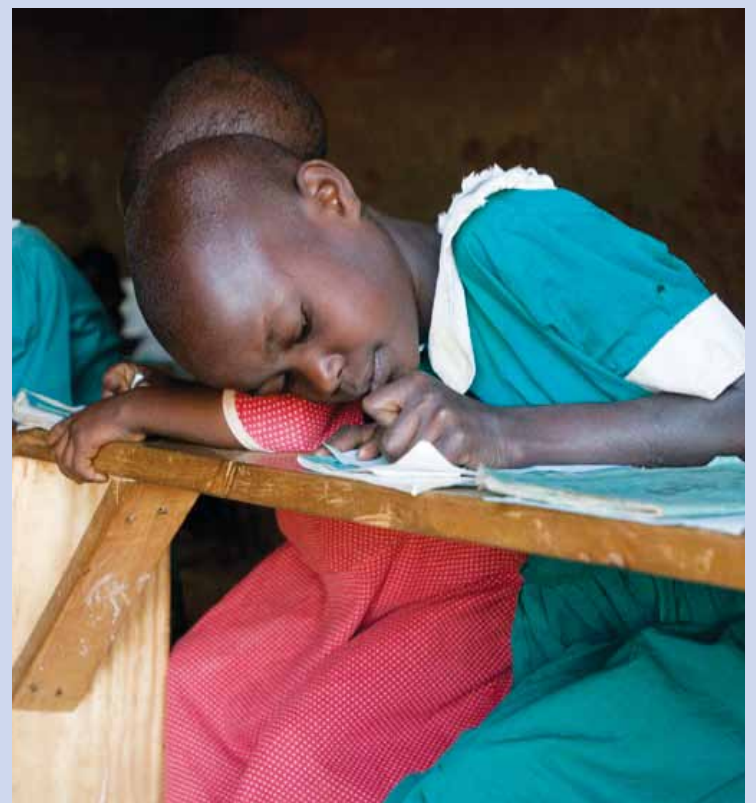
Turkana girl child still trapped in web of culture

By Nancy Aemun

Questions all over Turkana County and worries everywhere. A child caring a child is a big challenge. This has proved that education of a girl child is truly undermined in Turkana. But why is this happening so many years since independence? In last years K.C.P.E results, girls yet again performed poorly and only a small number did well which locked many out of secondary school.

For instance, at Lokichoggio Girls primary school, 12 girls were registered for the 2013 K.C.P.E. Only five of them got average marks. The highest got 271 marks.

So many factors have been confirmed to contribute to this decline. The girl child is being seen as a source of future income for the family. This encourages early marriage, parental neglect and lack of basic needs for example sanitary towels, clothing and sometimes food, have all contributed to the low level of education. Despite the fact of all mentioned factors, the girl child is not also recognized in the community as



many parents have failed to recognize that education is the key to succeed.

Early marriage being the main factor has made most of the girls to lose hope in education. Complaints and worries of going back to school is the order of the day

for many of them. Teachers are equally worried of what is happening to the girl child education. "All discouraged girls should gain their courage and have hope in their lives for a better tomorrow" said Fred Lokeun deputy head teacher Lokichoggio girls' primary school. ■

Dangerous prosopis affects Lake Turkana

The Mathenge weed spreading fast along lake shores

By Peter Loregae

Lake Turkana is in great danger due to the spread of prosopis also known as Mathenge plant which has spread and germinated in almost two thirds of the lake shores and as a result affecting the fishing activity.

Mr. Jacob Ekomwa, one of the fishermen, said that the germination of prosopis in the lake has greatly affected the fishing activity and has caused a lot of harm to the fishermen since it cuts and holds the fishing net when being pulled during fishing. The dangerous plant also affects the movement of the boats to the shores and at a time making the boat to get stuck or even cause an accident.

Mr. Ekomwa explained that the dangerous Mathenge plant has made the fishermen not reach key fishing points where fish are found in large numbers, besides creating ground for crocodiles to hide and attack the



The Prosopis weed spreading fast along lake shores

fishermen. He complained the plant is also posing threat to health when a person is pinched by the thones.

Germination of this plant is very fast and it has increased in its growth in the recent years and this may re-

sult in it spreading all over the lake and affect the fishing activities in the lake.

“Economic activity of the people living along the lake is fishing, that earns them living and other basic needs. Invasion of the prosopis is likely to reduce the production of fish in this region” he said. He noted that the lake produces a lot of fish compared to other lakes in the country.

The fish from Lake Turkana is transported to other parts of the country by use of refrigerated Lorries. The Kenya Marine and Fisheries research institute shows that the lake has a capacity to produce 30,000 metric tons per year if well fished.

