

Making all Voices Count!

CHILD SURVIVAL

## Governor Promises to Collaborate with NGOs Focusing on Children

Picture by David Ekitala



Turkana County Governor H.E. Josphat Nanok addressing people during the merger of Merlin with Save the Children Organization at Merlin Offices

By David Ekitala

The international NGO Save the Children has officially started working in Turkana County after taking over from

Merlin organization at a merger that was held at the former Merlin offices in Lodwar Town. Save the Children will be involved in activities that promote the welfare of children to enable them lead

meaningful lives. Speaking during the launch, Turkana Governor, Josephat Nanok welcomed the entry of Save Children which he said will work on improving issues affecting children such as malnutrition.

The Governor called on the organization to help the county realize its dream of attaining food security and promised to work together with them in a coordinated manner.

At the same time the county minister for health Hon. Jane Ajele appreciated the good work that has been done by Merlin in Turkana such as providing medicines, nutrition services for malnourished children and capacity building for health workers. She also appreciated the new NGOs for plans to extend the maternity wing at Lodwar Referral Hospital. ■

WATER & SANITATION

## Company Reacts to Lodwar Water Shortage

By Elim Baasha  
Turkana Mirror Reporter

Lodwar Water Supply Company is using generators as an alternative sources of power to end frequent water shortages in the town which is the headquarters of the County government.

Mr. Eipa John Esekon the managing director of LOWASCO told *Turkana Mirror* that the shortage of water has been caused by rationing of electricity by the Kenya Power and Lighting Company. He also added that water from boreholes is first pumped to raised tanks which latter supply different areas through gravity. He said in order for the water to be accessed in all areas the tanks should be full.

LOWASCO Company has seven boreholes. One of the boreholes uses solar power while two boreholes are fixed with power generators. The manager prom-



Mr. John Esekon the managing director of LOWASCO at his office

ised that he is struggling to fix other boreholes with generators which will improve efficiency of water supply.

Turkana County Governor Josephat Nanok while commissioning of ward administrator said that other management will take over if needed to help to improve water supply in the town.

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CONFLICT

### Raiders Injure Two, Steal 8,600 Goats Worth Kshs.34m

By Eripete James

Two people were seriously injured in the recent attacks in Lokwamosing and Lokori Villages. The injured were constructing Akide Djam and were first taken to Lokori Dispensary then referred to Lodwar County Referral Hospital for further treatment.

According to the sub-County peace chairman Mr. Joseph Achuka, nearly 8600 goats and sheep estimated at KShs.34 million were driven away by raiders from a neighbouring county.

The pastoralist had migrated from Lokwamosing to Lokori in search of water and pastures to feed their livestock because of the recent drought which disturbed pastoralists' patterns of grazing.

The community migrated to Lokori after another fatal and massive raid from the neighbor-

Cont'd on page 3

EDUCATION

### UNICEF Creating Child Friendly Learning Environment

By Elim Baasha  
(Reporter Turkana Mirror)

A total of 130 primary schools in Turkana County are expected to gain from Child Friendly Schools where children will be learning in hygienic environment that is safe, clean with attractive compounds and classrooms. The final result is to have schools with children who are healthy, active and keen to learn.

Because of what seems to be continuous low enrollment and high rate of pupil drop-out from schools in Turkana County, UNICEF in collaboration with County government are creating a child friendly learning environment to increase the attention span of children being taught in schools. It is being implemented through training of head teachers and selected teachers from different schools.

Wilson Loyapan the head teacher of Kangirisae Primary School who is now pursuing a degree at Mt. Kenya University said that "I have never undergone through such a training which has proved to be so beneficial to both us teachers and pupils" Loyapan said.

After training, the team urged UNICEF to support them renovate schools, provide balanced diet, clean water and sponsor some of the pupils.

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INFRASTRUCTURE

### County Government Improving Road Network

- 110km Road Commissioned

By Mary Tioko

The County government recently commissioned a 110 kilometre road network to facilitate service provision, trade, and other related socio-economic development activities including security.

Speaking when commissioning the road network the Executive of roads, housing and transport, Hon. Augustine Logiron Tioko, said that County Government decided to open the road network because unlike many other counties in Kenya, Turkana is in dire need of improved road network.

Cont'd on page 2

## ||||| DEVELOPMENT

# County Executive for Education, Human Resource, Culture and Social Services Excels

By Eripete James  
(Turkana Mirror correspondent)

## Background

County Executive in charge of Education, Human Resource, Culture and Social services Mrs. Marget Kuchal, was born in Kakuma, Turkana West sub-county.

She started school at Kakuma Girls Primary School and later joined Our Ladies Secondary School in 1991 for 'O' level. She joined Egoji Teachers College in 1999 and was immediately employed in 2002 serving as a teacher and later became the deputy head teacher in Loyo Primary School. She attended Moi University for a degree in Primary and Early Childhood, education. Currently she is pursuing her Masters in Project Management at Maseno University.

She worked in Lutheran World Federation Department for World Service (LWF/DWS) as registration clerk in 1995 and later joined World Vision Kenya as accounting registration clerk from September, 1997 to 1999.

## Achievements

### Vocational trainings

The county has five Polytechnics namely: Lodwar Youth polytechnic, Kaaleng', Lokori, Kalokol and Kakuma Home Craft. She said Lodwar Youth Polytechnic received 18 modern computers from the ministry. Lokori has received donation of Ksh.300,000 for the renovations and Home Craft in Kakuma. She also received Ksh.200,000



Picture by Eripete James

**Marget Kuchal County Executive Education, Human Resource, Culture and Social Services.**

to cater for electrical system installation in the institution.

The other institutions had not submitted their proposal in time like Kaaleng Youth Polytechnic which had submitted their proposal through their member of County Assembly. She said that fencing will be done to protect the piece of land and construction of classrooms and toilets at Kaaleng' Polytechnic.

### Early Childhood Development (ECD)

The Ministry is planning to construct 60 Early Childhood Development learning centers, two per ward. The ministry has already advertised 150 positions for the ECD teachers. The Classes will be constructed to suit

the standards.

### Bursary

The ministry has set aside Kshs.150 million bursary funds called Turkana County Education Development Funds. Already Kshs.50 million has been disbursed with each ward getting Kshs.1.6m another Kshs.50 million from this have been set aside for the form one and rest of the students left behind.

### Street Children

The minister said that last December she managed to celebrate the Christmas with the street children. The street children proposed to go back to school come the following year. She organized their going back to school this year with the assistance of Nominated MCA of Lodwar Town-

ship Hon. Ruth Kuya. She bought school requirements and they also facilitated their travel to schools.

They have already taken 104 children to Lorugum, Turkana Girls and Napeililim Primary Schools. Last week the Turkana County children's officer Mr. Sammy Korir visited the schools to oversee their progress and will get her the information about their progress from the respective schools. She said that they plan to have County Rescue Rehabilitation Center for rescue purposes and rehabilitation. The community of Nadapal has given them land and UNICEF confirmed they will construct the Centre.

In the social services sec-

tor, the department deals with the people with disability, youth and women. Her office facilitated the election of the disabled persons in the seven sub-counties. The physically challenged persons have submitted their proposals to German organization that will help them set up a multi-resource centre".

The ministry also targets to revive all the historical sites in the county and protect them. She also said that they will renovate Kenyatta line monument as one of the oldest Historical Sites in the County. Last year they hosted national media for one week in Kakwanyang cultural dances in Turkana Central.

All elected youth leaders were trained for life skills at Lodwar Youth Polytechnic. These skills included empowerment, management of the fund, entrepreneurship, micro finances and women on handling of funds.

### Challenges

Turkana county is vast that one executive committee member may not be able to manage and deliver effectively in their docket. Shortage of personnel in the ministry has also slowed down the operations in each department.

Misunderstanding on the use of devolved funds and the roles of each portfolio in the county government.

The system of money disbursement by the national government is slow therefore delaying the implementation of major projects in the county. ■

## ||||| INFRASTRUCTURE

# County Government Improving Road Network

From page 1

The case of new feeder road to Kaimothia Police Station in Kibish Sub-county where the three police officers have been using donkeys as their means of transport is an example of a practical situation that needed a lot of intervention to enhance the working environment conducive for the officers.

The life of the police officers in site is not pleasing due to harsh

conditions which resulted in many resigning and others requesting for transfers as they live up the hill and the community they serve are down the hill.

"It was a surprise for me to use a Government vehicle within the compound for the first time in my four years stay in this police post," said police officer Mr. James Nyongesa. The amazing fact is that the means of transport for these

officers is still one remaining donkey out of four that used to facilitate them in fetching water 20 kilometers downhill from the police post. The road was allocated Kshs.25 million from the county budget.

Kibish sub-County borders Ethiopia and South Sudan, only three officers man this border despite the frequent attacks from Toposa and Merile. "Sometimes we receive injured villagers with wounds but

they die helplessly because there is no means of transport to take them to nearest Kaikor Health Center for medical attention," said Nyongesa. Improved network will also result in food being easily available. In our first issue the Turkana County Governor flagged off 33 vehicles for the facilitation of the county executives in all the seven sub-counties including Kibish ward. ■

## EDUCATION

## School with "Two Classes in One Classroom"



**Kakwanyang's two classes in one. Standard six and seven share one classroom**

**By Joshua Loyanae**

**T**urkana Central's Kakwanyang Primary School exemplifies the many problems facing Turkana County. The school situated off Kalokol road has only three classrooms used by upper primary schools. But what is striking is that two classes are forced to share one classroom, each facing backboards on opposite walls.

According to Mr. Gregory Apedor who is newly posted in the school, the school was established in 2001. The first candidates sat for their examination in 2008. Currently the enrolment of the school stands at 210 with 121 boys and 89 girls.

Shortage of classrooms is just one of the numerous problems facing the school. Standard ones occupy Early Childhood Education class while early child hood developmental class-

es are taught under trees within the school compound. Others are taught under sheds behind the classrooms.

Staffing is a big challenge with only five teachers for the eight classes. Animals like camels and goats roam in the school as there is no fence. Locals frequently trespass the school compound as well. Competition for water is intense because, animals are watered in the school borehole, sometimes resulting to a conflict between the school and the locals.

