



Turkana Mirror

LEADING PUBLICATION ON CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

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Deputy President Speaks on Security and Infrastructure in Turkana County P. 7

Reflecting All Voices!

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FOOD SECURITY

US Ambassador Visits Turkana County



US Ambassador (in white shirt) and Turkana County Governor H. E. Josephat Nanok at Kanamkemer in Lodwar town after launching the green house for widows in the Turkana Widows Advancement Programme (TWAP) recently

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

The USA Ambassador to Kenya, Mr. Robert F. Godec visited members of the Turkana Widows' Advancement Programme (TWAP) at their green house in Lodwar. He was highly welcomed by Minister Jane Adebe and the County Governor, Mr. Josephat Nanok.

TWAP, also called Pambazuka is one of the psychological support groups within the Tu-maini self help group that was funded by Aphia PLUS IMARISHA. Last year USAID invested 50 million in Aphia PLUS IMARISHA activities for five years.

This green house is one of the best livelihood activities that will ensure the community members to care for themselves than waiting for donors to come to their aid.

He said USAID will help in funding the members in terms of training especially in nutrition. The green house was provided by Ministry of Agriculture where they assured them that government will support the county to improve lifestyle of the communities, he said that he will be visiting many projects at Kakuma to get views and fund civic education.

WATER & SANITATION

LOWASCO Fails Lodwar Residents

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Residents of Lodwar Township have been experiencing water shortage since last year. The LOWASCO management has failed to address the matter throwing blame to Kenya Power Lodwar office. The Kenya Power office confirmed that LOWASCO has been unable to service their electricity bill even after being told to pay Kshs. 100,000 per week. The company collects money from the public with no constant supply of water. It has been effective in circulating bills to clients even after knowing that there are gaps in service delivery.

Has the County government ascertained the root cause of poor service delivery by LOWASCO? Water has been devolved and the public expects the concerned Ministry to explain to the public why there is water shortage? What action is the County government taking to address the situation? If the situation persists do the public deserve this? If not; who is sleeping on the job?

The Turkana people in August, 2010 voted for the constitution with an aim of bringing services closer to the public. Twelve functions have been devolved with thirty four retained by the National government which Counties will be expected to apply for them to be devolved. If water was devolved and Turkana County has the power



Residents fetching water

and funds to address the matter, why is Lodwar water taking long to be resolved. The public thanks the County Assembly for the effort they did to

ensure water supply which has not been implemented by the Executives. Can the Executives of the concerned portfolios do their work and if unable to pave way for capable persons to do it?

The citizens have the right to life and a right to clean water. It is not a privilege. The governor who heads the executives needs to ensure that the executive members execute their mandates as expected. This will enable the public appreciate fruits of devolution. The public of the right to demand for better service delivery and should not be done in an ineffective manner.

Continued on page 17

SECURITY

Kapelibok Primary Closed Due to Insecurity

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

The County Government and civil societies of Turkana have been concentrating to improve living standards for the residents of Kaptir ward, Kainuk ward and Katilu ward through education. However, alarming insecurity has caused low enrollment in schools, dropouts, migration of pupils from one school to the other hence interfering with syllabus.

Kapelibok primary school has been closed unexpectedly, leaving behind the end term exam uncompleted, due to the death of three people. 400 goats and 600 cattle were driven away during a raid.

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Yields from the Kenyans for Kenya Drought Initiative

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) and the steering committee on Tuesday, 16th July 2013, commissioned an irrigation project in Kaikor area in Turkana County. The project aimed at providing a solution to perennial drought; building community resilience and enhancing food production and food security in Turkana County. These initiatives aimed at opening up land for irrigation in Kaikor location in Turkana North district; targeting some three villages with a total population of 15,398 people. The project was to run for a period of 12 months through funding from Kenyans for Kenya Initiative. The Kenyans for Kenya was a drought initiative where Kenyans come together to contribute through mobile phone money transfer services or other means to reverse the fate of other Kenyans.

Other projects put in place by the KRCS include four boreholes that have been drilled and equipped, seed and seedlings bought.

"We thank Kenya Red Cross and other organizations who proposed and came up with this programme. The programme has contributed towards reclaiming our old farms that had been forgotten for more than two years due to insufficient rain fall and also the type of soils which are rocky and sandy in parts of the area," said Namuron Christine, one of the small scale farmers in Kaikor.

The results of the initiative in the dry areas that had never been brought to produce food are visible. Farmers are reaping from the project after growing assorted vegetables that included kale, spinach, tomatoes and others. The community has also been mobilized into enterprise agriculture.



Vegetables grown in Kaikor schemes (Turkana North)



Fruits Farming in Katilu

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Katilu Ward Administrator, Mr. Bernard Lennon is now planning to turn the entire Katilu Ward into a fruity Ward, in order to bring a new face to the environment and economy of the area.

He said that he is tired of importing fruits from the neighbouring West Pokot County yet he has a track of fertile land, plenty of water from river Turkwel and underground water which can support farming of the same kind across the Ward. Katilu region was a center for fruits such as bananas, mangoes and oranges during Norads and Turkana Rehabilitation Program days.

He added that growing of fruits will improve the economy and infrastructure. Katilu irrigation scheme has set aside over 15 acres for growing over 10,000 fruits trees and every home has to plant at least ten seedlings

Factors that will influence fruits farming in Katilu Ward are:

Donation of free seedlings from the Ministry of Energy and Environment Conservation: The ministry is now

aiming to improve the County's environment in order to reduce desertification. The supply of plenty of both fruit and non-fruit tree seedlings will be done to entire County within the year.

Availability of water: Water from river Turkwel which crosses Katilu ward and underground water will sustain fruits farming in the ward. Moreover, dams will be constructed for trapping water during the rainy season for use by farms in the dry season.

Farmers are well oriented: Many people have knowledge of agriculture especially from Kangitanikori, Lokapel, Katilu, Lopur, Nabeye and Kalemengorok so it will not be difficult to introduce a new fruits farming to them.

Edaphic factors along river Turkwel that has alluvial soil, some of which originates from Mt. Elgon and can hold water for a long time. In addition, most of the area is virgin land.

Availability of land: Turkana County has large tracks of land which have to be reclaimed for agricultural land.

Availability of market: Due to oil drill-



Mr. Bernard Lennon Katilu, Ward Administrator, campaigning for fruits farming at Lokapel village during tree facilitation programme that was supported by the Ministry of Energy and Environment Conservation

ing in the County the population of job seekers is increasing rapidly hence increasing the market of the product. Additionally, the high temperatures in the county encourage much taking of water which means juicy fruits will be having demand in the county.

Availability of electricity: Katilu ward especially from Kalemengorok to Katilu Centre across the main road has been installed electricity cables which soon

will be effective. This electricity power will be used to run fridges and proposed fruits processing industry.

Environmental factors: Turkana County is hot in nature and this influence the faster growth of fruits and the sweetness of fruits. Countries such as Israel are hot and are the world's producer of fruits so also Turkana County this is possible as long water will be available.

Kalokol Town in Thirst for Decades



Miss Mary Pangan a business woman in Kalokol town selling a one-litre tin of water at 20 shillings

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Kalokol is one of the oldest towns in Turkana County, sited near Lake Turkana. The residents of Kalokol have been surviving with water shortage for many decades. As a result, a 20 litres jerrycan goes for 400 shillings at retail price.

The larger population gets water from shallow wells of river Napasnyang which passes through many villages which has no latrines and this endangers lives of many people as it exposes them to water-borne disease such as cholera, dysentery and typhoid.

Piped water is controlled and managed by LOWASCO which supplies water thrice per week hence making people especially pupils and students not in a position to access water. This has contributed to the creation of an environment that is not conducive for learning.

Mr. John Esekon, Managing Director of LOWASCO, said that insufficiency of water in Kalokol town has been caused by low water table



A queue of jerrycans at Lokichar, as residents try to fetch water which cannot hold enough volume of water to serve the population of about 28,000 people.

The residents of the town said that many barazas with major politicians had been done in the town mainly addressing issues on water but none has yield any fruit. According to the Area Chief, the volume of water in the lake has decreased at alarm-

ing rate compared to some years back. He added that there is great possibility of desertification in Turkana County. He called upon the county government and the friends of environment to renovate our diminishing environment.

Lokichar, a town in Turkana south sub-County is also facing the same problem of insufficiency of water.

The residents said that the problem has been increased by lorries from TULLOW which have been taking many litters of water from their taps and transported to their camps. The residents have been raising the issue to DO's office, who said that the problem has been influenced by the increase of population in the town.

Are you informed of the current developments in Turkana County? Do you follow up project cycle in the County? How is the public involved in project identification, prioritization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public funds?

TUBAE governance and Social accountability program through Turkana mirror invites you in our weekly community parliaments aimed at informing the public and duty bearers of their citizenship rights.

"Come one come all and let's build Turkana we want"

Napeililim Residents Get Relief from Thirst

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

The villagers in Napeililim in Turkana County were celebrating after being given two bore holes of water by the Ministry of Water and Sanitation and LOWASCO. Ekiru Francis, a village elder said, "People in this village have been walking 20 kilometres in search of water to a nearby source".

Apart from water shortage, the village has been facing other challenges. Many schools were about to be closed due to insufficient teachers and pupils since most of them ran away from thirst. This has contributed to poor performance in so many years back.

The economic activity in the area is mainly pastoralism. The area receives some relief food from the government and concerned organizations which is rarely distributed.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Child Abuse

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Living in a great grief, Ekamais Shida, a 10 year-old orphan boy at Kanam-kemer primary school was wounded by fire as he baking *maandazi* that his sister-in-law has been forcing him to bake every morning before he goes to school.

The boy's father was a former prison soldier who passed away in 2003, followed by his wife in 2004 leaving their child in the hands of people who pretend to be relatives and caring, yet they have been inflicting pain to this boy's life.