The fisherman appealed to the county government together with the national government, NGOs as well as faith based organizations to intervene and assist in taking long lasting measures to eradicate the spread of this dangerous plant in Turkana. ■

Impressa Beach Management Unit

By Faith Kiprono

Impressa beach management unit was formed in 2006 by a group of people who had a common interest of Lake Turkana as a resource centre. It was started by 78 people but now they have more than 200 members.

The group works together with the fisheries department in keeping the lake clean, making sure that fishermen are not using small nets and not catching the small fish but because of drought they sometimes allow it.

They also give directions on safety in the lake and especially in which parts people can swim without exposing themselves to attacks.

“We also borrow nets from various partners like USADF, OXFAM and CDF for our members to create employment and also hence earn a living. Those who have boats they are given nets and vice versa” the chairman Mr. John Mame said in an interview.

Impressa has faced numerous challenges as the members are not willing to help one another those who have boats are not willing to help those who do not have hence they end up working for them and not getting enough

income to feed their families. They also lack fishing equipment's for example boats and nets “giving a boat to a group is also another challenge as people fight to become the group leader so we are forced to give it to family members to avoid fights,” said the chairman Mr. John Mame.

Other challenges include Lack of training, knowledge and skills. Some of the people do not know how to swim and some do not have life jackets and lack licenses as they have to get this either from Nairobi, Kisumu or Mombasa.

Changes in leadership is another great challenge. After five years people at the top change and the new people come with new policies disrupting the ones in practice.

The chairman said that the greatest challenge they have is protecting the fingerlings because they have to share the lake with Borana and people from Todonyang that believe the breeding place is in their water, because of the insecurity and attack of the fishermen, the chairman of the BMU is calling on the government and related bodies to provide security patrol boats, network facilities for radio calls and handsets to boat owners. ■

RELIGION AND SOCIETY

Be the salt and light of the world

By Mary Tioko

The Assistant Priest of St. Augustine's Cathedral Parish Lodwar Fr. Evans Linus Ekai has challenged the Christians to be the salt of the Earth and the light of the world.

Fr. Ekai said during the recent mass that “when one acts with justice in his home, work place and county at large he or she en-kindles the light of Christ which can make lives better for the citizens of this county or respective places.”

He said that good foundation especially by the County leaders and entire leadership of both church and state makes the life of the future generations brighter and that their children will be proud of the foundation laid by them.

Fr. Evans also went ahead and

criticized the way the county administration is implementing devolution saying that it is not addressing the needs of the people specifically in the recruitment of staff.

Fr. Ekai questioned the calibre of some individuals employed to hold positions in the county Executive offices and wondered if indeed they merit occupying those positions or whether they were picked merely to fill available vacancies.

The priest asked the faithful to reflect on whether the leaders are setting up a strong foundation for future generations and show the way forward as the true salt and light of the earth by pointing out mistakes. He also blamed the current famine disaster on poor planning by those given the responsibility to look after the affairs of the people. ■

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CONSTITUTION OPENS DOOR TO CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

By: Uraia Civic Educator
Turkana South

Development in Turkana has been a top down approach which leaves most initiatives incomplete or as white elephant. New dispensation in 2010 has not only liberated Turkana people but enhanced citizen participation at all levels in the County marking realization of development in the underserved areas. The Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the County are calling for consultative approach at all units of administration in utilization of devolved funds to fast track priorities of our residence.

Citizen participation can only be realized by having an informed society that is able to engage with duty bearers at all times and where appropriate to demand for their constitutional rights. Public information is no-longer confidential and Kenya citizens irrespective of their background have a right to demand for it. As residence of Turkana County we need to *understand importance of citizen participation, tools for participation and avenues* to be explored. Let's see how we can enjoy our citizen rights.

Do you know what Citizen Participation is all about?

- Is an action or series of actions citizens take to participate in the affairs of their own government and community
- It is the process by which public concerns, needs, and values are incorporated into governmental and corporate decision making.

Why citizen participation?

It is a two way communication and interaction with the overall goal of better decisions that are supported by the public.



- Public participation is not just providing information to the public
- There is an organised process for involving the public. It is not something that happens accidentally or coincidentally.
- Participants have some level of impact or influence on the decision being made



What happens when there is no two way communication?

STEPS FOR PUBLIC PARTICPATION

1. Inform the public
2. Listen to the public
3. Engage in problem solving
4. Develop agreements

WHY IS CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IMPORTANT?