Toilets that were built in the school through WASH programme by unicef have since collapsed due to the nature of soils and lack of maintenance. Boys are forced to help themselves in the bush as the only two functioning toilets are reserved for teachers and girls.

*Cont'd on page 14*

## WATER &amp; SANITATION

## Company Reacts to Lodwar Water Shortage

**From page 1**

He also promised that the process of drilling other four boreholes was going on at Napuu Village in order to cater the increasing population of the town.

Meanwhile, Beatrice Askul, the County Executive for Energy, Environment, and Natural resource, said that four boreholes at the Napuu are complete and have been installed with solar panels and more water will soon be supplied to the people. She also added that the remaining boreholes will use solar panels as alternative source of power. ■

**Photos: New water borehole at Napuu which will reduce Shortage in Lodwar.**



## INNOVATION

## Alternative Energy Sources to Curb Deforestation



Picture by Elim Baasha

**By Josephine Muya and Elim Baasha**

**S**olar box cooker with cooking pan uses heat from the sun to boil food without pollution.

Turkana County is joining the move towards clean energy and there are various technologies like the above solar box

cooker which traps heat from the sun to cook or boil foods and water. Clean energy technologies are bound to increase in Turkana where trees are minimal and need to be saved to curb both deforestation and desertification in the already arid County. ■

## SECURITY

## Immigration Office at Uganda Border

**By Peter Loregaae**

**T**here are plans to have a new immigration office along the Turkana-Uganda border in a place called Lomokori, a few kilometers from nearby Lokiriamma center. This will help boost development activities and security.

The office was proposed by the national government in coordination with the county government of Turkana. The office was proposed in 2010 during a meeting held at Lokiriamma to bring peace to all Ateger communities that includes Turkana, Karamojong, Toposa, Gia to stop the ongoing insecurity along the borders.

The peace meeting was attended by Ambassador Richard Ekai, Mr Emmanuel Imana and

all the local leaders in this County. The office was to be constructed in 2013 and up to now plans are still ongoing for the project to start. Rural electrification was also proposed and survey work is being conducted to help in the supplying of electricity to the offices and nearby areas.

Insecurity along this border is expected to decline as security personnel will be deployed when the offices are ready. For decades the border has been without an immigration office and this has led to the use of the road to smuggle illegal items and foreigners using the route to enter the county illegally.

Formation of this office will help boost the economy while reducing insecurity. ■

## CONFLICT

## 8,600 Goats Worth Kshs. 34m Stolen

**From page 1**

ing community. These people fled to Lokori for water and pasture where they again have been attacked, Achuka added.

The chairman pleaded with National and County Government, Faith Based Organization and humanitarian agencies to intervene and help restore the lives of the affected families.

He also reported the matter to the relevant authorities for action to be taken against those found culpable. He urged the government through the secu-

rity agencies find the whereabouts of stolen livestock.

The chairman urged leaders of the conflicting communities to shoulder peace talks on conflict resolving mechanisms to curb these unpredicted but frequent raids that leave many families vulnerable and cause loss of lives.

The dam project which was being constructed has definitely stopped because of lack of security in the area and absence of peace in that corridor hindering development along that belt. ■

 CONFLICT

## Kakong Attack Caused Protests



**By Rebecca Odhiambo and Joshua Loyanae**

Following the recent raid at Kakong Turkana South by the suspected raiders from neighbouring county, the area residents blocked roads as a way of protesting and seeking attention from the government. The fresh attack came after Lokori in Turkana East where livestock were driven away leaving two contractors fighting for their lives. The Kakong raid occurred from 4.00am to 5.00pm and left eight people dead and many homes shaken as people lost their livestock to the raiders.

According to County Chairman of Kenya Primary School Heads Teachers Association (KEPSHA), Mr. Losuwat Samuel, who was a passenger in one of the blocked vehicle, the government reluctance steered the affected people to block the roads with stones and thorns. This made Mr. Losuwat to intervene where he called top County officials. Security officers were deployed to the

scene. But before their arrival, the area chief of Kakong Mr. Kangiro and chief of Kainuk Madam Sarah Lochodo convened a reconciliation meeting together with Pastor Lowa who was also a passenger.

The area MP. Hon. James Lomenen arrived after the exchange of fire that left one person dead and another person with serious injuries. He calmed down the raging situation, flagged off the blocked vehicles to proceed to destinations, assured security escorts and remained to grieve with the locals.

"I am appealing to the government that schools along insecurity lines like Todonyang, Kibish, Orum, Kapedo and other hot spots to be protected by deploying officers to ensure safety, as most results are affected by insecurity because the pupils must be merged with those in secured areas. Since the government has given a deaf ear, the County government should take matters seriously to curb insecurity," lamented the chairman of KEPSHA. ■

 ART, CULTURE, HISTORY

## Moruanayece Historical Site

**By Palal Illikwel**

**M**oruanayece is historical site named after a hill where a woman named Atanayece because she had a daughter called Nayece. The woman once lived at a place located in Turkana West. The woman is said to have migrated from the Jie people who are Nilotes from Uganda. She left Jie land to search for water and pastures for her livestock.

The woman found a nice place in Turkana where she decided to live. After a while she found cattle from Jie land grazing and took them with her. The boys from Jie land who came looking for the lost cattle found them on a land where water and pasture was plenty. They decided to stay with the woman for just a short time but later they decided to live there forever hence forgetting their families.

Other men from Jie land were sent to search for the boys and the cows. After some days, the boys were found staying with the woman in a land blessed with water and green pastures. That made them decide to go back and advise other Jie people to migrate to that

land. Some agreed to migrate while others refused. Those who migrated lived happily for a long time and when the woman died after some years others continued to stay on that land.

After a long time, hunger arose, both livestock and people started starving making some to migrate in search of water and pastures. They separated into groups with one going to a place with wild animals. But they decided to stay and made long spears for hunting and named themselves *Ngiwoyakwara* meaning long spears. A group stayed where one had to work very hard searching for food and were called *Ngimeturana* means active people. Other groups came and stayed with people who understood their language and since they were secretive, they decided to speak in parables and were called *Ngi-kamatuk* which means parable speakers.

One group stayed where trees were long and those were named *Ngiwoyakito* which means long trees. The Turkana settled in different places of northern part of Kenya and specifically in Rift Valley region where it is semi-arid. ■

 ART, CULTURE, HISTORY

## Profile: Turkana Musician Sammy Epungure



**By Elim Baasha  
(Reporter Turkana Mirror)**

**O**ne of the greatest gospel artist from Turkana County Sammy Epungure was born in 1978 at Kanamkemer ward.

He started school in 1988 at Napuu primary school, but spent most of his childhood herding his father's cattle. He got saved 2001 in a Callers Spring Church with Pastor Mark Lowaa as his spiritual father and that was the time he felt called to be a musician.

He worked in the construction industry at Kakuma briefly before becoming a musician producing the first album 2008 *Bwana Nielekeze*. and has now produced

40 songs in both Kiswahili and Ngaturkana. He has no sponsor but was introduced to a famous musician called Munish who made him to produce the first video album which made him famous.

Despite being a father of four boys and one girl and husband to one wife he has a vision to reach thousands of people to inform them about the goodness of Jesus through singing.

He is now advising the people who are advancing in music industry to be careful and make sure that they have a true call of gospel music because you may use a lot of money ending up to a regret and paralysis of spirit. □



# SAMMY EPUNGURE

**RE-ADVERTISEMENT:****CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR PROVISION OF FIELD VEHICLES SERVICES IN TURKANA COUNTY**

Tullow Kenya B.V. is a subsidiary of Tullow Oil Plc, Africa's leading independent oil & gas Exploration and Production Company. The Company is in various stages of exploration across its licenses in Kenya with a multi-well drilling campaign underway. Our local content strategy ensures that wherever possible, we source goods and services locally, creating new jobs and supporting the local business community and economy. At Tullow, we are investing in several programmes that aim to build capacity among local businesses. One of the initiatives is the light vehicles ownership scheme.

This is an Expression of Interest (EOI) invitation for a light vehicle scheme in Turkana. The objectives of this EOI are to:

- Identify businesses that wish to own compliant vehicles through the Tullow light vehicles ownership scheme. The businesses will provide those vehicles for service, exclusively to Tullow Oil, through a formal contract of three years
- Identify businesses with vehicles compliant with Tullow's standards, that wish to supply compliant light vehicle services to Tullow under contract.

**Residents of Turkana are particularly encouraged to apply.**

This scheme is open to any individual or enterprise that:

1. Owns vehicles that are compliant with Tullow's standards
2. Does not own a vehicle but can meet Tullow's light vehicle ownership scheme criteria
3. Must be able to provide or be able to lease-to-buy a minimum of three or a maximum of ten compliant vehicles
4. Must be registered as a company in accordance with Kenya laws

Contract Awareness Events will be held in **Lodwar on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May at St. Theresa's**, in **Lokitaung on the 6<sup>th</sup> May at Lokitaung Education Resource Centre**, in **Lokichar on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May at RCEA Guesthouse** and finally at **Lokori on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May at the World Vision Community Building** for those who are interested. This will be to explain the standards required, the scope of work and Tullow's Contracts and Procurement procedures. Businesses that prequalify will then be invited to tender.

**For Companies Interested in providing these services the following information must accompany the EOI****1. For Companies with Compliant Vehicles**

- Name of company and company representatives
- Company details, including registration and tax certificates
- Details of proposed vehicles available for lease and copies of log books

**2. For Companies Interested in the Ownership Scheme**

- Name of company and company representatives
- Company details, including registration and tax certificates

The completed EOI should be submitted not later than **1600hrs on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014**, with subject clearly marked "**EOI: PROVISION OF LIGHT VEHICLES SERVICES**" and sent to the following email address: [newsupplierskenya@tullowoil.com](mailto:newsupplierskenya@tullowoil.com) or drop hard copy applications delivered to;

**Tullow Community Offices in Lokichar, Lokori and Lodwar.**

**Attention: Field Social Performance Manager**

## EDUCATION

## Hundreds of Pupils Migrate to Remote Naipa Primary School

- No Access Road, No Network, 65 KM from Lodwar, Over 700 pupils  
 - Improved performance caused the increase choking Naipa which urgently needs help

By Elim Baasha & Mark Erukudi  
 (Reporters  
 Turkana Mirror)

**N**aipa Primary School is already one of the most crowded day schools in Turkana County. It has 320 pupils excluding overcrowded early childhood classes who push the total to over 700. Yet more are still struggling to get an opportunity to learn despite shortage of classrooms and the apparent need for more teachers.