The boy said that he has to bake *maandazi* every morning and fetch 100 liters of water every evening in order to get food. He also said that he goes to school late every morning with a dirty and tattered uniform which makes teachers to punish him every morning. Neighbours have been watching these cruel actions for a very long time in empathy. They tried to have the child taken to a children's home but the cruel grandmother has been very adamant to the issue.

Turkana County has many children's homes and orphanage schools but 60 percent of orphans are still in the villages, acting as a source of cheap labour to the people who pretend to be relatives.

NGOs and the county government should look keenly on the issues and save the less privileged children from the monsters of relatives who are wolves in the skin of a sheep.

RELIGION

Lodwar Prayer Mountain

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Lodwar prayer mountain which was established 25 years old ago by Bishop Samuel Kaaleng Ekuwom now needs financial support in order to cater for increasing number of people visiting the place.

The mountain was established with the purpose of providing a place for people to kneel before God with praise and petitions. The bishop began praying at that mountain in 1989 and later a small group joined him each Friday after being motivated by scriptures 'Jesus went up the mountain to pray'. The mountain became more popular in 1990 after Bishop Kaaleng, the founder of the mountain prayer, got a letter to visit nine prayer mountains in South Korea. Later in 1995 he visited Israel where he brought some rocks from Gethsemane where Christians believe Jesus performed many special prayers.

The Bishop said that improvement is needed to cater for security and wellbeing of the mountain visitors. He called upon the county government, NGOs, Christian based organizations and denominations to help in raising funds to finance the activities in the mountain.

A chain link fence surrounding the upper perimeter of the mountain; some people living within the mountain use the mountain as latrines, others harvest rock illegally, livestock passing through the mountain interfering with prayers. The mountain can accommodate both visitors and residents so watch person are needed to guard the gate and keep record of the people visiting the mountain.

The Bishop is now informing all churches that soon and very soon church will come to an end, they should pray and repent.

TRANSFORMATION

Reformed Woman

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Rebecca Akai, a resident of Kanam Kemer ward, is now in a new page of life after selling thousands of litres of *changaa* (illegal brew) for seven years. She has been running up and down for several years from policemen until the 'fortieth day' when she was taken before a court of law.

At the court, the woman was found guilty, with 60 litres of illegal brew and the judge gave her a chance to defend herself. She pleaded for forgiveness and requested for Kshs. 1,000 in order to start a new business of selling kales and fish. Her statement was ironical but the court released Kshs. 1000 to her.

She said that the one thousand shillings that she was given at the court changed her life. From the day she was released from court she started selling mangoes and kales. Today she has peace of mind and her health has changed compared when she was a daily drinking officer (DDO).

FAMILY

Rise of Street Children in Turkana County

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

The number of street children in Lodwar town, Turkana County is increasing day after the day. This is as a result of economic, social and environmental factors.

Research done by Turkana Mirror reporter shows that poverty has really accelerated their increase some said their parents died from HIV/AIDS leaving them hopeless, also family breakups and social unrest. Others leave school out of their own volition.

The environment on the street is not conducive for children as many

of them are exposed to social evils like drug addiction and sexual abuse and stealing. In addition to begging on the street, these children are very dirty and face health problems such as malnutrition. It is high time we asked ourselves what we are as parents, guardians, as leaders, politics and the NGO communities doing to contribute to alleviation of the problem.

African Network for prevention and protection against child abuse and neglecting (ANPPCAN) was first introduced as comprehensive study in 1st May 1991 to undertake on this phenomenon of street chil-

dren in Kenya, but they have not done enough instead the situation gets worse everyday.

The only instrument that can be used to rehabilitate street children into responsible and self-reliant person is education. Most of the organizations involved with street children have sought to integrate education into their programs of long-term rehabilitation. Rights of children should be respected and every effort should be made to ensure that children get their rights and other associated benefits.

The Plight of Street Children in Lodwar Town

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

High temperatures of about 38 degrees with clear sky, surrounded by purely rocky hills all of this, is associated with status of Lodwar town leaving the street children in a great tension.

"Since it as to pass through millions of pot holes, who dares to through a fruit or left over's in a pit", Said Rashid Mohamed one of the



Street children by a fire in the town business men in the town. The pit is meant for throwing polythene papers and bottle tops but not eatable substances.

The Street children of Lodwar town compared to the other towns such as Kitale, Eldoret, and Nakuru they do go many kilometers before getting a piece of bread making their life harder.

The town has few street children (less than 150), most of them have

parents but they left them dying of hunger at home forcing them to run to the street in order to scavenge food.

The great challenge they get is diseases especially malaria. This is due to lack of mosquito's nets. Now they are asking the government of Kenya and Non-governmental Organizations to supply them with mosquito nets and any other way of stopping malaria from killing them.

SECURITY

Nyumba Kumi Programme in Turkana County

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Nyumba kumi (10 households) initiative is a program adopted by the government of Kenya to curb the rise of insecurity in the country, this program is all about knowing at least ten of your immediate neighbours.

In Katilu ward residents have been encouraged to initiate the program in order to improve security across the villages. During a tree planting function at Lokapel village the area chief, Mr. Allan Lokeun encouraged the villagers to adopt the policy and avoid conflict cases such as revenge that they copied from villages such as Juluk and Kapelibok. He added that the best way to solve a problem is through dialogue, not by use of guns and weapons.

CDF representative, Mr. Collins Ekiru said that serious disarmament should be done because of illegal possession of guns. The men with guns have been threatening farmers, raping women and injuring many of them. Many residents lack information about law and governance which has contributed to many of them taking action by themselves without consulting government representatives or village elders.

The area chief, Mr. Lokeun added that shedding of innocent blood has to end. He assured the residents that the government is fighting against insecurity. Holders of illegal guns have been asked to submit them willingly before the law takes its course. Mr. Bernard Lennon, the ward representative, encouraged the villagers to take advantage of the program and work closely with the government.

Education in Kaleeng

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Cultural practices such as pastoralism have hindered education for children in Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres and primary schools in Kaleeng zone. Education is a legitimate right to all learners in any part of the world. Education nurtures children to be meaningful people in the society regardless of their physical, intellectual, social, emotional, linguistic, spiritual, economic or other conditions. This includes learners from arid and semi arid land, most of whom come from pastoral communities.

On a research we learned that school going children from all levels in pastoral communities move together with their parents from one place to another following rainfall distribution patterns and security reasons. The pastoral way of life subjected to school children affects

school enrolment numbers since they are dynamic.

From an interview we realized that the enrolment of boys was higher than girls in schools. This was as a result of a number of cultural practices and beliefs such as rites of passage and initiation. Discrimination of the girl child leads to absence of girls in school and poor performance.

The community has been inspired to act, give, join, serve and learn more to adopt positive ways to curb cultural and beliefs that affect enrolment. Another factor that has contributed to poor enrolment is prolonged drought and famine. This affects school children because they suffer starvation and malnourishment due to lack of proper nutrition. In addition, teachers are paid lowly due to high poverty of children parents and lack of government support.

Kapelibok Primary Closed Due to Insecurity

Continued from page 1

Mr. Samuel Lotem, the head teacher of the school, said that he could not endure the resulting tension and pupils were psychologically affected to the extent that they could not concentrate in class. He consulted the district education officer on the matter and got permission to close the school.

The Constitution of Kenya, article 53(2) contemplates that a child's best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child. It is this interest that informs articles 53(1) that every child has a right. It is the best interest of the child that must be of primary consideration in all decisions and actions that affect them as a group irrespective of whether the decisions are made by government, administrative authority, judicial authority and families.

It is beyond unexpected that this school closes without completing their term well and nothing is given to parent to show performance.

Barriers that Hinder Learning in Primary Schools

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Mistreatment by teachers, negative remarks and use of abusive language to pupils have been identified as the key barriers to productive learning in Turkana County. During a ten-day training on child friendly school held at Lodwar Lodge in May 2014, head teachers came together and identified barriers that hinder education in Turkana County, that have resulted to continuous poor performance, low enrolment and increase in school dropout cases.

Negative remarks from teachers were highly discouraged. Many turkana teachers are fond of using abusive language jokingly to a child but when other pupils laugh, the child feels dehumanized leading to psychologically tortured.

The age of the child determines their kind of socialization. Some of the turkana children go to school at over age and whenever in school he/she keeps off from others and sometimes the child may have beads and heavy body.

Teachers, especially volunteers mishandle some of these children by imposing corporal punishment, which is seen to be posing psychological torture. Children should be handled with care and punishment should be administered in a moderate manner.

Parents and guardians have been asked to contribute to child development by creating conducive environment for their study.

Kablokor Primary School at Risk of Closure

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Kablokor primary was started in early 1980s in Loima Sub County. It is a mixed school of 313 pupils with less than five teachers. The school is facing a lot of challenges which include poor academic progress; the first pupil got 258 marks in last year's KCPE results.

These poor results have been caused

by factors such as poverty, inadequate teachers and learning facilities in school as well as the lack of basic needs like water and food. Many pupils come from poor families as their parents concentrate their efforts on getting food. The school's Early Childhood Development (ECD) class has more than 300 pupils with only one teacher.

Pupils are forced to attend class up

to 12 noon then they leave to the nearby bush to look for wild fruits. It is the right of a child to get education, but pupils in Kablokor are not enjoying their right to education. Parents and school management are calling upon the county government and NGOs in charge of children welfare to find a solution about the existing problem.

VACANCY



(TUBAE) African Development Trust under Turkana Mirror newspaper is recruiting interns to assist in the co-ordination of media and communication operations (social media and print media).

Length of internship and working hours

The position would be for a minimum of six months. Year-long interns are preferred. It is ideally a full time position, but a minimum of three working days a week would be considered.