In exploring public participation the Kenya citizens provide the policy makers with information about the relative importance of public as-signs to values choices that underlie a particular decision. When members of the public participate fully in their own development, this minimises cost and delay during im-plementation process. More so, the duty bearers' considerations inform decision which reflects issues that affect people's lives. The County government has a role to support civil society organizations (CSOs) to conduct civic education as means of increasing citizens' influence in decisions that affect their lives. This will also educate the public on value to have a national identification card which will increase electorates' num-ber that dictates elective offices both at national and county levels and responsibilities vested to the elective position.

In involving members of the public in planning and implementation of their own development, public participation provides a means by which contentious issues can be resolved. The people involved will find for ways of channelling differences into genuine dialogue amongst people with different points of view.

DEVOLUTION REAL UTILIZE



TUBAE-African Development Trust)



WHY TURKANA PEOPLE VOTED FOR THE CONSTITUTION?

- Fostering national unity by recognizing diversity;
- Permitting citizen self-governance and enhancing their participation in government decision-making;
- Recognizing the right of communities to manage their own affairs and development;
- Protecting and promoting the interests and rights of minorities and marginalized;
- Promoting socio-economic development and providing locally accessible services;
- Promoting democratic and accountable exercise of power;
- Ensuring equitable national and local resource sharing;
- Facilitating further decentralization of State organs; and
- Enhancing checks, balances of government and the separation of powers.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE WITH DEVOLUTION?

- Promoting democratic and accountable exercise of power;
- Respecting and observing the rule of law; everyone is equal before the law
 - Including citizens in development matters
 - Informing the citizens of all development plans the challenges and the success

DEVOLUTION

- Allow or give powers of decision making to smaller or local units that have means to implement the decisions.

- Involves the transfer of functions, resources and power to the sub-national levels of government.
- Administration decentralization
- Fiscal decentralization
- Political decentralization
- The process of devolution is considered as a democratic decentralization that provides space for citizens to be involved in governance issues

HOW TO DECENTRALIZE

STRONG	INTERMEDIATE	WEAK
Devolution	Delegation	Deconcentration

The turkana people will own and sustain their own development when devolution becomes an all inclusive and not devolution of corruption and nepotism. A participatory society is an informed with clear mandates not duties delegated by those in authority as means to silence the noise makers in a community. This can only happen when:-

- The residence are fully involved and freely participate in decision making
- When the fiscal (monitory value) are known, planned and implemented by relevant authorities i.e. government, development partners and members of the public. This is where society participation in social audit is key in tracking their own resources
- The political arm is involved in development and political developments that segregates some members in the society due to their political alignments.

Are you aware of basis of democratic principles and the separation of powers?

- Democratic; accountable & transparent power exercise
- Promote National Unity – diversity of Kenyans
- Self governance and consultative processes in decision making (DM)
- Community Rights to manage own affairs for development
- Let's embrace and inclusion of all is attained at various levels.

- Sufficient resources to government ministries both in the counties and national will enable institutions govern themselves and improve delivery of services effectively. Hence;
- Promote social and economic development
- Effective service delivery
- Are you also informed that No-more than two-thirds (2/3) of the county's representative bodies can be the same gender.
- The public need to be alert in ensuring check and balance by public offices. This will be a people driven approach.

DO YOU KNOW COUNTY GOVERNMENT?

Public participation in development and engagement with your county

government is the only avenue to improve their productivity. The core role of county government is provision of quality, efficient and effective services to the public in transparent and accountable manner. This can only be achieved if you and me know our constitutional mandates and ensure its implementation by the service providers focusing on basic human needs and rights.

POWERS OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The County Governments Act, 2012 grants specific powers to the county government, which include entering into contracts, acquiring land, delegating functions to county and sub-county institutions, partnering

with public or private institutions, and establishing agencies and departments for services and other functions.

Members of the public have the constitutional rights to question and ask for any information regarding their own socio-economic and political development. When ones rights have been infringed, Judiciary does the interpretation to ensure rule of law is upheld.