Mr. Peter Nabuin, the head teacher says that the school has been performing better in the region for three executive years compared to neighboring schools and this has influenced pupils to migrate from those schools and villages to camp at Naipa longing for education.

He added that because some pupils come from distant villages ranging



Peter Nabuin Naipa, Primary School head teacher

from five to eight kilometers they are forced to sleep in classes for security reasons and for the following day he is forced to make local arrangements to provide them with supper.

He also said that the numbers of ECD pupils of about 350 are served by one volunteer teacher. The breaking down of neighbouring ECD classes made the population of our school to soar.

The school is located about 65 kilometers from Lodwar town and five kilometers from Lake Turkana. The place is not accessible by vehicles and there is no network therefore making administration duty hard.

The head teacher is now asking the County Government, Non-governmental organization and Faith Based Organizations for support by giving boarding infrastructure and additional teachers. ■

## EDUCATION

## UNICEF Creating Child Friendly Learning Environment



Head teachers and selected teachers on Child Friendly School undergoing training at Lodwar Lodge

From page 1

Mrs. Josephine Nyangaga, one of the facilitators, told the teachers to think about poor children in remote villages longing for education. She said that more money should be pumped into schools to help the needy.

Mr. Elias Noor, UNICEF program officer for education, said that after the training, the teachers would be awarded certificates and a committee will be formed in collaboration with ministry of education to follow-up to the trainees and see whether they were implementing what was learnt. He promised that UNICEF will be keen to support schools that actively implement

the programme on child friendly learning environment.

He said that 67 primary schools in Turkana Central will benefit from the programme focusing on creation of Child Friendly Schools. Turkana South will have 19 schools in the programme while four sub-Counties including Loima, Turkana East, Turkana North and Turkana West will each have ten schools. Kibish will have four schools.

This program was launched in Turkana County in November 2013 at Kanamkemer Primary School and the training of trainers started in February 2014 held at Lodwar Lodge. ■

## EDUCATION

## Turkana West MP Wants More Boarding Schools

By Nancy Aemun

**A** member of parliament has called for the conversion of more day schools to boarding so as to increase the enrolment of students in Turkana County.

Hon Daniel Nanok Epuyo says most of the children are from poor families and one way to keep them in school is through boarding. He was speaking during education and prize-giving day held at Our Lady's Secondary School in Turkana West.

He said that there is peace in the sub-county even along the border with South Sudan. Hon Epuyo thanked stakeholders like Windle Trust and requested them to offer full scholarship to students up to university level.

Member of county assembly Kakuma, Mr. Patrick Losike Lokaimoe, blamed unnecessary transfer of teachers for the poor performance by student in last year's KCSE results in Turkana West. He said most of the vacancies are prompted by newly transferred teachers from other regions who immediately leave without replacement.



While congratulating Our Lady's Secondary School for their improved performance, Mr. Lokaimoe was more concerned about the fluctuating results of St. Leo Secondary School over the last three years.

Sub-county administrator Margaret Nalemusekon encouraged students to work hard and be serious in their studies. She said that she is expecting best result this year, and a good number of students to join university.

Deputy Speaker of the County Assembly Hon Philip Ekuwam insisted

that 2014 should be different from 2013. He said that the mean grade of Turkana West sub-county must improve from D plus. He told both teachers and students to put more effort and tighten their belts for better results.

**Selected summary for KCSE and KCPE 2013 in Turkana West Sub-County:**

Overall three best boys KCPE 2013:

1. Halaja Musa Mgasa (Palotaka) 392
2. Lokuyono E. Michael (AIC)

Lopiding) 392

3. Auru Tito Lokeer (Kakuma Mixed) 383.

Overall three best girls KCPE 2013:

1. Aguer Debora (Anjalina Jollie) 396
2. Yassin Mohammed Naimo (Bharel Naam) 374
3. Hibak Abdulahi Farah (Luma 2000 Academy) 373.

Most outstanding head teachers and the schools mean score:

1. Faustino Muge(St Cosmas Napopongoit) 309.23
2. Bernard Ngipuo (AIC Lokichogio mixed) 300.87
3. John Ngikito(St Brigid Losajait) 299.43

Three best secondary schools – KCSE 2013:

1. Our Lady's girls 4.723
2. St Leos 4.5781
3. Songot 4.5

Best improved school – Tarach Secondary from 0.2942 to 3.3092

The best three boys with their mean grades:

1. Yassi Abdurrahman B(plus) 70
2. Ras Ahas Tamun B(plus) 69
3. Peter Ikebek B(plain) 65



# Turkana Mirror Editorial

LEADING PUBLICATION ON CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

## Cross-border Raids Threaten County's Development Efforts

**A**lready things are beginning to change as the new County government entrenches its development programmes. However, although we can't always continue moaning about the past, Turkana has been marginalized from independence. The County needs peace to initiate development projects if it is to win the war against poverty, diseases, hunger, poor infrastructure, inadequate housing, few schools and colleges, lack of clean water and other aspects of basic human needs and rights as stated in the constitution.

Without peace and elimination of cross-border raids the emerging efforts to uplift the living standards and the wellbeing of the people will bear minimal results. It is the duty of the national and County governments to eliminate conflicts that maim, kill and destroy property thus hindering development activities. Efforts to end cross-border raids should include input from various local, national and international organizations including UN agencies that are keen on conflict prevention and resolution.

In short the ambitious plans to initiate development projects should be backed by peace and security and this is more than the short term efforts noted whenever raids occur. There is need to improve communication between security officials and the local people who naturally feel neglected and unprotected whenever cross border raids occur resulting in loss of lives and thousands of livestock.

The national government should be in a position to know where such large numbers of livestock end and this should be appropriately communicated to the victims or affected people to curb the deep-seated belief

that raiders act on behalf of big people and of those who transport and sell stolen livestock in major towns, cities and even export outside Kenya. Over the years Turkana has lost livestock worth hundreds of millions of shillings and the related impact pushes the cost to billions.

In other words the County, which will soon emerge as Africa's major source of clean energy and petroleum, needs a peaceful environment to exploit the newly discovered natural resources in a sustainable manner, guided by policies that are first beneficial to the local communities and the country at large.

The Turkana County government which faces more challenges than other counties, is already quietly working very hard when compared to others. However, endless raids will retard development efforts especially in the fields of education, agriculture, health, infrastructure and tourism apart from leaving many orphans, widows and helpless elderly people to mention a few.

UN agencies, Faith-based Organizations, private sector or investors,

development partners and all others keen on having projects or investments in various parts of Turkana will not do so if security is not ensured. Efforts like those by UNICEF to have Child Friendly Schools will not succeed if raids are not stopped and pupils do not have to run away from schools that are also targets of some raiders.

It has to be repeated that insecurity in Turkana County and others need to be given similar attention directed at terrorism and be solved through policies that will end the tragedy as soon as possible.

Apart from the emerging petroleum resources, the whole country stand to gain if Turkana's wind power, solar energy, geothermal energy and the world's vast underground water resources are

sustainably exploited without fear or insecurity.

However, there is need for continued contacts among local leaders, elders, politicians, security officers, religious leaders, experts and all

others from the County and neighbours who are keen to stop frequent insecurity that threaten much needed development activities.

The need for improved communication will help inject trust among various players especially with security officers who often find it very hard to cope with vast hostile terrains with little or no transport. Increased contacts and communication will curb incidences where those who are the victims end up being portrayed as the aggressors when they direct their anger at the government officials.

It has to be said that although the history of the struggle for Kenya's freedom can't be written without mentioning Turkana, there is need to end what colonialists did by systematically stifling development in Turkana. It is a trend that seemed inherited from the colonialists who used Turkana as a springboard to help defeat Italians attempting to expand their occupation of Ethiopian into the Horn of Africa during the Second World War. After the war the colonialists were only concerned with disarming the Turkana people despite cross-border raids by some communities from the three neighbouring countries and even those from within the country and situation has not changed much.

However, with the ongoing devolution there is light at end of the tunnel and it should be possible for the national, Turkana County government and those of neighbouring counties to help stop the raids and this can easily be extended through dialogue to nations bordering Turkana. Our security experts and officials must go back to the drawing board. □

*The ambitious plans to initiate development projects should be backed by peace and security and this is more than short term efforts whenever raids occur. There is need to improve communication between security officials and the local people who naturally feel neglected and unprotected...*

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REGION
East
South
West
West
Central
South
North
Loima
North
Central



## Toposa and Turkana Bury the Hatchet

By Nancy Aemun

**T**urkana and Toposa of South Sudan have buried the hatchet following the recent peace talks held at Natumamong, Lokichogio, Turkana County. The meeting was held at the peak of the festive season before backing the Atanayece monument peace moratorium.

Leaders from the two communities blamed the top security personnel from the two governments of prevailing over insecurity. The constitution of Kenya clearly says that it is the mandate of the state to protect its citizens from all forms of human rights violation.