Requirements

The candidate must:

- be self motivated and organized.
- have strong background in communication.
- possess certificate or diploma in public relations, journalism or any related field.
- be ready to work anywhere in Turkana county.

If interested kindly send your application letter and your detailed CV to turkanacountymirror@gmail.com

FAMILY

Parents' Agony as 8-year Search for Son Unearths Nothing

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

A visit to a girlfriend turned sour after her brothers beat him up and made it the last appearance of Jackson Erot, a resident of Napet village in Turkana Central. His parents are in agony eight years after he was last seen.

He told his parents that he was going to buy some items for sale in their small kiosk but never returned. It was in January 6th 2006, when Erot headed for Kakuma town some 120 kilometers from his home.

His parents Samuel Ekaru and Sara Lopeyok who are in their sixties, say they later heard that he never went shopping but headed to his girlfriend's home. On further inquiry, Ekaru was told that his son had gone to visit his girlfriend in a village in Kakuma on that Saturday evening and the girl's brother had beaten him up because they were unhappy with the relationship. In self defense he had pushed one of them on a rock and fled.

The family reported Jackson's disappearance at Kakuma police station where the two men were being held but they denied killing him and hiding his body. The suspects' acquittal marked the beginning of an endless search of their son. This family believes that their son is not dead and they hope that one day, one time they will find their son alive.

The family appeals to anyone who might have any information about their son's whereabouts, to contact them through the Turkana Mirror newspaper.

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Sa uniting occasion believed by women in Turkana South. It is a colorful celebration that involves dancing, soft drinks, and appreciation through gifts and also sharing of experiences and advices. This makes it a wonderful celebration of its own kind ever known in the county; so far the team

WOMEN

Major Milestones for Women

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Back in the century women's rights were a constant source of debate, men had a big problems relinquishing some of their privileges and doling out a few to women. If men had their way, the ideal woman would have continued to be seen (pretty) but not heard.

Back in the day, women's territory was at home, specifically in kitchen. A lot of these roles still prevail in many homes, but in general women have a lot more to say on the decisions impacting their lives. Today women can dream and set their goals towards fulfilling those dreams. They can choose to pursue academics and vocational courses, they can also speak out when they are treated badly. That is why we have positions reserved for women such as women representatives. Gone are those days when male chauvinism was the order of the day.

Some of the benefits that women enjoy today include property inheritance, citizenship and equal rights of expression. Our big question is: "Is the Turkana woman enjoying these benefits?". On a series of questionnaires and interviews



done by Turkana Mirror reporter, we learned that women in Turkana county are still in dark. They do not know their rights.

According to the constitution of Kenya women are entitled to enjoy constitutional rights such as inheritance, a woman can own and inherit land because matrimonial property is protected during and after termination of mar-

riage.

On an interview with Mrs. Kkaro one the resident in Kanam Kemer village, she frankly said that her rights is to take care of children and the houses chores.

It is my plea that organizations that deal with women welfare and empowerment should organize learning forums to educate our women about their rights. It is our time to smell the coffee.

WATER & SANITATION

Is Water Supporting Life?

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Water is life and every human being is entitled to clean and enough water. It is so sad and disappointing to find that people in some parts of Turkana County are using scrambling method to access this basic need. This is while it is believed that devolution will bring a change and equality to every part of republic of Kenya, including Turkana community. It is very ironical that in Kalemungorok the residents are still scrambling to get water.

Protest, demonstration and rights demands have become devolved, the public no longer waits for the bell to ring for them to seek their rights, in some parts of Turkana South, residents have been protesting to bring their plight to the attention of the county government and national government but nothing has been done. There big question is when their

problem will be solved.

Speaking to Turkana Mirror reporter, the residents said that the existing well has claimed the lives of many especially children, the walls of the well has been weaken by the massive movements of animals. The arrangement of fetching water through wells is not clear. Sometimes school pupils are also there to fetch water when they are required to attend classes, this brings a negative image. The process of getting water from the well is unimaginable, as somebody has to go inside the well to get water. The person has to step on the water, the same water which others will fetch. This endangers their lives by exposing them to water-borne diseases such as typhoid.

The community in Kalemungorok is appealing to any organization, wellwishes and county government to find the solution of water in that place.

WOMEN

Merry-Go-Round

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

is increasing every time they meet.

Merry-go-round or Chama is an informal contribution made from members on weekly or monthly basis then the money is given to one member. The numbers are written on small pieces of paper and folded and each member picks one, the number you get determines your position in order of receiving the merry-go-round money.

Sweety is small colorful celebration done by women in merry go round when they are visiting one of their member.

Sweety is the most interesting women boosting agent in Turkana South. It may seem strange to many but it has improved livelihoods of women in Kaptir, Katilu, Kakong, Lichiar and Kalemungorok and recently introduced to Lodwar town.

Tina Kinyonge introduced it to Kalemungorok. She felt the need to bring all women together through churches and groups on days within the week - Wednesday and Friday. They would meet as women from various backgrounds and share the good news in the Bible and also on issues affecting them such as how to handle their families.

The women in the group carry

a lot of materials as presents to their host sweety. The host receives many prizes, chairs, beds, curtains, clothes, mattresses, iron sheets, basins and other house needs as the sweety of that day. This is a step for our women because it unites them; and when women are happy the all society is happy.

Deputy President Speaks on Security and Infrastructure in Turkana County



By Turkana Mirror Reporter

The national government will improve road infrastructure and boost security in Turkana, Deputy President William Ruto has said as security situation in the county reaches an alarming level.

In his visit to Turkana county, His Excellency Deputy President William Samoei Ruto was welcome by the Speaker of Senate Ekwe Ethuro, County Governor Josphat Nanok and County Senator John Munyes among other officials in the County Assembly of Turkana.

While addressing hundreds in a jubilant crowd at Moi Gardens in Lodwar, the Deputy President assured residents of Turkana County that the government would improve infrastructure and solve insecurity issues in the county. He added that the government would expand food production by working with farmers, fishermen, entrepreneurs and industrialists to improve the economy of the country.

He opposed holding dialogue with CORD, saying that their administration has failed to warrant talks with the opposition. He added that the rul-

ing coalition did not need CORD to run the government. The Jubilee government is determined to deliver the promises made to Kenyans before the general election.

He also attended church service at AIC Milimani in Lodwar, where he asked the leaders to rise above selfish pursuits. He added that the national government is ready to work with all faiths or religions and all leaders to bring unity to our country. The government has renewed its fight against cattle rustling, he described the practice as retrogressive, because it has caused loss of lives and animals among pastoralist communities.

He warned the leaders against inciting wananchi to engage in acts of violence for selfish gains. "We do not want leaders who preach water and drink wine, we must collectively stop cattle rustling", he said. He added that this year's budget has allocated 66 billion to the police, which shows the government's commitment to security. Besides funds, he added that 2,000 vehicles will be purchased and 10,000 youth will be recruited to improve security in Kenya.

Did You Know?

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Are you aware that Turkana County has a CDF budgetary allocation of Kshs 827,607,351. The breakdown per sub-county is: Turkana North Kshs. 141,468,751; Turkana West Kshs. 169,895,727; Loima Kshs. 131,345,010; Turkana Central Kshs. 129,090,909; Turkana East Kshs. 120,217,483 and Turkana South Kshs. 135,589,471.

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"Institution promoting sustainable exploitation of natural resources to alleviate poverty"

DO YOU VALUE YOUR ENVIRONMENT?

Do you know what the European Union (EU) and the Community Development Trust (CDTF) have done in Turkana through the TUBAE Environmental Project?

VISIT these areas to find the result based approach in community development

1. JULUK SCHEME
2. LOMOKOMOL VILLAGE
3. NABEIYE VILLAGE
4. KALEMUNGOROK
5. LETEA
6. OROPOI
7. KAKUMA
8. NAPOONGOIT and
9. NANAM and see what TUBAE has done to improve environment.

CDTF-CEF project funded by European Union since February, 2012 to date has managed to:

1. Construct water jars to three schools; Kalemungorok, Nabeiy and Towokayeni in Turkana West
2. Shallow wells in Turkana South; Lomokomol and Namakat
3. Improved road access to Loima forest 25.8 km road
4. Nursery and demonstration plot at Nabeiy
5. Rehabilitation of Juluk irrigation scheme
6. Water pan in Turkana South
7. Tree planting in schools and communities
8. Aloe products production by Kalemungorok and Kakuma groups
9. Aloe gum production by LETEA, OROPOI and NAPOONGOIT through grant given by TUBAE.

PLANS FOR JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2014

Turkana Environmental and Poverty Eradication Project (TEPEP) will be undertaking the following:-

1. Construction of a modern cottage industry at Kalemungorok
2. Construction of Aloe warehouse in Turkana West as measures taken to address market and marker access
3. Water system for community and industrial production
4. Establishment of County nursery as means of addressing access to tree seedlings at Nakwei centre (county tree bank)
5. Equipping of LOPIDING borehole for Aloe plantation and horticultural farming
6. Construction of two masonry tanks to schools
7. Radio program on environmental conservation
8. Tree planting of 10,000 seedlings
9. Re-seeding of bare land in Nakwei area
10. Establishment of horticultural farm in Juluk scheme with canal
11. Support of Aloe gum groups in Letea, Oropoi, Napopongoit and Nanam with grant
12. Promotion and marketing of Aloe products across the County
13. Value addition training on Aloe juice production as first ever juice manufactured in Turkana County
14. Schools and Community Forest Association training

THANK YOU TO BOTH EUROPEAN UNION AND CDTF-CEF for your financial support in making TUBAE realize the vision.