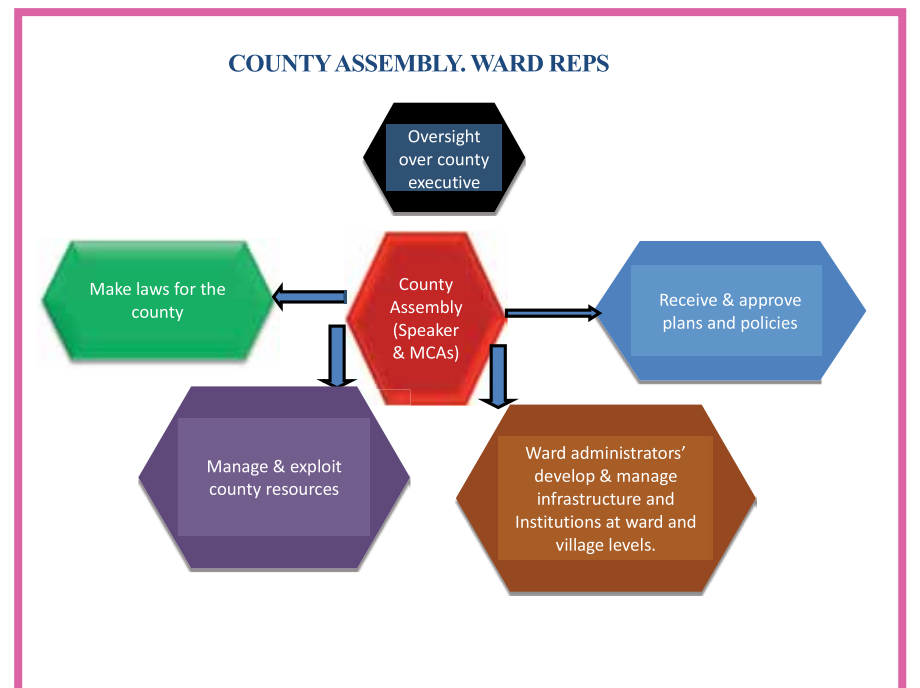
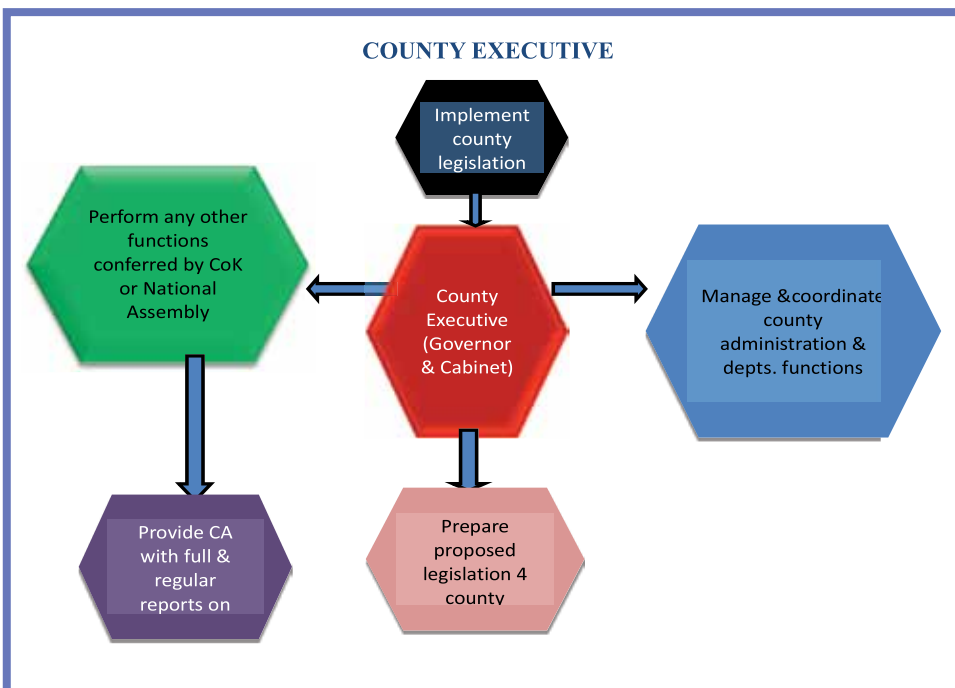
In enforcement of bill of rights, the civil society organization (CSOs) under the bill of rights Chap 4 Article 22 (2) in addition to a person acting in their own interest, court proceedings under clause (1) may be instituted by:-

- a person acting on behalf of another person who can not act in their own name;
- a person acting as a member of, or in the interest of, a group or class of persons;
- a person acting in the public interest; or
- an association acting in the interest of one or more of its members.

The County Governments Act, 2012 grants specific powers to the county government, which include entering into contracts, acquiring land, delegating functions to county and sub-county institutions, partnering with public or private institutions, and establishing agencies for services and other functions.

"Every county government shall decentralize its functions and provision of its services to the extent that it is efficient and practicable to do so."

— Article 176(2), The Constitution of Kenya, 2010



Lake Turkana Academy, the only private school in Kalokol

By David Ekitala

The director of Lake Turkana Academy Mr. Stephen Erus, gave the reasons why the number of pupils are not increasing and challenges faced by entire school, since it was opened 2013.