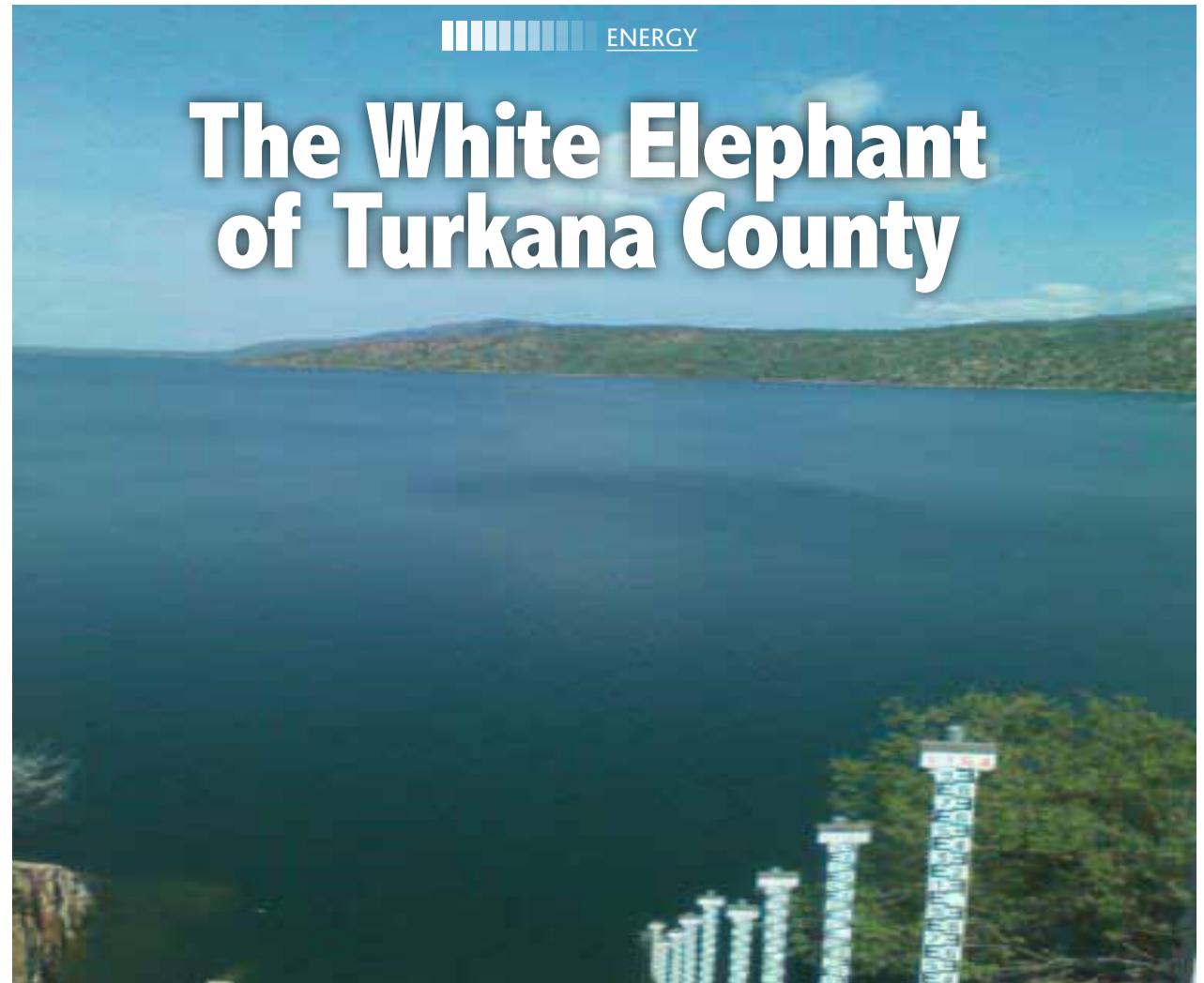
Those who came together with the district commissioner of Turkana West were the Toposa leaders and council of elders, government officials, Turkana Kraal leaders and the County peace ambassador.

Government leaders from the two communities appreciated the effort put by the two organizations LOKADO and LOPEO, to bring different communities for peace talks. However, the communities know that there is punishment whenever they stage raids.

Warriors and elders were happy about the resolutions made during the event where they promised to cooperate and promote peace in the area. Both agreed that they will not entertain livestock theft or any conflict between them. They promised to interact with each other more frequently and allow movement of livestock and people in the border area. ■



## The White Elephant of Turkana County



By Beatrice Aule

**M**ore than 20 years after it was constructed, the Turkwel Gorge Hydroelectric power station in Turkana has been reduced to a white elephant by the very people who should have benefited from the project.

The problem is traced back to tension, that escalates daily in Lorogon village following persistent attacks between two

communities, which affected the operation of the power plant. The Turkwel Dam was to empower both Turkana and Pokot local communities neighboring the power plant.

The worst attack was witnessed on September 2011 after armed militia surrounded Lorogon village to flush out the other community from the area, where a watchman was killed causing Turkwel Power plant

to shift operations to Kitale. Following recurrent differences between members of the two communities, only one has been left to "rule" the place. Fearing for their lives, the employees have left their jobs at the dam, because their homes were vandalized. It has taken increased security to guard the facility and key equipment, hence forcing the company to scale down its operations. □



## Flooded Kawalase Endangering Lives

By Eyan Eric

**T**urkana has been affected by so many natural calamities including floods, drought and famine. However, the plans to prevent these problems have never succeeded and many people are suffering from the impact of these preventable natural calamities with the government being slow in response.

A good example is the Kawalase seasonal river which



no one bothers about when it is dry but when it rains, the river causes destruction and displacement of people in the nearby villages of Nabute, Napetet and often prevents vehicles crossing to Kalokola or Kakuma, said by Mr. Ejikon, an elder Nabute village

Recently a loaded Canter was swept by the flooded river when the driver attempted to cross heading to Kakuma. Goods worth Kshs.400,000 were destroyed. □



Picture by Eyan Eric

Above photo: The outlook of river Kawalase

Photo Inset: A loaded Canter being swept away by flooded Kawalase River

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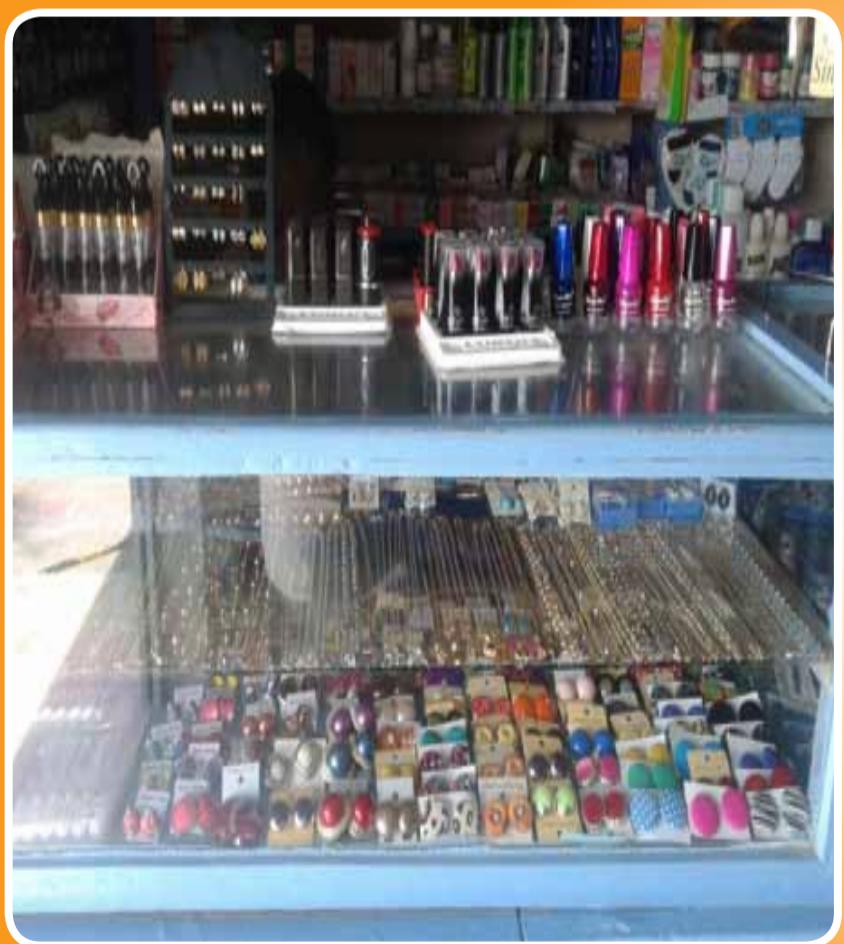
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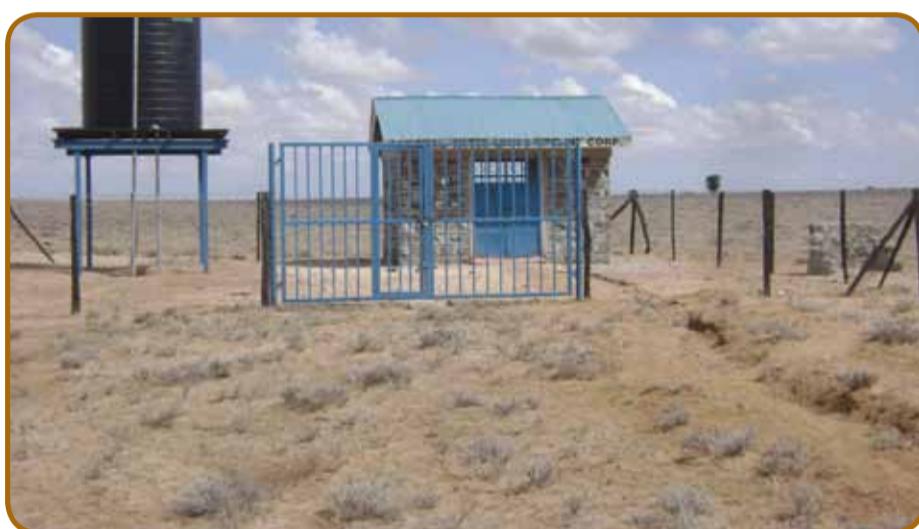
# Turkana Mirror Pictorial



Senator Hon. John Munyes heads Turkana delegation on peaceful coexistence and sharing of pasture with Uganda counterparts



Roads supervisor Mr. Barasa assessing road supported by TUBAE under CDTF-CEF opening access to Loima forest.



Water source for the proposed site to the County resource and cultural centre constructed by TUBAE through CDTF-CEF grant



Youth involved in vegetable farming visited by TUBAE staff during 1st semester project monitoring



Hon. Charles Lokiyoto Public service Executive member with Turkana Mirror correspondents at County government offices Lodwar



Kaputir primary school benefits from distribution of sanitary towels supported by TUBAE through PRAGYA



The County Executive member for Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Hon. Rhoda A. Loyor with departmental heads from National government devolved and County officers during Forest International day in Lodwar in improving vegetation cover in the ecosystems.