TRANSPORT

Bodaboda Movement in Kalemungorok

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

The chairman of boda boda in Kalemungorok centre criticized the motorists for not registering as members of bodaboda group. This was against what both parties had agreed upon during the election of the boda boda officials. The matter forced their chairman Lucas Emoit to seek advice from the Deputy OCPD of Turkana South sub-county, who advised him and his team to do a serious operation.

The main reason for the operation was to bring change to the youth through bodaboda industry so as to reduce road accidents and careless driving. The torchbearers were Kalemungorok youth empowerment group (kaleng). The chairperson of kaleng youth said that, he needs unity and cooperation from all youth who are bodaboda motorists. He added that joining the group will help them in case they are reported to police. Registration would also help them to curb insecurity in the region, because it will be easy to identify motorcycles used at the centre during the day time and night time.

The administration police of Kalemungorok, while addressing officials and boda boda motorists said that the process of registration should help youth by improving their safety in terms of security purposes. He also encouraged the youth to keep themselves busy and avoid idleness because an idle mind is a devil's workshop. The county government has allocated a lot of funds for supporting the youth in different sectors.

TRANSPORT

TRANSPORT

Transport in Turkana North

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

A long-term solution to improve and manage transport and other means of communication lies squarely on construction and improvement of physical and social infrastructures in the area.

Lokitaung in Turkana North, the smallest town is believed to have started in the early 1980s and was mostly UN inhabited before the white man settled.

Since that time the name Lokitaung has got some importance in the Kenyan history, mainly because it was the first place where Jomo Kenyatta was detained before being taken to Kapenguria.

It is not pleasant to hear and confirm that up to now the means of transport in the area place is still in the colonial state as it has never been improved in spite of Turkana being an independent county.

Mr. Lomukuny Stephen said that, the laid standards and economic use of the road is undermined by the fact that



There is room for improvement of the condition of roads in Turkana North

many road users are not adhering to rules and regulations. Many vehicles overload up to the top part of the lorry and in addition they allow people to sit on the angle line, risking their lives.

We urge the county government to chip in on this matter and to emulate rules from other parts of Kenya. Road blocks and police posts could be put along the roads heading to Lokitaung, to Kakuma and the other one through Kalokol.

In Turkana North roads have never been improved and the issue has made the legends to come together to formulate and implement the Marshal Plan for northern Kenya, to achieve and ensure that the problems have been solved.

The Marshal Plan policy should highlight the need for the government to allocate at least 10% of the total county government revenue each year for a period of 15 years towards development and maintenance of the northern Kenya roads.

According to people's spokesman, Mr. Timoi Stephen, if this policy is put into reality, means of communication and networking can be easily accessible.

Improving physical infrastructure will also contribute towards increasing interaction between different communities' links to information; mainstream into the national economy and the policy making process, the end results will be informed to citizen that actively participation in national discussions.

Lastly the government should rehabilitate and revive social institutions like hospitals and government schools which will ensure that the county government is actively participating in issues like roads and other means of communication in the area.

CONSTRUCTION

Bricks Industry in Turkana County

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Bricks industry has to be empowered in Turkana County in order to reduce sinking and breakage of structures. The weak surface of the earth in the area does not withstand the high density of some materials used in construction such as concrete blocks and quarry rocks.

According to a foreman, storey houses are rarely constructed in Turkana County because the upper rocks of the earth are too weak to endure the pressure asserted at the bottom of the earth by heavy materials. The few houses which have been constructed especially in the town have cost a lot to make their foundation. He proposed that whenever somebody wants to construct a storey house it is advisable to use bricks instead of concrete blocks and quarry rocks.



Building done using bricks

Many latrines constructed in the county, especially those constructed using concrete rocks and quarry rocks sink. Most of the earliest buildings in Turkana County such as administration centers at the county assembly zone, Lodwar primary in Turkana central, Juluk primary and Nakwamoror in Turkana south were constructed using bricks, that is why they still show signs of existing for more years.

However, making bricks is associated with degradation of the environment because the last stage of brick-making is burning. Burning enhances the cutting of trees; it introduces smoke in the atmosphere hence polluting the air; burning soil destroys humus and kills living organism existing in the soil hence destroying the soil structure; digging of ditches and potholes results in the dereliction of land which makes the landscape look ugly.

EDUCATION

Five School Girls Expelled from School

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Five school girl students were expelled from Katilu Girls Secondary School of Turkana South on 3rd July, 2014 after arrest by the police officers at Angarabat village of Katilu ward. The young citizens future women leaders were caught drinking alcohol and

chewing kuber during normal class time as contrary measures to extension of their half term break. The school principal Mrs. Salome expressed her concerns and enforcement of school rules as measures to regulate discipline in school. The County government representative at the ward Mr. Bernard advised the girls to cease from

the menace and concentrate to the study.

The suspension of the girls was also attributed by the indiscipline records that made them enjoy a two weeks holiday of meditation between life or ana-sa "starehe / last". The school appreciates support from the ward administrator for quick response which enabled the

school to act and arrest the girls. Mrs. Salome emphasized on Kuber, an addictive drug that many girls were using in school. She said other additional five girls were still missing and have not yet reported. She said, "Parents should take full responsibility of taking care of their children and teach them good morals like discipline and

respect because with such values a student can pass without doubt".

The girls removed all their belongings and left the school compound escorted by Mr. Bernard and one teacher. Despite complaints from the students that there was no fair hearing but the behavior made the principal rule the suspension.

FISHING

Fishing in Lake Turkana

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Lake Turkana is one of the world's largest desert lakes; this has created a rare phenomenon and conducive habitat for fresh water monsters like big tilapia, catfish, and tiger fish. Fishing is the major activities on the shore of the lake; this has benefited many dwellers as it has generated a lot of income through self employment.

The main fishing technique used is trolling, as fishing process takes place mainly during the morning and evening hours. This lake has supported large population of fish. Beneficiaries include small scale fishermen, women and men, traders and fish processors. In spite of job creation and economic activities, there are so many challenges experienced by the fishermen. Among them is the prosodies plant that covers the surface of lake hinder-



Fishing at the shores of Lake Turkana

ing fishing processes and also a poor road network has contributed to inefficient marketing of fish products. This is because the lake is located on remote location that is far away from the fish market.

In a meeting held at Nachukui

beach management unit on 16th April, by fishermen and other stakeholders like FRIENDS OF LAKE TURKANA, they discussed on how to improve fishing in Lake Turkana. So far no action has been taken.

HEALTH

Dust! Dust! Dust!

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Dust has been overwhelming in the atmosphere of Lodwar town making businesses, homes, health facilities and education to be in a dirty state.

During an interview, one the residents said that between Kanamkemer bridge and Nakwamekwi towards the town roads are dusty making people suffer from respiratory and eye problems especially for pedestrians.

Mr. David Etabo, the chairman of boda-boda association said that more than 30 percent of boda-boda cyclists suffer from chest complications and eyes problems due to the dust. He added that watering of the roads is done by the contractors but dust still possesses the town.

During the World Tuberculosis Day, some residents claimed that the increase of tuberculosis (TB) is caused by this dust. However, Andrew Sirima, the program manager came against that point saying that it is rare to get TB through dust.

THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF TURKANA
CONSOLIDATED BUDGET ESTIMATES SUMMARY FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2014-2015

DEPARTMENTS	Total Recurrent Expenditure	Total Development Expenditure	Total Proposed Expenditure	% of Allocation	2014-2015 Ceilings	Deviation From Ceiling %
Office of the Governor	279,277,477.99	310,000,000.00	589,277,477.99	5.8%	537,257,477.99	9.68%
Office of the Deputy Governor	84,500,387.98	0.00	84,500,387.98	0.8%	84,500,387.98	0.00%
Finance and Planning	432,309,070.34	709,000,000.00	1,141,309,070.34	11.2%	1,141,309,070.34	0.00%
Water services, Irrigation & Agriculture	201,028,249.78	700,000,000.00	901,028,249.78	8.8%	901,028,249.78	0.00%
Health & Sanitation Services	946,277,580.62	746,139,056.00	1,692,416,636.62	16.6%	1,692,416,636.62	0.00%
Tourism, Trade & Industrialization	114,960,750.00	316,200,000.00	431,160,750.00	4.2%	431,160,750.00	0.00%
Education, HRD, Culture & Social Services	218,452,922.52	689,300,000.00	907,752,922.52	8.9%	907,752,922.52	0.00%
Public Services, Decentralized services & Disaster Mitigation	460,236,972.00	550,000,000.34	1,010,236,972.34	9.9%	1,010,236,972.34	0.00%
Transport, Roads, Housing & Public Works	102,476,767.20	554,080,380.04	656,557,147.24	6.4%	656,557,147.24	0.00%
Pastoral Economy & Fisheries	122,760,244.96	549,300,000.00	672,060,244.96	6.6%	672,060,244.96	0.00%
Energy, Environment & Natural Resources	138,000,000.00	287,237,417.20	425,237,417.20	4.2%	425,237,417.20	0.00%
Land, Physical Planning & Urban Management	104,740,334.89	418,521,909.91	523,262,244.80	5.1%	523,262,244.80	0.00%
County Assembly	877,384,593.00	205,000,000.00	1,082,384,593.00	10.6%	818,217,776.20	32.29%
Nairobi Liason Office	27,159,786.72	-	27,159,786.72	0.3%	27,159,786.72	0.00%
County Public Service Board	76,226,051.44	0.00	76,226,051.44	0.7%	76,226,051.44	0.00%
TOTAL	4,185,791,189	6,034,778,763	10,220,569,953	100%	9,904,383,136.13	3.19%

Turkana Mirror Pictorial



A man at river Turkwel in Kaptir Ward, ready to defend himself



For security reasons, guns are part of them



When insecurity becomes the order of the day women are also trained on how to use a gun



Traditional way of roasting goat



Always armed



Canal in Juluk



Preparation of traditional beer



Challenges that people living in Juluk face: there is no bridge, they have no option for getting across the river but to get into the river, which is very dangerous

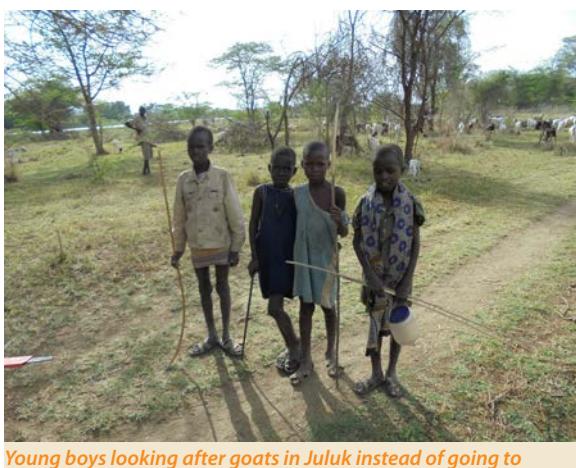
Turkana Mirror Pictorial



Brains at work



Turkana music festival was more than colours



Young boys looking after goats in Juluk instead of going to school.