Mr. Stephen said, the school started at the Polytechnic compound for three years and

it was relocated at the Orphanage home June 2013 by NCCK after. In 2013, five pupils sat for KCPE examination already four are in Secondary Schools and the fifth decided to repeat due to lack of fees.

The school has 146 pupils, 80 girls and 66 boys and this year, 12 candidates will be sitting for the national primary examination, three girls and nine boys. The school has 10

staff members, 6 trained and 4 untrained and the community is fully involved in managing board of the school.

Five orphans were retained in the school which is sponsoring them fully up to now. Lack of water in the areas surrounding the school is the leading challenge. Also people around the school are not willing to take the children's to the school because of the fees.■





Look out for More Sports Stories in the April issue

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Lorugum team clinches Jeremiah Cup

-Tournament will help stop the myth that only certain communities are good in soccer

By Eripete James

Jeremiah Lomorukai Cup has been won by the Lorugum team. The tournament league was held in Lorugum football grounds at Loima sub-county to mark the annual December Ball Games Tournaments sponsored by the Member of County Assembly Hon. Jeremiah Lomorukai of Turkwell Ward.

The friendly league was introduced by the member of the county assembly as a mean of bringing Loima community together and especially to preach peace and unity

among the youth of the sub-county. It will also help stop the myth that only certain communities are good in soccer.

In the finals Lorugum team scored their lone goal against Namoruputh through Nandwa Moto in the 72th minute. Namoruputh were missing Oscar Lolemtum and could not break Lorugum defense despite Patrick Esinyen leading the striking slot.

Lorugum captain Ekusi Moto received the trophy from with the ward legislator. In his speech Mr. Lomorukai said that the friendly match was intended to unite all the

Loima youth and the entire community in the sub-county. 'Always when two bulls fights expect one to surrender as defeat'. Jeremiah added

"We are going to prepare internal friendly matches so that we can choose our best players to join the County team to compete nationally so that we break the monopoly of soccer in Kenya being dominated by a few communities". The legislator added. The friendly league is always played by six teams: Lorugum, Namoruputh, Lokiriama, Lorugum centre, Lorengippi and Turkwell. ■

Turkana Girls lead county in 2013 KCSE results

Loima second best sub-county in Kenya

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Girls led boys in Turkana County in the 2013 KCSE whose results were released in Nairobi on 3rd March 2014.

Of the 446,969 candidates who sat the exam in 7,606 centres countrywide, Turkana Girls' Secondary School produced the best candidate in the county followed by Lodwar Boys High School, Katilu Secondary, AIC Kang'itit Girls Secondary School with Kainuk Mixed Secondary School rounding off the top five best performing schools locally.

In the ranking by districts since renamed sub-counties, Loima came close to being the best in the country. They lost the top spot to Westlands in Nairobi.

Of the 47 counties, Turkana were ranked at number twenty.

Alliance High School which led nationally, also had the best student - Tom Wanderi King'ori. Angela Nzisa Kivuva of Moi High School Kabarak was leading girl countrywide. ■

Select summary KCSE Results 2013

Top 10 schools nationally

1. Alliance High School A-
2. Moi High School Kabarak A-
3. Precious Blood Riruta A-
4. Kapsabet Boys A-
5. Maseno School A-
6. Molo Academy A-
7. Strathmore School A-
8. Chavakali High School A-
9. Maryhill Girls High School A-
10. Kenya High School A-

Top Private Schools

1. Moi High School, Kabarak
2. Strathmore School
3. Anestar Boys High School, Lanet
4. Pioneer School, Murang'a
5. Mary Mother of Grace Secondary School, Laikipia
6. Wamy High School, Nairobi
7. Sunshine Secondary School, Nairobi
8. Light Academy, Nairobi
9. Kianda School, Nairobi
10. Chemelil Academy, Kisumu

Top counties results

1. Samburu
2. Siaya
3. Elgeyo Marakwet
4. West Pokot
5. Trans Nzoia
6. Bomet
7. Kisumu
8. Busia
9. Embu
10. Uasin Gishu

List of district order of merit Rank - District - County

1. Westlands - Nairobi County
2. Loima - Turkana County
3. Samburu Central - Samburu County
4. East Pokot - Baringo County
5. Samburu East - Samburu County
6. Mumias - Kakamega County
7. Muhoroni - Kisumu County
8. Matungu - Kakamega County
9. Ugenya - Siaya County
10. Ugunja - Siaya County

Quotable

"The amount of money used to "save" The Turkana people in the eighties is estimated to be equivalent to what could be used to feed the people in this County for 200 years."

- Gregory Akal

There is need to take a fresh look and thoroughly reexamine the apparent rush to "save" the Turkana by all sorts of agencies.

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