Kshs. 60,000.00 grant to Letea Aloe management unit for production of Aloe bitter gum by TUBAE

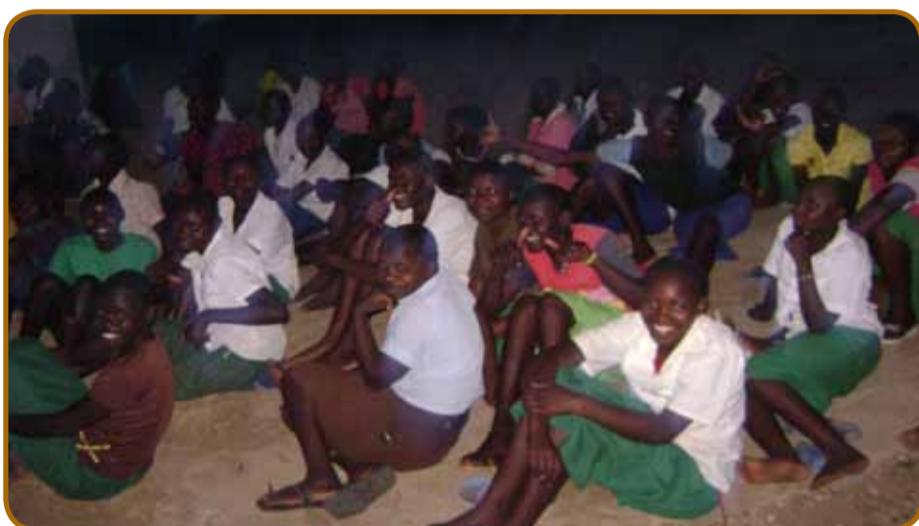
# Turkana Mirror Pictorial



Juluk scheme officials supported by CDTF-CEF project through TUBAE



Ministry vision launch exhibition by KFS officers



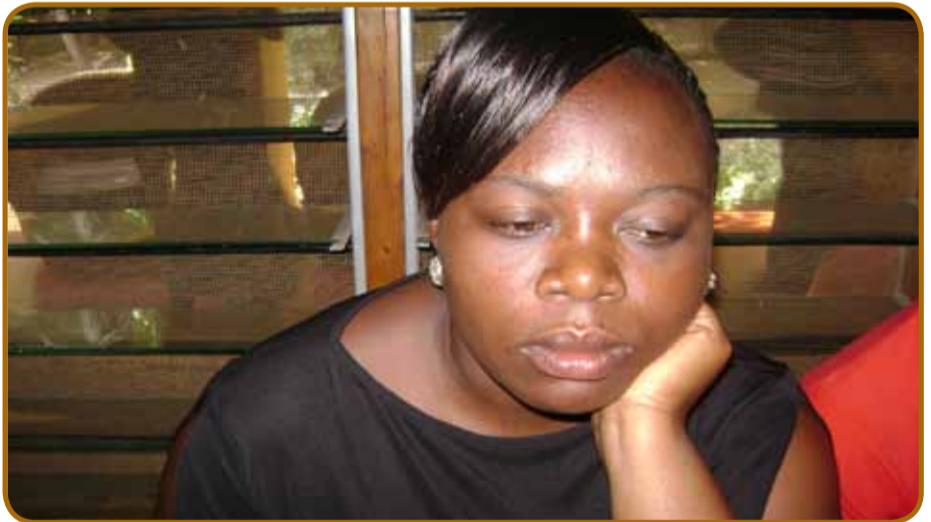
Kaputir primary schools carrier talk by TUBAE staff



Kalemungorok bio aloe organization members with Crop officer at their farm in Turkana South.



Tip of Hill Anayece visited by TUBAE, KFS and KeRRA



Bensuda of Turkana County (Rebecca Odhiambo) enhancing family life education through Turkana Mirror



Martha beneficiary of Juluk scheme struggling to weed the farm after ploughing support by TUBAE



TUBAE conducting health education and counselling in Nabulon primary school in Turkana central sub-county

# Ministry Leads Residents in County Afforestation

By Emma Ekutan

As members of the County Assembly execute their oversight role in service delivery, the County Executive Member for energy, environment and natural resources takes lead in improving service delivery to the residents.

The ministry has for the last three weeks has been tirelessly sensitizing the public through radio, field visits of degraded areas, identification of potential sites for tree planting and structural set up for both fauna and flora conservation and the launching of its vision. Speaking during the launch of the Ministry vision Hon. Rhoda Loyor informed the public of the devolved functions of Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) and Renewable Energy Department in Turkana County.

The County Executive also led her departments and environment stakeholders in exhibitions of various forest products, enhancing county capacity on planting bamboo and setting of environmental committees at sub-county level.

The minister expressed her commitment to supporting initiatives aimed at enhancing value addition and sustainable exploitation of natural resources to alleviate poverty. She said technical persons had been trained in the county on bamboo propagation and value addition to enable the County explore technologies that has made China one of the leading economies in the world which is attributed in part to bamboo management.

She also assured Turkana West residents of the ministry's commitment to harnessing solar power to pump water from boreholes during a field visit in the region. The solar plant will increase access to clean and safe water and reduce the long journeys in search of water thus contributing to the achievements of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Ministry anchors on environmental conservations, technological development, weather forecasting and sustainable utilization of energy and other natural resources and focuses on ensuring that synergy and linkages have been achieved through the established strategic objectives, mission and vision.

Under the devolved County system, KFS now focuses on conserving and sustainably managing forestry resources for socio-economic development, NEMA

supervises and coordinates all matters relating to environment, KWS focuses on conservation and management of wildlife resources, KEFRI conducts research in forestry and dissemination of information for decision making and action. The Meteorological Department forecasts and provides meteorological information and services for the safety of life, protection of property and conservation of the natural environment in ensuring sustainable development and agriculture while department energy and petroleum is charged with provision of clean, sustainable and affordable energy.

The ministry has managed to draft and formulate a policy document that has been finalized and ready to be presented to the county assembly. It has also launched beautification of urban centers with 800 seedlings planted in various County offices and strategy to steer campaigns and capacity building on the importance of environmental conservation & sustainability. A secretariat that is tasked with the responsibility of conducting designs of the proposed solar installation in schools, health facilities and water points has also been formed.

This was done to ensure equal distribution of county resources, reduce duplication and promote equity. Under electrification, and increased access to power, the ministry is in negotiation with Rural Electrification Authority (REA) to connect power from Lokichar to Lodwar. The County government had allocated Kshs. 100 million which is not sufficient under its FY2013- 2014.

The County government through the ministry of Energy, environment and natural resources with development partners intend to; Establish a waste treatment plants in urban centers. The identification of sites has been in Lodwar and Kakuma.

The ministry is reviewing environmental impact assessment reports on various projects and making of follow ups, Formation and equipping of sub-county environmental management committees, Formation and gazettlement of the county environmental management committees has been done pending gazettlement. Street lighting project in the Lodwar central business district and its environs is underway. The ministry also appreciates efforts done by local partners in promoting environmental education where the office has approved establishment of environmental resource centre in Lodwar township by TUBAE- African Development Trust. The public will learn about new technologies and demonstration on value addition. ■



The County Executive member for Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Hon. Rhoda A. Loyor with departmental heads from National government devolved and County officers during Forest International Forest Day in Lodwar focusing on improving vegetation cover in the ecosystems.



Bamboo training in Nairobi attended by Turkana County representatives, demonstration of nursery establishment of the great valuable plant which has increased economy of China to 1st country economy.



Electronic weaving machine used to make bamboo wall curtains illustrated in KEFRI Karura



The Executive Member for Energy and Environment Hon. Rhoda Loyor, Chief Officer Mr. Joseph Epuu and Kakuma residents at a bore hole proposed to be solar powered by the Ministry to make water access closer to the people.

# Turkana Women Excel at Moulding Glass

## - Workshop on Bead Making

By Mary Tioko

Glass making is a new art that has re-emerged after a century of total eclipse. Generally, glass consists of silica, soda ash and either lime or lead oxide. All these ingredients are naturally occurring and are relatively cheap. Glass as a product on the other hand is very attractive, expensive and luxurious.

Despite its solid nature glass is actually a super cooled liquid. In Kenya, naturally formed glass can be found in much of the Rift Valley in the form of obsidian rocks. Turkana lies in the Rift Valley.

Traditionally, the Turkana have loved adorning themselves with beads. It is evident that the role of the bead in the contemporary social, cultural, religious, economic and political life of the Turkana is enormous and that the influence of post modernity and the availability of other gems for aesthetic and other uses, could not wipe away the bead as the main jewellery of the Turkanas.

The greatest economic value of beads is in its production and marketing. Empowering Turkana women to produce their own beads in Lodwar makes a lot of economic sense since they are one of the largest consumers of beads in Kenya.

Today, glass use is a statement of modernity and class. Its use has permeated every facet of our lives. Its consumption as a product has also led to a lot of waste matter associated with its brittleness.

Recycling of the waste glass in Turkana, can be a good opportunity for cultural expression, community development and clean up of the environment. Other than glass, the beads project also utilises waste rubber soles and empty aluminium soda cans.

Gilbert Ouma, a multi-talented Designer artist working with the National Museum of Kenya, coordinates the project. He uses his art and design skills to promote culture and heritage. His creativity is largely inspired by Northern Kenya cultural landscape.

In the past he has organized and facilitated art workshops for a community of displaced Turkana residents whose livelihood and culture is disrupted by perennial cross border killings at Todonyang' on the Kenyan-Ethiopian border. He also designs T-shirts to create awareness of the situation in Todonyang' which are sold to raise money for school going children in Turkana.

In this workshop he partners with Kudjo Owusu, an internationally renowned Ghanaian artist and respected custodian of traditional Ghanaian glass bead making knowledge. This has been passed to him through the generations. Kudjo is a great grand-



son of the first king of Ashanti in Ghana. He has travelled all over the world sharing his skills in glass bead making for economic empowerment among marginalised communities.

Am grateful to Fr. Joseph and Fr. Steven for their facilitation, leadership and direction and for hosting the workshop.