Pupils of Juluk primary entertaining parents and teachers during releasing of end term exams



Children marking the day of the African child



Mr. Eliud Emeri,
Director of TUBAE
and KWS Warden,
Mr. Kiptoo having
a chat.



The magical land of Turkana



We need laptops



Cement desks in Juluk primary in Turkana South.

Do You Know the Rights and Responsibilities of a Turkana Citizen Under the Constitution?

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Kenya's sovereign power is vested in its citizens. They exercise their sovereign power either directly or through their democratically elected representatives.

Every person has the right to lodge a case in court if a right or fundamental freedom in the Bill of Rights is denied, violated or threatened.

Every person is entitled to the following rights and fundamental freedoms:

Right to life; The right to equality, equal protection and equal benefit in law; Human dignity; Freedom and security; Protection from slavery, servitude & forced labour; Freedom of conscience, religion, belief and opinion; Freedom of expression; Freedom of the media; Right of access to information; Freedom of association; Right of assembly, demonstration, picketing and petition; Political rights; Freedom of movement and residence; Protection of right to property; Fair labour practices; Right to a clean and healthy environment;

Right to economic and social rights (health, housing, food, water, social security & education); Right to use of language and culture of one's preference; Consumer rights; Right to fair administrative action; Right of access to justice; and Right to a fair hearing.

Kenyans have an obligation to ensure people serving in the independent Commissions are properly vetted as they are tasked to protect the sovereignty of the people, ensure the State organs keep democratic values and principles and promote constitutionalism.

Members of the public have the right of access to parliamentary sittings and those of its committees and can give contributions.

The Executive authority (the Presidency) obtains its power from the citizens of Kenya and acts as empowered by the constitution. The judiciary obtains its power from Kenyan citizens and acts through the courts and tribunals.

Alternative forms of dispute resolution including reconciliation, mediation, arbitration and traditional

dispute resolution mechanisms are promoted provided they do not go against the Bill of Rights.

Devolution gives power of self-governance to the people and grants them opportunity for greater participation in the exercise of the powers of the State and in decision making. It also recognizes the right of communities to manage their own affairs and further their development.

County assemblies are expected to conduct their business in an open manner and hold all their sittings and committee meetings in public.

All national security organs - the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), the National Intelligence Service (NIS) and the National Police Service (NPS) - are sub-ordinate to civilian authority.

Citizens have the right to propose an amendment to the constitution by popular initiative signed by at least one million registered voters.

Every Kenyan has the right to start court proceedings, if the constitution has been contravened or is threatened with contravention.

Citizen Responsibilities

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Regardless of the presence of elected representatives every citizen has an obligation to respect, uphold and defend Kenya's sovereignty.

Citizens also have a responsibility to live out the national values and principles of: patriotism, national unity, sharing and devolution of power, the rule of law, democracy and participation of the people.

They are to uphold human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, equality, human rights, non-discrimination and protection of the marginalized.

In addition, citizens should ensure good governance, integrity and accountability are upheld.

Every Kenyan has the responsibility to uphold the rights and fundamental freedoms in the Bill of Rights and to ensure they are observed in making social, economic and cultural policies.

Every person has a duty to cooperate with the State to protect and conserve the environment and the country's natural resources and ensure sustainable development is carried out.

Citizens are expected to monitor how state officers are functioning to ensure the guiding principles of leadership and integrity are respected and maintained. The guiding principles include: Selection based on personal integrity, competence and suitability or election in a free and fair election; Objectivity and impartiality in decision making and in ensuring decisions are not influenced by nepotism, favouritism and other improper practices; Selfless service based on public interest is maintained; Accountability to the public for decisions and actions; and Discipline and commitment in service to the people.

Citizens should promote the realization of the principles of the electoral system. The electoral system principles include: Freedom of citizens to exercise their political rights; Not more than two thirds of the members of the elective public bodies shall be of the same gender; Fair representation of persons with disabilities; Universal suffrage based on the aspiration for fair representation and equality of vote; and Free and fair elections. The elections are to be: By secret ballot; Free from violence, intimidation, improper influence or corruption; Conducted by an independent body; Transparent; and Administered in an impartial, neutral, efficient, accurate and accountable manner.

Transforming Turkana through Personal Responsibility

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Turkana shall be changed by ordinary people like you and I who are willing to venture into the uncommon, do things differently and inspire others in the process. Let's join hands in this exciting journey in service to God and County.

Who is a Member of County Assembly (MCA)?

Each of us belongs to a county and much more award where the public services to be provided by both the national and county governments affects our everyday life. This is regardless of whether we participate in the governance or not. No one is to be excluded but there is all the

more benefit to participate while seeking to ensure that services are economical, efficient and effectively provided to all without fear or favour.

The Member County Assembly (MCA) who will be the most local representative of the people will play an immense role in ensuring that county governments are kept accountable and supported. Each of the 47 Counties will have a parliament, referred to as County Assembly (CA) responsible for making laws, approving budgets and plans of the county, and providing oversight in the running of the county governments. The CA shall be chaired by the speaker and shall be elected for a five year term.

So who constitutes a MCA? Article 177 of the Constitution provides for four categories:

A person elected in each ward by the majority of the registered voters (this can be an independent candidate or a member of a political party)

A person nominated through a political party to ensure that the composition of the CA is such that no one gender is more than two thirds of the members

A person nominated through a political party to represent marginalized groups, persons with disability and the youth. The County Government Act 2012 sets the total number of these nominations at 6 persons.

The speaker, who shall

be an ex-officio member elected by the CAMs from among persons who are not CAMs

The responsibility placed on the MCAs is to: maintain close contact with the electorate and consult them on issues before or under discussion in the county assembly;

present views, opinions and proposals of the electorate to the county assembly; attend sessions of the county assembly and its committees; provide a linkage between the county assembly and the electorate on public service delivery; and extend professional knowledge, experience or specialized knowledge to any issue for discussion in the county assembly.

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Role of Members of Parliament in the National Assembly

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Many Kenyans do not seem to have a clear understanding about the precise role of their members of Parliament within and without Parliament. Kenyan voters at the grassroots have over the years always elected or re-elected an MP based on certain expectations including support and attendance to fund raisings, burials of their deceased, payment of hospital bills of their loved ones and school fees for their children and solving of any other personal as opposed to community or national problems. Whether the MP attends and represents them well in parliament is beside the point. Therefore, there is need to enhance civic education and awareness amongst the citizen on what the actual role of an MP is.

Universally, Members of Parliament (MPs) are expected to perform five central roles in national governance, namely:

1. Making legislation: to consider, refine and pass legislative bills to improve the lives of Kenyans;

2. Budgetary allocations: to provide the funds needed for government operations annually; MPs have responsibility to consider, debate and pass the financial estimates (budget) including taxation measures for raising revenue to finance public development programmes/projects presented by the Executive.

3. Oversight: The oversight role extends to scrutiny of financial, administrative and management practices of public officers and other public institutions. In this parliamentarians hold the latter to account for expenditure of such funds as approved by the House to ensure transparency and accountability;

4. Representation of constituents: MPs are a bridge between the electorate and the government; hence relay issues facing voters to the government for consideration and press for action. On the other hand, an MP is expected to communicate to the public the ongoing gov-

ernment plans and policies to address their concerns;

5. Making and unmaking of government (executive): Parliament has the power to vote out the executive through a vote of no confidence. This is a powerful lever upon which they can use to determine the life of the Government through exercising the ability to provide or withhold support to either the entire government or a member of the executive.

Legislative Mandate

SECTION 30 of the Constitution gives the legislative power of the Republic of Kenya exclusively to parliament. The cardinal role of MPs in Kenya is to consider, refine and pass legislative bills, which upon Presidential Assent become Acts of Parliament. This also includes bills for possible amendments on the constitution itself.

Parliament transacts its business through Motions and Bills. At least 90 percent of government business (including legislative proposals) emanate from the executive arm (public servants and Cabinet Ministers) who have direct responsibility for initiating new or reforming existing legislation. However, MPs do have an opportunity to influence legislation through debates, particularly in the parliamentary committees where bills are referred to after the First Reading in the House. At the relevant Departmental Committee, any Member and other interest groups can make proposals for amendments for consideration by the house at the appropriate time.

MPs have the power to also introduce legislation of their own, through Private Member's bills. Private Member' bills are indeed public interest policy issues sponsored by an individual member or party and not a member of the cabinet. These could either be for a new legislation or seeking to amend existing laws. An opposition MP or any other backbencher in parliament should ideally use this instrument as a means or platform of drawing attention to areas of critical public concerns that is either lacking a guiding regulatory framework

or neglected by the government.

Surveillance or oversight activity

Parliament has powers of oversight or watchdog over public funds as empowered by the Constitution. The watchdog function further gives parliament what is called the 'power of the purse' where they regulate the revenue and expenditure of public resources through the budgetary process among other oversight roles.

Questions and Motions: The Constitution of Kenya empowers MPs to debate and pass the budget and monitor all expenditure of public funds. Review of

Annual Ministerial estimates provide MPs with a particular significant opportunity for holding the Government accountable for its policies and administrative practices regarding use of public funds.

Rules of procedure (standing orders) facilitate MPs to ask questions directed especially at Government Ministers on policy issues pertaining to their ministerial responsibilities in service delivery, protection of Kenyan's right and promotion of their interests. Some of the most widely known and effective instruments in parliament by which Members scrutinize government activity is through Questions and Motions, Committee probes and seeking min-

isterial statements.

Committee Inquiries: The entitlement of backbenchers to committee membership further avails them the platform to question ministers and public service officials in the course of committee deliberations and is an important means of exercising surveillance and achieving government accountability. On the sidelines, in execution of their duties, MPs are expected to, once in a while, call press conferences to state their positions on various national issues, or make inspection visits to various government projects, facilities, etc. to establish facts and circumstances.

Continued on page 14

Sandfields

Lodwar Camp

Mouth watering meals

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Sandfields Lodwar Camp

Contacts:

Cell: +254 707 339 815

Email: sandfields@gmail.com

Located at Naotin Road
past Kanamkemer Catholic Church
2km from Robert's junction



MPs and MCAs are Equal in Service Delivery

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Parliamentarians both at County and National level (bi-cameral house) are on call on twenty-four hour basis. They often work for long hours in official assignments in committees of the House away from the public glare. Indeed, unknown to the public, the plenary debate in the chamber is the culmination of other activities and processes held elsewhere, among them committee

sittings, inspection visit, probes and conferences held to discuss important national issues.

There is no doubt that parliament is a critical institution in National and County governance, and has the potential and capability to transform Kenya into a prosperous nation. However, citizens must actively understand the specific roles of ELECTIVE OFFICES and thereby hold them responsible and accountable to delivery of national and County goals

"Parliamentarians are elected to harness the collective energies of the people and channel these towards positive individual and collective advancement."

and aspirations. Parliamentarians are elected to harness the collective energies of the peo-

ple and channel these towards positive individual and collective advancement. As such the interrogation of the caliber and development philosophy of persons seeking public offices by the voters is fundamental MCAs should not intimidate neither threaten EXECUTIVE in executing their roles. Project identification and procurement process is NOT THE ROLE OF ANY ELECTIVE OFFICE.

In most cases, many voters chose or vote in leaders without

clear basis of what is required of the leaders once they take office. On the other hand, elected leaders should be conscious of the fact that they can immensely contribute to development of the nation and county through the legislative policies they make or pass in the House. Only they have the privilege to alter society, one way or the other, either positively or negatively.

Citizen Responsibilities

Continued from page 12

Adult Turkanas are expected to vote the right people to office by participating in elections. The electorate has the right and responsibility to recall their Member of Parliament before the end of their term in office. Citizens can also petition Parliament to consider matters within its authority and enact, amend or repeal legislation. Citizens also have an obligation to ensure presidential candidates meet the qualifications for the post.

Kenyans have the responsibility to ensure Executive authority is exercised in a manner that serves them and for their well-being and benefit. County assemblies should facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative and other business of the assembly including its committees.

Public participation in the public finance process is expected and the government has to maintain openness and accountability through the structure to promote an equitable society. Members of the public must be involved in the public-service policymaking process. The public must also hold all public service institutions accountable for their work. Citizens have to ensure the government protects its people rights and freedoms and the country against internal and external threats to its territorial integrity and sovereignty. Citizens are obligated to ensure the constitution is interpreted in a manner that promotes its purposes, values and principles, advances rule of law, human rights and Bill of Rights, permits development of the law and contributes to good governance.

Role of Members of Parliament in the National Assembly

Continued from page 13

Where MPs are not satisfied with Ministers' responses to their questions, they are allowed to raise the subject of such a question by moving a motion for adjournment of the House for brief debate on matters of public/national interest. To be granted the opportunity to raise a matter of national importance, the MP should inform the Speaker in advance.

Public petitions: Kenyans have a right to petition parliament through any of their MPs on any public interest matter that they feel has not been raised or addressed by the government. By raising such issues, the performance of a given Minister/ministry, and indeed, the entire government is thus brought to close focus by the House.

Constituency Representation

MPs as people's elected representatives are expected to maintain a close link with issues in their constituencies, provide leadership and take part in local events and official functions there. They are supposed to be role models and motivate their people to seek local solutions to certain issues while s/he seeks complementary support from the state or other development stakeholders. In addition, they:-

1. Are expected to be in constant touch with the constituents, devoting time and even personal involvement to provide direction and inspiration

for the people to harness their capacities for self-reliance

2. Are also expected to help mobilize resources to address local challenges by, for example, contacting Ministers or public service officials, or using time in the House, to make known grievances of their constituents, press for action to remedy the situation

3. Are further expected to get and analyze public views/position on certain national issues through organizing local meetings to discuss community/national issues.

In 2004/5, the Government of Kenya introduced the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), among other devolved funds to expeditiously help the financing of various development projects at the constituency to improve the well-being of the people. Every local MP is a patron of the Constituency Committees, which are expected to reflect the face of persons and interest in the constituency. These committees are supposed to debate and prioritize development projects equitably throughout a given constituency without fear or favour or political persuasion as all Kenyans pay taxes and deserve services.

Party Responsibilities

Every MP must be nominated or sponsored by a political party to stand for election in Kenya. As such, a Member is ideally expected to support his/her political party's policies and programmes as per their Manifesto when it comes to voting in the House. They

are further supposed to support the operation of the party financially and politically to enable it either retain (ruling party) or access power (opposition). However, bearing the fact that Kenya lacks strong ideology based parties; MPs do not necessarily adhere to party positions. This explains why there has been clamor for a political Parties legislation that was passed last year and became operational as of 1st July 2008. Strong political parties are very useful vehicles for enhancing parliamentary democracy; the new Political Parties Act is expected to streamline party operations in Kenya.

The role of opposition in the House is to bring to public attention the weaknesses and inconsistency of the Party in power in terms of its policies, legislative proposals, public expenditure patterns, access to public resources, etc. By so doing, the idea is to win public support/sympathy and hence position itself to take over power in the subsequent polls. It should tailor its opposition in such a manner as to offer alternative policy options and programmes to improve on peoples' lives and status of the country.

On the other hand, the parliamentary role of governing party MPs is essentially to support the Government programmes and agenda in the House. It largely involves the refining of legislation and the public defense of the government's position in debates, with relatively less significant participation in surveillance activity. Party caucuses are important opportunities to raise grievances affecting party issues.

PRAGYA, an international organization based in India plans to support water and sanitation programs in Turkana South, Central and West through TUBAE- African Development Trust. Let's get ready for new technology which is less costly.

Turkana Resource and Public Engagement Project (TRAPEP) Launch

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

TRAPEP launch was held at Lodwar lodge on Monday 9th June 2014 by Executive director Mr. Eliud Emeri and Governance officer Mr. Joshua Lomechu. Those in attendance were Nanam ward administrator, Turkana East sub-county administrator and sub-chief Nachukui. Others in attendance were Executive directors and Governance officers from civil societies that are LOKADO, AKIDE, APEI and SAPCONE.

TRAPEP is based on a four month devolution and oil program. The expectations or objectives of the project are: to increase citizen participation through citizen forums in the County focusing on development and implementation of projects as stipulated in the County integrated development plan, to establish community engagement structures to monitor, report and engage with duty bearers, to develop county feedback sharing reports to ensure equal dis-



Participants during the TRAPEP launch

semination of information and news through County newspaper to curb communication barrier, to update the public on County Assembly proceeding and performance of the Executives as means of making public institutions accountable to the electorates and to support local initiatives in development of score cards for the

elective positions and county executives in upholding their duties in effective and efficient service delivery.

TUBAE is conducting a feasibility study on devolution, insecurity and oil; and ward civic education in the entire county in the months of June and July 2014.

The work plan for feasibility study includes: field study

from 16th to 27th June, analysis and report writing from 30th June to 1st July and a stakeholders' forum on 5th July.

The work plan for civic education is as follows: civic education from 3rd to 17th July, report writing on 18th and 19th and a dissemination meeting on 22nd July.

TUBAE Calendar of Events 2014

Devolution and Oil Program

Timing	Activity
16 June -10 July	Feasibility study on devolution, insecurity and oil
4 July	Learning forum on disability, main streaming supported by UNDP, AMKENI WAKENYA
4 - 6 July	TUBAE staff retreat
8 July	Community parliament at Nakwamekwi, Lodwar on devolution
10 July	Community parliament at Kanam Kemer, Lodwar on devolution
11 July	Radio program on devolution and oil
12 July	Community parliament at Mikeka grounds, Lodwar on devolution and oil.
14 -17 July	Civic education on devolution and oil in Turkana West (Kakuma, Kalobeyei, Lokichogio and Nanam ward), followed by radio program on devolution and oil at Atanayache FM and Bibilia Husema Radio
21 -24 July	Turkana North civic education, Lakezone ward (Lowarengak, Nariokutune, Nachukui and Kataboi)
25 -30 July	Turkana South civic education (Lokichar, Kalemngorok and Kainuk)

CIVIC EDUCATION

Why Did Turkana Residents Vote for the 2010 Constitution?

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Kenyans voted for the Constitution as means to make government move closer to the people. The five KEY expectations were:

- Equitable distribution of resources across the country, especially to regions that have been marginalized for decades.
- Management of governance and public service to the smallest units of the counties.
- Timely and efficient delivery of public services such as health care, education and infrastructure.
- Allowing Kenyans to take charge of their development initiatives from the grass-root levels through prioritising of their needs.
- Avoiding political tensions at the national level by devolving leadership to the countryside.