The recent workshop was for four weeks in which 17 participants were trained in glass bead making by casting using clay moulds. They also learned to build their own kiln and other aspects of bead decoration.

The participants were from Our Lady of Fatima group from Lodwar, Maria Gorreti Group from Kakuma and St Teresa, the Child of Jesus Women Group of Lowarengak. These groups were interested and are already doing bead work. They are doing rosaries and they now have an opportunity to design and sell their own beads. We also had an artist from Lodwar taking part in the workshop.

The workshop was held in Lodwar at the St Augustine Cathedral. Lodwar has been chosen due to the readily available glass waste. To make the Turkana beads from Lodwar would provide direct gain through employment and opening creativity business opportunities. Beads are a valuable part of the Turkana culture for which they are world renown for and everyone

appreciates. The Turkanas outlook have for over time influenced world fashion and making their own jewellery would provide direct entry into the prestigious fashion jewelry scene. Ajuma Nasenyana a renown Ford model is a good ambassador of the Turkana cultural look.

There also exists in Kenya a popular bead culture among the youth and in Lodwar it is more vibrant. Lodwar grapples with litter problems and the beads will be made from glass litter discarded into the streets and waste collected from glass cutting shops. The collection of the glass will also provide employment to those involved in the exercise.

Bottles and other glass items are first washed and sorted by colours. They are then broken into small fragments for making translucent beads, or pounded with a metal mortar and pestle, and sieved to get a very fine powder for making powder glass beads. Glass powder of different colours is obtained using ceramic dyes.

### Objectives of the workshop

- To introduce locally viable and sustainable methods and techniques of making and recycling glass to make Turkana beads.
- To capacity build the local women and girls by giving them direct gain in making and sell-

ing the highly sought beads and by sharing experiences in local and international art and design industry.

- Tap into a readily available creativity pool to advance lives economically and culturally.
- Provide an assured means of earning livelihood that can be readily replicated in other villages thereby sparking regional growth.
- Offer a environmentally friendly alternative to earning livelihoods to town dwellers.

### Expected Results

- Revolutionary production of high quality glass beads and products of high aesthetic and authentic appeal at a vantage point where it is most needed, easily accessible and at an optimum price.
- Demystifying bead making to unlock its potential in wealth creation in different paradigms by creating increased awareness of traditional and contemporary methods and techniques available for the production of jewellery.
- Impact on wealth, health and culture by creating opportunities for families and communities.
- An improved appreciation of the environment and its exploitation to create wealth.
- Appreciation of the fashion and jewellery industry and its role in nation building and identity.
- Increase capacity building among local players in the handicraft and basketry cottage industry by exploiting alternative raw materials.
- Increased awareness among stakeholders on the need to urgently adopting skills and traditional knowledge for increased biodiversity conservation.

### Process

#### Production & Marketing

Beads are typically described as small sculptured balls, colourful, symmetrical, often quite beautiful, and perforated for stringing. They may be strung into necklaces and bracelets or attached to clothing or furnishings.

To make glass beads, bottles and other glass items are first washed and sorted by colours then stored on racks.

They are then broken into small pieces, pounded with a metal mortar and pestle, and then graded by sieving.

Small pieces are used to make translucent beads. The finest powder is used for making powder glass beads. Ceramic dyes are

*Cont'd on page 20*

# More higher learning Institutions Needed

By **Rebecca Odhiambo**

**T**he demand and need of technology specialists surpasses the supply by far. In this dynamic and ever changing world, individual potentiality should enable one to compete fairly with other people around the world, now that via technology the world is a global village. The government from colonial era sidelined and neglected Turkana as it did other marginalized areas.

In Turkana Kenya Medical Training Centre and Lodwar Polytechnic being the only surviving government medical institutions of higher learning.

The K.C.S.E certificate can enable one acquire a good job with an NGO in the county but not compete with others nationally. Now that the exam results are out, parents and post candidate should note wide range of the courses offered in the institutions available.

The first tertiary educational centre was Lodwar Youth Polytechnic that was started by the Catholic

Church in 1976 as a vocational training centre for basic skills. The missionaries volunteered as teachers until 1987 when the first African, Mr. Immanuel imana was employed by the church.

The workshops have continued but tools for practical work are not enough. According to Titus Ekiropa, the principal, the institute is understaffed and more classrooms are needed for theory lessons.

The community does not embrace the learning while the training centre has produced potential youth that are either employed in public or private sector or self-employed like Shitema Garage Bosongo Garage and Lotule just to mention but a few.

The institution offers: motor vehicle mechanics, appropriate carpentry and joinery, electrical wire man, fashion design & fabrication, hair dressing & beauty therapy, plumbing and pipe fitting and information communication & technology.

Kenya Medical Training College was started in 2000 and has so far been

*Kenya Medical Training College was started in 2000 and has so far been offering two courses. However, being a national institution, intakes is always conducted at the national level. Due to geographical set up of Turkana County, the institution is understaffed as most people have a negative attitude about the location because incidences of insecurity and long distance travel.*

offering two courses. However, being a national institution, intakes is always conducted at the national level. Due to geographical set up of Turkana County, the institution is understaffed as most people have a negative attitude about the location because incidences of insecurity and long distance travel.

Nursing is done to certificate level but the district hospital is not very busy hence forcing students to travel to other counties for practical assignment. The institute offers: Nursing and community health nutrition at certificate and diploma level.

On the other hand, private institutions that offer various courses are also available. Mount Kenya University that was started in 2011 came as a blessing and a great relief to Turkana County. It broke the chain of travelling to "downy" for a mere certificate course. This has made MKU Lodwar campus grows in leaps and bounds as the towns professionals can further their

studies easily. The courses offered are: business and public management, social science, law, health science, Pharmacy, nursing, pure and applied sciences and education.

The eight core courses are subdivided into different departments. The university offers courses from certificate, diploma, degree, masters or doctor of philosophy depending with academic background.

Last year, Eldoret Technical Training Institute opened its branch in Lodwar and are offering affordable courses. Their courses include computing and information studies, business and accountancy, tourism/airport operations, mass communication, engineering, agriculture and safety, community and social science and teacher education. These courses are offered from certificate to higher diploma and are sub-divided into different departments.

The coming of these institutions has shed timely light into the county educational sector. ■

## School with "Two Classes in One Classroom"

From page 3

But Mr. Apedor has an ambitious plan to turn around the school's fortunes. He has proposed to have boarding facilities in the school to boost enrolment and performance. The World Food Programme has been providing food for the school which doubles up as a feeding centre. Availability of food in tied to attendance with pupils tending to turn up at the school towards lunch time. The school currently has 19 KCPE candidates consisting of 10 girls and 9 boys.

Mr. Charles Njeru who is in charge of WFPs school feeding program, advised standard eight pupils to work hard to lift their families out of poverty noting

that success is based on education.

Mr. James Loote an ECD Teacher at Kakwanyang Primary School has a total enrolment of 112 including 63 boys and 49 girls and is determined to impart education amid the challenges. He teaches his class in the open ground under tree. Loote cited the lack of teaching materials for ECDE and lack of classrooms as his main challenges.

When it rains, classes are terminated and children run home to find shelter, classes also start late during cold weather, he noted. He pointed out that when food is brought the attendance rises and pressed for the construction of classes and food stores to counter these problems. ■



A toilet that has collapsed at Kakwanyang Primary school.

 FISHING

# Hazards of Fishing in Lake Turkana

By Beatrice Aule

The story of fishing communities at Kalokol Impressa village on Lake Turkana is a series of dramatic episodes of survival between man, nature and animals mostly crocodiles.

One evening after whole day fishing in the Lake, Ekipetot Esenkon stooped to remove his net from water only to realize the net was stuck to *Mathenge* thorny tree as he tried to pull out, his efforts bore no fruit. Ekipetot jumped inside the water to untangle the net unaware that his life laid on the edge. Suddenly he was gripped by the teeth of a hungry crocodile.

He screamed as he struggled to free himself from the crocodile's teeth. By good luck the other fishermen came to his rescue. He was one of the few lucky survivors from crocodile attacks in the fish rich lake. Many other fishermen have not been that fortunate.

A number of fishermen have been killed by Marile tribesmen from Ethiopia. This happens when the wind in the lake is too strong and blows their boats off course into dangerous territory of the Marile people. Given these challenges only a few women have dared to defy the ordeals on

the lake and taken up fishing to earn a living," says Ester Eyanae Esinyen, one of women who fish in the lake.

Fishing in Lake Turkana depends on the time and seasons. During the early moon, more fish is caught by the fishermen hence increase their income. They have been receiving assistance from the national government through the beach management unit. This has included supply of nets and life jackets. The fishermen call upon the County Government to put more clean water taps because they are forced to drink directly from the lake, whose salty water has been proven harmful.

The spread of the *Mathenge* plant along the lake is posing danger to the fishermen because they create breeding ground for crocodiles and also the thorns tear their fishing nets.

Despite all these challenges, fishing remains the main economic activity in the lake. The most popular fish are tilapia, mudfish and Nile perch. In addition to being consumed, part of intestines of Nile perch is processed into various products including surgical thread and fat from the mud fish is also processed and used for medicinal purposes.

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 SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Breakthrough from Poverty Cycle?

By Joshua Loyanae

Sponsorship for students from vulnerable groups including orphans and other disadvantaged persons in Kapedo received a boost after Pepfar scholar organization Kenya, paid fees for 15 students at Kapedo Mixed Secondary School. Each student got Ksh.10,000 amounting to Ksh 150,000. The cheque was presented to Mr. Namunwa, principal of the school.

Mr. Walter Otieno who is the chairman of board of directors of the organization, said the project targets orphans, students who perform well and vulnerable families not able to pay fees for their children. He said the project will run for four years.

Fifteen more students were to be identified before the start of the second term to bring to 30 the total number of those to benefit this year.

Other projects in the pipeline include drilling of a borehole in the



Members of the new committee expected to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable groups in Kapedo.

school and possible introduction of greenhouse farming for Nadome Youth Group to grow vegetables such as kale, tomatoes and onions to sell

to the community.