The Constitution gives the county governments the executive and legislative authority and mandate to raise revenue, craft policies and make own budgets for the purpose of devolving services to the people. County governments are each administered by a County Executive unit under an elected governor. The two levels of government, though distinct, are not based on absolute autonomy but rather on interdependence and cooperation. While Section 6 (2) of the Constitution emphasizes distinctiveness and interdependence, section 189 calls for closer liaison, consultation and exchange of information between the national government and the counties.

This is supported by the fact that Kenya remains one unitary state despite devolution. The Constitution creates structures to ensure that this remains so and that any emerging issues are dealt with. Section 7 of the Devolution Chapter establishes the Intergovernmental Relations Act, 2013, which creates key structures, namely a national and County Governments Coordinating Summit.

This summit will help in regulating and guiding the relationship, coexistence of the two levels of government to ensure the success of devolution. It will comprise the President of the Republic, the Deputy President and governors of the 47 counties.

Do You Understand Devolution and Intergovernmental Roles?

By TUBAE Civic Education Department

Majority of the Turkana County residents are ignorant of Devolution and Citizenship roles despite promulgation of the Constitution in August, 2010. Devolution in Kenya is the pillar of the Constitution and seeks to bring government closer to the people. With County governments at the centre of dispersing political power and economic resources to Kenyans at the grassroots, this has been felt in marginalized areas with improved Environmental services, Health and Education facilities. As the Turkana residents evaluate impact of devolution one year and three months later, this has been rated fair in the feasibility study report that will specify areas of improvement.

Despite attempts of County government, illiteracy levels are high which calls for massive civic education.

The promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 marked a major milestone in the way the country is governed. Turkana County is among the leading county governments in Kenya in enforcement and realization of devolution. TUBAE- African Development Trust is undertaking a feasibility study using three measures: devolution, insecurity and oil, to assess the impact of devolution one year and three months since implementation of intergovernmental Act. Although the survey is on-going to 27th June, 2014 and report expected by 10th July, 2014 the general remarks among respondents indicate high levels of ignorance on the three KEY pillars

of the survey. This was seen in the three sampled areas: urban, rural and the most underserved areas i.e. Kraals.

The tools administered left both respondents and the survey team amazed when the electorate expressed their concern about unseen elective leaders in one year and three months. The Constitution stipulated the dispersal of political power and economic resources from the capital in Nairobi to the grassroots in a process known as devolution but the employer (the Turkana Voters) since

“...the general remarks among respondents indicate high levels of ignorance on the three KEY pillars of the survey.”

March 2013 has not seen the shepherd who was sent to take care of the livestock. If this is so; when do you think He/She will report work done for report card to be given out? If this persists, is the leadership aware of the RECALL CLAUSE (Article 141 of the Kenya Constitution)?

Kenya came full circle from pre-independence days when a form of devolution, then known as Majimbo, was introduced briefly in 1962 but scrapped soon after independence. Majimbo came following intense political battles between two independence parties — Kenya African National Union (KANU) and Kenya African Democratic Union (KADU) — as they negotiated the independence Constitution in Lancaster.

Challenges of Devolution in Kenya

By TUBAE Civic Education Department

At the centre of this implementation cycle is the impending restructuring of the public administration and service delivery mechanisms at the local level. These mechanisms have been in existence for decades and they have deep roots. For this reason, restructuring will not be easy, especially because it involves people.

Some of these people and systems have been in existence for decades and disbanding or transferring them to the counties would be a hard task. Already there have been controversies over how the national and county government should share responsi-

bilities. Just who should do what? The restructuring also involves the introduction of new value systems, such as the focus on service delivery, the need for closer supervision, and the importance of knowledge, skills and experience.

Realising the desired goals will call for a careful strategy, supported by the necessary policies and legislation. Some of these are spelt out in the Constitution, and some are not. Where possible, Kenya will need to learn from the experience of other countries, which have restructured their public administration and service delivery mechanisms. But contexts differ. In Kenya, an additional degree of complexity will be added, because future counties will vary enormously in terms of basic characteristics and needs.

Do You Know the County Government's Role in Kenya?

By TUBAE Civic Education Department

Devolution is enshrined in Chapter 11 of the Constitution. It legalizes the formation of the 47 counties, each with its own government as spelt out in the County Governments Act, 2012. This Act also created elaborate structures to ensure the full implementation and success of devolution.

The county governments have executive and legislative authority, including the accompanying mandates and powers, to raise limited revenue, establish policies, plans, budget and governance. Under this Act, the national government is obliged to support the county governments. The form of the devolved government is defined in Section Six, which states that though the two levels of government are distinct, they remain independent.

What have our County Executive members done since June, 2013 to date that makes us proud of effective and efficient service delivery? *Articles are invited from the ward levels to be published in the 4th edition.*

What of our Honourable members of the County Assembly, what has been legislated to improve living standards of Ngaturkana? Are you aware 34 roles were retained by the National government? If any County may need some of these functions they MUST apply for. How far have you reached in devolving these current National functions?

The National government of Kenya shall execute the following roles; Foreign affairs, Use of international waters and water resources, Immigration and citizenship, Religion and State, Language policy, National defence, Police service, Courts, National economic policy, Monetary policy, National statistics, Intellectual property rights, Labour standards, Consumer protection, Education policy, Primary schools, Promotion of sports and sports education, Transport and communications, National public works, Housing policy, General Principles of land planning and the coordination of planning by the counties, Protection of environmental and natural resources, National referral health facilities, Disaster management, Ancient and historical development monuments, National elections, Health policy, Agricultural policy, Veterinary policy, Energy policy, Capacity building and technical assistance to the counties, Public investments, National betting and Tourism policy.

What are Civil Society Organizations doing to support County government in realization of devolution? What are the challenges in service delivery by our CBOs and local organizations in relation to the PBOs Act? The County government should support local initiatives as means of building their capacity to deliver their mandates to the public since devolution structure are yet to reach the most under-served areas of this vast County.

Devolution the Backbone of the Constitution

By TUBAE Civic Education Department

Legal experts agree that without the chapter on devolution, the 2010 Constitution would be a mere shell. It has given hope to many Kenyans and is, therefore, the most watched unit of the Constitution. Already there are very high expectations from the public as governors and senators embark on their new roles. Kenya's new counties will have considerable autonomy, including over public service management.

Though facing myriad challenges, devolution represents a major transformation of the state and undoubtedly, in course of time, of society. It reverses the system of control and authority established by the colonial powers and perpetuated by successive presidents. Two major, interrelated, defining features of that system were the centralization of power in the presidency and other executive organs.

Through devolution, the Constitution deals, to some extent, with the first feature. Devolution opens the prospects of fundamental, progressive changes in politics and economy.

Devolution Takes Root in Kenya

By TUBAE Civic Education Department

After years of sustained demands for the reinstatement of regional governments, devolution has taken root in the country, with 47 county governments and the national government. Devolution was at the core of the formation of the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission (CKRC) that was headed by Prof Yash Pal Ghai between 2000 and 2004.

The Constitution of Kenya Review Act 2000 required the CKRC to consider people's participation through the devolution of power; respect for ethnic and regional diversity and communal rights including the right of communities to organise and participate in cultural activities and the expression of their identities. It was to review the place of local government, the degree of the devolution of power to local authorities, and options for federal and unitary systems.

Majority of Kenyans who gave their views to the CKRC team demanded a devolved government to check widespread alienation due to the concentration of power in the national government. The feeling of being marginalized and neglected, deprived of resources and victimized for political or ethnic affiliations intensified the push for devolution. Areas that did not support the president were penalized in terms of development and resources and discriminated against.

There was particular resentment of the Provincial Administration, which was accused of abuse of powers bestowed upon its officers. The local authorities had failed to deliver services and had been turned into dens of corruption. This debate rekindled memories of the manoeuvres that almost derailed independence after the Lancaster constitutional conference turned into a factional show down over whether Majimbo could be entrenched in the Constitution.

While KADU, led by Ronald Ngala pushed for regional governments, KANU's Jomo Kenyatta who later became the founding President, his deputy Jaramogi Oginga Odinga and Secretary-General Tom Mboya, were opposed to the system. Ngala and his team who included Martin Shikuku, Masinde Muliro, Peter Okonda and William Murgor insisted there would be no Constitution, and therefore independence, without Majimbo. They were backed by colonial administrators – Wilfred Havelock, Michael Blundell and R.S. Alexander, the forces behind the push for Majimbo.

The acrimony that followed delayed the Lancaster conference for almost four months. The conference started on February 12, 1962 but lasted until May, when KADU eventually had their way. Havelock and Blundell had convinced KADU leaders that an independent Kenya with a Kikuyu and Luo majority would marginalize the smaller tribes. They argued that the only way to water

“Majority of Kenyans who gave their views to the CKRC team demanded a devolved government to check widespread alienation due to the concentration of power in the national government.”

down an all-powerful presidency and provincial administration was to form regional units.

By pushing for Majimbo, the colonialists argued that the British West Minister parliamentary model, which they wanted Kenya to adopt, gave too much power to the majority. They wanted the transfer of significant powers to regions, largely at the provincial level. The primary reason was to eliminate the Provincial Administration.

But although defeated by KADU in entrenching Majimbo in the Constitution, Kenyatta and his team did not give up the fight. When he eventually took over power as the first Prime Minister and later as President in 1963, the Senate repealed the Majimbo clause in the Constitution in 1964.