Thanking the organisation, the chairperson of the youth group, Miss Faith Kamaro Ngicha, informed Mr

Otieno that because of salty water, the area needs reverse osmosis machine to purify all kind of impurities and salts to make the water safe for drinking.

For the last 20 years, various committees manned by a few individuals have never made any meaningful impact to the needs of the community in development. In the past, a few individuals have taken all responsibilities from the community resulting to more suffering by making wrong decisions without consulting them.

"No single committee has ever been elected but only appointed excluding public participation," said Corinzen Lotulia who is the secretary of the group. He cited non participation of the public, nepotism and corruption as among the challenges that retard community development.

"Our group is determined to make a change in the community when the project rolls out its activities," he said.

# Devolution Forum Conference Reviewed

**By Eliud Emeri (TUBAE-  
Devolution Turkana County)**

The recent devolution forum conference brought together over 200 key stakeholders implementing devolution among the civil society organizations and media sector across Kenya to reflect on the current status of devolution and enable them to raise awareness and sensitize the public on the status and importance of devolution, in making them custodians whose end results is to call for good leadership, coordination and cooperation in the two levels of governments; County and National.

The forum which was opened by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) senior advisor on monitoring, evaluation and partnerships Ms. Sandra Diesel and Amkeni wa Kenya development partners expressed their support to Kenya citizens in realization and operationalization of devolution. She emphasized on Chapter 11 being a guideline as reference in the Kenya Constitution. She added and engaged stakeholders; "how has devolution impacted to citizens? Has delivery improved? If not how can it be improved?" she paused questions to the plenary as food for thought.

In making it people driven guests' speakers were drawn from government institutions, commissions, private sector and public benefit organizations with wide experience in the selected themes on financing services under devolved governments, successful intergovernmental relations, public participation in the county governance and recommendations to uphold implementation of the

Constitution to the latter. The stakeholders expressed their concerns and paused numerous questions to Senator of Elgeyo Marakwet Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen; expressing their concerns on how the national government and political arm wants to kill devolution.

In reference to the 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2010 when Kenyans exercised their sovereign right by overwhelmingly adopting the current Kenya Constitution, this marked the end of a long perilous journey towards a new constitutional dispensation. The constitution entrenches devolved government by guaranteeing a minimum unconditional transfer of functions to counties. Citizen adopted the constitution because they wanted to bring government closer to the people so that they can better communicate their needs clearly ensure that government responds to their priorities.

Kenyans have now known that the effective implementation of devolved governance will not be a smooth process. It is evident that there are certain nascent issues that seem to pose a serious threat to devolution. These include a poor functional assignment process; lack of clarity of roles, intergovernmental relations wrangles; lack of comprehensive capacity building; lack of and even un-coordinated public participation; and poor oversight by certain institutions.

County governments will not be exceptional if these challenges continue to persist. Members of the public across the Country, Turkana included cited top-down decision making, inefficient service delivery, mismanagement of public funds, marginalization of minorities and



**The devolution forum held in Nairobi Safari Park on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 to enhance citizen participation.**

unresponsive governance.

Members of the public in Lodwar who were interrogated expressed their appreciation to the civil society for the initiative they did last year which gave direction to the County government in respect and enforcement of the County Government Act.

The two petitions presented to the County Assembly in May and June, 2013 resulted to hiring of the current public service board. Despite County Assembly adopting the full list of the Executive members, members of the public are still not contented with service delivery. They are urging the county executives to speed up implementation of the County integrated development plan for development to be seen.

The public also commented on the misuse of public vehicles which

are used at night and being parked in clubs. They appeal to the County government to come up with a regulatory framework on how vehicles should be used at the County and ward level. The community social auditors and citizen journalists also expressed their concern on how ward administrators vehicles are always found in Lodwar throughout the month which makes the public wonder, how many days do they spend in their respective wards?

This is after submitting a record of some ward and executives vehicles which are being used at night, number plates, time and place found. The drivers and authorizing officers need to know that public are now enlightened. Tax payers are enlightened and monitoring their funds and assets use which must be done in a responsible manner. □

## TOURISM

### 15 Seconds Eclipse Brought the World to Turkana

**By Beatrice Aule**

It may be too soon to forget but thousands of visitors including scientist, astronomers, eclipse chasers, tourist both local and foreign, were all here to experience the total solar eclipse on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2013 for about 15 seconds. Alongside Lake Turkana the visitors experienced world class desert safaris while touring the cradle of mankind and the entire tourist circuit of Turkana County only to witness the sobering historical circle in the universe.

This event coincidentally occurred just a month before the celebration of Kenyan's at 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in

Sibiloi National park which is a world heritage site as home to the cradle of mankind. Turkana provides locations with the best sites for eclipse viewing and visitors could capture the moment on land or modern boats over the simmering Lake Turkana and even by hot air balloons.

"This is a perfect opportunity to not only savor this unique phenomenon but also get a chance to explore the northern part of Kenya by encouraging local, regional and international tourist by the taking advantage offered by local tour operators to be part of this spectacular event," said Phyllis Kandie, cabinet secretary commerce and tourism. □

## ACCIDENT

### Two Seriously Injured as Well Collapses

**By Nancy Aemun and Rebecca Odhiambo**

Eight people narrowly escaped death when a well collapsed in Turkana west. Two people who were seriously injured were taken to Kakuma mission hospital for treatment. Locher Amoni water point is one of the most reliable water source during drought. Though it has been injuring people and killing yearly the locals have no alternative but to use it repeatedly.

"We were very lucky this time. In the past several people died in the same well. Last year five people died in the well while fetching water" said Miss Amiiny

Kiapa one of the villagers. The well which has killed many, is also a target of raiders and intruders. It is very deep and has weak walls of soil. More than ten people are required to fetch less than five litres of water at a time. The residents are appealing to the county government, especially the governor to intervene so that boreholes can be constructed to save lives and livestock during the drought. Security personnel should be deployed at the site. They lamented that water which is life has been a strong point during campaigns and after votes nothing is done. □

FAMILY MATTERS

# Stable Family: Sanctuary of Love and Life

By **Rebecca Odhiambo**

**F**ifteen couples recently attended a workshop at St. Teresa Pastoral Centre to be ambassadors of Family Life.

This is a programme started by the Catholic Church to support families to be stable, sanctuary of love and life that emulating the holy family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus.

This programme has four major phases. The first one is the Natural Family Planning (NFP). This is the method approved by the Roman Catholic Church in accordance with requirement for sexual behaviour keeping with the dignity of the human persons as advocated by the church.

According to National Family Life coordinator of Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops General Secretariat, Mrs. Theresa Mera Abura, who led the workshop "the artificial family planning method is expensive and has side effects, hence not healthy as it kills the urge of

natural love that is behind conjugal life". It also encourages promiscuity for instance married women accepting to sleep with someone in what is known as "mpango wa kando" to get extra coins and this is where they either use condoms or the morning pills, she said.

"Natural family planning is more romantic as man will not have a barrier such as condom between him and his wife. The couple must observe themselves especially the woman to understand when she is fertile or not. Conjugal sex is not a daily food for the natural method to work well," she added.

The second phase of the programme is the faithful house that embraces mutual understanding of couples, love of family members and respect of gospel value. A family that has gone through the training uses resources jointly to elevate their economic status. The couples are taught on budgeting together and cost sharing. This makes

the couple to be transparent to each other.

The third phase is the programme for the youth. The programme prepares youth for marriage as most of them are neglected by parents, who realize their mistake, when all has gone wrong and newly married couples have parted ways. The youths are not sure of marriage expectation it is pegged on materialism and not love. This strengthens the youth in positive and responsible parenting to mould offspring's in a loving family setup. When choosing partners, youths are advised to look for five core values during courting period. The qualities are: responsible, humble, caring, respectful and one that minds your security. Have a couple plans where you talk of required size of the family, method of family planning to be used and development to be done.

The last one is Gospel learning where a family is taught the values of praying together. The catholic bishops

are all setting up offices for family life alongside others because of need. Mr. and Mrs. Martin Onyango from Kisumu Archdiocese assisted in facilitating the workshop.

In Lodwar diocese, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Keem were among the participants. They say that the training has shaped them to positive living. According to them, God is the foundation, they are the pillars of the house and their children are the walls. Windows and door is whatever you want to come in or go out of the house and the roof is consciousness. They have learnt to be faithful to one another and good parenthood.

Through communication they are able to solve problems easily and forgive as they know the values of a family. They are challenging other couples to legalize their marriage and embrace the teachings of a faithful family.

The family desk is now available at Diocese of Lodwar and Mr. Thomas Nyapid is the coordinator. □

ACCOUNTABILITY

## County Assembly Members Overseas Travels

By **Mary Tioko**

**S**everal teams from Turkana County Assembly visited various countries abroad to study development activities including financial budgeting and development in Israel, Brazil, Singapore and Malaysia to usher a new phase in which the Assembly appropriately applies relevant ideas from abroad.

The teams went to different countries with different agendas to benchmark however it is appropriate implementation that matters not just mere visits which may be seen as joy-rides if nothing tangible emerges from knowledge gained.

This is more so if it is noted that in the same period Turkana County Government declared an emergency on hunger situation and appeals were made in response to the disaster. However, there is more to be learnt from the visiting teams on how others avert the frequent droughts affecting. ■

PUBLIC HEALTH

# Nawoitorong Now Needs Donkey Slaughter House

- *Goats and camel slaughter house completed*

By **Elim Baasha**  
Reporter Turkana Mirror

**N**awoitorong residents are now asking the County government to construct for them a donkey slaughterhouse because they are tired of slaughtering donkeys in an open places where dogs camp at night apart from lacking clean water and sanitation.

The issue was raised after a completion of goats and camel slaughter at Nawoitorong village which will be opened very soon. The residents have appreciated the County government for responding to their plea. They said that 'they have been walking many kilometers in search of slaughterers.

The donkeys meat has been a food for Turkana community since their origin. Over 70% of the Turkana people eat donkeys so there is need for the meat to be legalized by the county government by constructing donkeys slaughter house. The meat should be examined by health officer and possibly there should be a butchery of this meat.

The meat is also considered medicinal by the community they locally call it *epong edewa* which is



*Donkeys slaughtered at open ground*

believed to be curing many diseases in a human body while the hides of the donkeys can be sold to get money, used as a mat of sleeping and resting, and used for covering roofs of temporally houses or manyatta

The area chief Mrs. Anna Elemach at her office said that the community had a demand for the slaughterhouse.

The milk of the animal is also alleged to be medicinal. The chief also said that introduction of a slaughter house will reduce the case of donkey's theft which has been reported to her office several times. ■



*Nawoitorong Camels and goats slaughter which will be opened soon*

 CHILD RIGHTS

# Street Children Need More Attention

**By Palal Ilikwel**

**A**mong the many challenges facing Turkana County government and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) keen on child welfare is the increasing number of street children who deserve urgent attention before the problem becomes too complex. They are mostly seven to 15 years olds.

Some of the major reasons linked to the increase includes loss of parents at early age leaving them without anybody to provide for them; peer pressure from other street children make them escape from home and because of increase in cost of living; poverty and sicknesses.

The survival tactics used by the street kids include collecting scrap metals in order to sell with an aim of getting some money to buy food. They do some light house chores like cleaning the environment in order to be paid in which is child

labour. Some who are grown up are used by some business people to hawk clothes, vegetables, fruits and later lowly paid. Most of them spend their night at the verandas of shops in many different streets of the county.

As the national and the County government try to ensure that all children get educated by making sure that all the public schools are free and no school fees is required. The County also sponsors some students.

The Turkana County is on its way to shine in many different ways, but the issue of street children contributes to increase in drug addiction, glue sniffing, smuggling, theft, pick pocketing and insecurity at large.

The County government should put in place some rules and regulations which will decrease rates of street children. Solutions to curb the problem of street children include rehabilitation center doubling as schools. ■



Some of Kakuma street children. Picture by Palal Ilikwel

 EMPOWERING THE HANDICAPPED

## Children With Multiple Handicap Find Hope at Ewoi Centre

**By Mary Tioko**

**M**ultiple Handicapped children in Lodwar town and its environs are finding new hope in life at Ewoi Centre Catholic Diocese of Lodwar. Ewoi Centre was established in 2000 by Bishop Emeritus Patrick Harrington to serve poor elderly people who needed attention. Bishop Emeritus Harrington asked Dutch Volunteer from the Netherlands Mrs. Annie Janssen to run the program.

About a decade ago Mrs Janssen visited several villages within Lodwar and realized that there were multiple handicapped children in the community who needed attention. Accompanied by a staff member, she started identifying these children and conducted needs assessment. These children needed food, medical attention and love from fam-

ily members and the entire community in which they lived.

A day care centre was started for these ignored and stigmatized children who are now six in number. They get meals, are bathed, massaged and provided with toys wheel chairs and appliances that facilitate walking.

However, there are challenges especially rejection of these handicapped children by relatives who do not give them extra attention and some communities do not offer them services.

Lack of nearby institutions where these children can access education is widespread. Even more they need special means of transport and not the public service vehicles. With all these the poor families find it difficult to take them for much needed education and medical attention.

During the special days when these children are at

the center their families are relieved until evenings when they are returned home. The day care center has a snooze room for children who are mentally challenged to calm and relax in order to receive attention. The room is decorated with shiny colors help relax and calm them down before joining other children says Joyce Ekales caretaker in charge of the multiple handicapped children at the center.

'The multiple handicapped children and poor elderly people in the community need support and love from the community for them to have meaningful life. They need both material and moral support which individuals can also avail as contributions towards such support systems within the community that takes care of vulnerable groups, said Annie. ■

 CHARITY

## Nakepokan Community Receives Furniture

**By Mary Tioko**

**T**he community of Namerisinyen received furniture for Masses celebrations from St. Andrews Small Christian community (SCC) of St. Augustine's Cathedral. Nakepokan is a village in Kapua location in Kalokol ward, Turkana Central District.

The community was very much excited to see chairs and benches in their midst which they say will be used for all big functions in the area.

Addressing the Christians during his homily, the vicar General Fr. Joseph Ekalimon encouraged them to be ready to share the little they have with one another especially during this Lenten period.

He urged them to pray and fast in order to resist the works of the devil during this 40 days when the temptations are high so as to receive the fruits of Easter. He thanked St. Andrews Community for their generous efforts and urged them to keep helping others who need their help and nurture them in faith. Fr. Ekalimon further urged them to follow the example

of Jesus Christ who resisted temptations through prayer keep off from bad behaviours that sway them away from the precepts of the lord.

Elsewhere in the outstation of Namerisinyen, the community seemed a forgotten lot that needs intervention in all aspects ranging from road network to education. The nursery school is there but due to lack of food in the school the teaching does not take place and primary school pupils are forced to walk long distance to the nearest schools for education. Nursery school going age children remain with their mothers at home their lives remaining in the dark.

This made some women present in the prayer afterwards to break in songs that relayed message of development within the county. Accompanying the vicar in these visit were Fr. Richard Mais of St. Augustine's cathedral and representatives of the St. Andrews community who promised to be visiting them and share a lot as one family of Christ moving forward together. ■

FOOD SECURITY

## Improve Food Security at Katilu Munyikao Farmers Association

By Mark Erukudi

The government of Turkana County now needs to ensure the food security is given priority to help eradicate the poverty by allowing co-operation with investors, NGOs, faith-based organisations and local communities. The deputy Governor Mr. Peter Ekai recently witnessed the donation of 400 hectares of land by Katilu community to Munyikao farmers association. The farmers will receive support from World Renew a humanitarian organization in cultivating the land.

Speaking at Katilu ward community forum, the deputy governor said that "he is ready to work with all organizations committed to solving problems facing the Turkana community. He was accompanied by the Minister of water and irrigation Mrs. Beatrice Askul, Minister of land Peter Lokol, Turkana South sub-county administrator Mr. John Lokoli, Katilu Ward Administrator Mr. Bernard Lennon, Kapirir Ward Administrator



*Hon. Beatrice Askul- County Executive for Water and Irrigation, Deputy Governor Peter Ekai, Turkana south sub-county administrator John Lokoli and responsible person of the farm land. The MCA James Abei and village elder Esther Lokidor in white dress were also present. Pictures by Mark Erukudi*

Mr. Koloi and all Katilu ward chiefs. The deputy governor asked them to work together and make sure a change has been met in Turkana county.

The Minister of Water and Irrigation advised the investors, that as much they are looking towards the riverside water, they should also find a way of

getting other their sources of water. The river is a source of water for livestock and pastoral community and there is need to protect and conserve it. ■

## St. Patrick's Fathers Praised

By Mary Tioko

The Catholic Diocese of Lodwar led by their Bishop Dominic Kimengich congratulated the St. Patrick Fathers as they recently marked their feast day. The secretariat prayed for them in their Monday morning mass that they can have more fruits in their work of evangelization and continue serving the Turkana community.

Speaking at Radio Akicha, his Lordship Dominic Kimengich said that the efforts done by St. Patrick's missionaries in Diocese of Lodwar in the work of bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to the county was an important spirit that needs to be emulated by all the young priests working in the Diocese of Lodwar. He said that the priests who have now grown old still continue serving the people of Turkana following the footsteps of the late Bishop Mahon who was the first St. Patrick's priests in the Diocese and lauded the work of the entire congregation as the Diocese celebrated 50 years of evangelization.

We join them to celebrate their work and pray that they have the peace of mind of heart and good will of serving the community, the Bishop said. □

CONFLICT

## Domestic, Wild Animals Threaten Farming at Kakemera Village

By Josephine Muya  
(Reporter Turkana Mirror)

Repeated destruction of traditional farming along River Turkwel by both domestic and wild animals is threatening the livelihoods of many families at Kakemera village west of Kanamkemer in Turkana Central.

Despite the lands high potential in terms of food production, the farmers' morale has been affected by recurring loss of crops and low yield resulting in food insecurity. Most people in the area are farmers and rely on water from River Turkwel for irrigation. The crops grown include maize, sorghum, cashew nuts, green grams, pumpkins and watermelon. The farms are mostly invaded by monkeys. The farmers

could protect this, by killing the animals but are afraid of the law protecting the wild animals.

Apart from wild animals invading the farms the area also experiences floods. During rainy seasons the volume of water in the river rises and spills to the farm hence washing away crops.

The seasonal drying of parts of River Turkwel also affects crops and animals. Most people here find it difficult to sustain life when prices of farm produce, including, brooms, charcoal, and mats (mikeka) falls.

The residents are urging the NGOs, faith based organizations and the county government to assist and boost farming in Kakemera and avert hunger yet there is fallow land that boost their living. ■



### 87 Goats Die Mysteriously

By Mark Erukudi

Eight seven goats died mysteriously recently after allegedly drinking water from a well with newly repaired water pump at

Kalemungok. This was after a long spell of drought that had hit the County. The goats belonged to Longor Lowote and his brother Lwelete Lowote. ■

*Pictures by Mark Erukudi*



## GENDER & INNOVATION

### Turkana Women Excel at Moulding Glass

From page 13

added to the finely ground glass powder to enhance their colour.

Moulds are made from clay, dried, fired and later coated with kaolin to prevent fused glass from sticking to the surface of mould. They are then filled with coloured glass powder and a woody stick is put into them. The stick will burn during the fusion leaving holes for threading the beads. The mould for waist beads has multiple holes.

Layering different coloured powdered glass, which fuse on heating, creating a pattern on beads. A small funnel and a thin stick are used to create the designed layers of different colours.

Painted beads are decorated with a paste made of coloured glass powder and water, which is applied using a thin wooden stalk or needle, an artist brush can also be used. The beads are cooked a second time to fix the glaze.

An awl is used to make the centre hole in the translucent beads as soon as they are removed from the kiln. While one awl maintains the mould in place, the other one is used for turning the bead around in the mould to shape it while the fused glass slowly hardens at air temperature.

Beads are left to cool slowly in the moulds or annealing kilns to prevent them from cracking. After cooling down at least an hour, beads are removed from the moulds.

The last step consists in washing and polishing the beads by rubbing them forcefully with water and sand on a smooth stone. ■



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