The result was concentration of power in the presidency that eventually led to the political struggle that many have referred to as the Second Liberation. While Daniel Arap Moi, a former KADU member who joined KADU and succeeded Kenyatta, ruled, the Majimbo debate largely died although he implemented some Majimbo policies through the District Focus for Rural Development programme. In 2001, Cabinet Ministers Shariff Nassir and William ole Ntimama called for the return to Majimbo “to ensure equitable distribution of resources” after Moi's exit from power. Ntimama said Majimbo could be the answer to what he termed as “majoritarian avalanche.”

Moi, in his autobiography, The Making of An African Statesman by British author Andrew Morton, described Majimbo as “a system of checks and balances designed to safeguard the integrity of small tribes which were in danger of being overwhelmed by larger tribes.” Odinga, in his book, Not Yet Uhuru, wrote that the system was not only expensive in terms of money and personnel, but also prevented the growth of nationhood and retarded economic development. It was “too legalistic and cumbersome, literally requiring a battery of legal experts and clerks at the centre and regions to interpret the dos and the don'ts hidden in the myriad legally worded clauses if it was ever to work.”

Against that background, Prof Ghai's CKRC established detailed proposals for devolution, beginning with its objectives, and covering powers and institutions of devolved units, and their relationship with the national government, including funding for devolved activities. Several matters of detail were left to be dealt with in legislation. But it did propose structures, right down to village level, which were discussed by delegates at the Bomas of Kenya.

One group favoured the district, the other the region. The CKRC had chosen the district but found some coordinating role for the province. At Bomas a compromise was struck by giving provinces somewhat enhanced powers.

Dr. Ekuru Aukot Team in Liberation of Kenya

By TUBAE Civic Education Department

Despite the current success in implementation of the constitution, credit goes to the Committee of Experts for the good job done to ensure Kenyans realized the fruits of devolution. This do not rule out the challenges Counties are facing in the execution of governor's seat which did

not require to be an elective position. This is what Kenyans need to think as making it elective derails realization of an all inclusive development due to political manipulation and tyranny of numbers.

In 2010 Constitution largely followed the Bomas scheme. The Committee of Experts which finally delivered a new supreme law to Kenyans was faced

with the same dilemmas that had vexed CKRC and Bomas, namely the levels and numbers of devolved units. At first it supported the idea of three levels (unlike the five of the CKRC). But later it opted for a single lower level to avoid a “complex system”. The units at that level were labelled counties and their boundaries largely followed district boundaries drawn as part of the independence

WATER & SANITATION

LOWASCO Fails Lodwar Residents

Continued from page 1

The water menace reminds the public of the County government speech made by the Hon. Josephat Kooli Nanok the Governor during the flagging off of the 33 ward land cruisers in March when he promised residence of the County access to water within two weeks from the water aquifers situated at Napuu area. This is now three month with no sign of water access by the electorates. Members of the public are keenly following up statements made by the elective leaders in proving their commitment to what they say.

Despite the fact that by 2015 all households are required to have access to clean and piped water as stipulated in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This is a nightmare in Turkana County since water is a great challenge across the County. Turkana Mirror visit at Turkana North, South and Turkana West Sub-Counties confirmed to the residence of no measures taken to address or interventions to enable public access clean water. Longech being the area where the electorate pay Kshs. 80 per twenty-litre jerrican followed by Kalemungorok where water is only accessed through Reformed support water source (inadequate) while the majority of the residence fetch water from the river Turkwell. Kataabo one of the densely populated centres along the lake faces the same problem with the only secondary girls school forced to have students fetching water when they are required to be in class. Trekking for over 3 Km is not only exposing girls to temptations but prove of unconcerned institutions who are informed of the day to day state of the people.

TUBAE under the new program on devolution and oil expects to assist in setting engagement structures aimed at empowering members of the public and duty bearers in improving service delivery which is effective and efficient. In realization of the Turkana we want; it's high time we need to ensure duty bearers perform their roles as expected and its upon the public to ensure this is done. The civil society organization needs to be on alert in ensuring relevant County ministry do their work well.

arrangements.

Eventually, the draft constitution with devolution at the county level was overwhelmingly passed at the referendum with more than 60 percent of the total votes. Kenya finally had a Constitution that devolved power and resources to the grassroots, a feat that had remained elusive for decades.

HISTORY

The Growth of Lodwar Town

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

In early 1970 the present town of Lodwar was occupied by three businessmen Mr. Shah Mohamed (Indian), Mbae (Ameru) and Ngoi (Ameru) who served the Turkana pastoral community as shopkeepers. There was no electricity, piped water, good health facilities and means of communication that is available today.

However, the town rose due to the following factors: Good administration: the first Turkana District Commissioner (DC), White House was a lover of Turkana community. He responded to whatever needed to be done, such as distributing food in time of hunger and medication in time of disease. He responded to the natural calamity such as floods which comes especially from river Turkwell. He secured them by evacuating and settling them to the hill which is today known as mount Solomon. As a result, many people were attracted to settle in the present Lodwar town in order to access the DC's services.

Missionaries: the Missionaries of Mary came to Turkana in 1962. According to James Nakadon, the missionaries came at a time when resources were scarce. The year was named Namotor in local language because of greatest famine in the history of Turkana. The sisters came at time of great need when resources in the desert were scarce and training personnel unavailable.

Construction of Turkwell gorge dam: after the great famine of 1962, a great rain which caused great flood all over Turkana region occurred. River Turkwell and Kerio caused the death of many and destruction of houses in the region. In the present town of Lodwar there was a great flood which almost made all the administration to evacuate the place. However, when Turkwell dam was constructed the flood was put under control making people to be attracted to the area again.

Construction of the bridge: the construction between 1975-1976, was done by many people both skilled and unskilled and attracted many people to do business. The bridge also acted as a link between Lodwar town and other places.

Today Lodwar is a county headquarter of Turkana where all forms of administration are based. The town also serves as an educational centre having primary schools, secondary schools, colleges and universities.

ENVIRONMENT

Charcoal Burning, an Enemy of the Environment



Enemies of the environment

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Charcoal is one of the most environmentally unfriendly fuels. It is a source of dangerous indoor pollution in many developing countries, besides that it causes deforestation. Forest is important natural resources that covers approximately one third of the earth surface. Forest destruction continues unabated primarily through charcoal burning. According to research by the world agro forestry center ICRAF there are 200,000 charcoal producers operating in Kenya and half a million people (producers, trans-

porters, and vendors) are involved in the charcoal trade.

The annual income from charcoal is approximately Kshs 32 billion almost equivalent to the income generated by Kenya's tea industry. Resolving the issue of charcoal burning needs more than a band-aid approach to replace what has become a driving force in the destruction of our forest.

Forests are cut down for many reasons but most of them are related to money or to people's need to provide for their families. Deforestation has many negative effects on the environment, apart from painting an ugly picture, it destroys the life

of living things.

Kenya's forest has declined in areas, stocking and volumes of wood and biomass contained therein over the last couple of decades, being blamed on charcoal production and use, especially in peri-urban areas to many charcoal is a source of employment and livelihood for millions of Kenyans in the informal sector. But nothing has been done to save our forest, we need a healthy environment. My question is why the government has not come up with viable alternative to charcoal burning.

TOURISM

Welcome to Sibiloi National Park



Hippopotamuses

Sibiloi National Park covers 1,570 square km of wilderness scenic landscape on the shores of Lake Turkana. The park was partially established through the initiative of National Museums of Kenya to protect unique pre-historic and archaeological sites; some of which are linked to the origin of man.

The fossils include a crocodile euthecodon brumpti, giant tortoise pettusis broadleyi, elephant elephas recki and the petrified forest. The terrain is lake shore, dry semi-desert bush and desert country. The climatic condition is hot and arid and a major attraction is the origin-of-man Koobi Fora Museum and Research Base. There are also thousands of fossils including giant tortoise, and Behemoth, a 45-foot long crocodile.

Wildlife at the national park include more than 350 bird species, among them are flamingo, pelican and

crocodile, zebra, Grant's gazelle, reticulated giraffe, beisa oryx, topi, greater kudu, lion, cheetah, leopard among other species. The world's largest Nile crocodile population breeds on Lake Turkana's Central Island.

The lake is a three-day drive from Nairobi via Marsabit and North Horr, or Maralal and South Horr. Alternatively travel by road from Nairobi to Kalokol on the lake's western shores, via Kitale and Lodwar. From Kalokol boat hire services are available across the lake to Allia Bay.

For accommodation, lodges and tented camps available include Oasis Lodge and Lobolo Tented Camp. The national park can be visited at all times of the year.

- www.magicalkenya.co.ke

Lake Turkana Wind Power Project

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

People from northern Kenya have a reason to smile again. Besides the discovery of oil in Turkana county, neighbouring Marsabit county is celebrating after a proposal by the government to support Lake Turkana Wind Power Project (LTWP).

This project aims to provide 300 megawatts of reliable, low cost wind power to the Kenya national grid equivalent to approximately 20% of the current installed electricity generating capacity. The project is of significant benefit to Kenya and at Kshs. 76 billion, will be the largest single private investment in Kenya's history.



Power generation using wind

3 Billion for Irrigation in Turkana County

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

The government has come up with a comprehensive development plan for communities in arid and semi arid areas to eradicate hunger, poverty and insecurity. Deputy President William Ruto has said the plan includes launching of various irrigation schemes, digging of boreholes, speeding up of rural electrification programmes, improving infrastructure and insecurity among other problems facing the residents in arid areas.

Addressing a mammoth rally at the Kakuma stadium in Turkana county. The Deputy President said that the gov-

ernment has set aside Kshs 3 billion for irrigation projects in the county. This includes irrigation schemes in Todonyang, Kainuk and Katilu among other areas to help the residents engage in farming activities.

He added that there was more than 70,000 acres of land ideal for irrigation that the agricultural potential of the areas could be tapped he further noted that the Japanese government will soon embark on sinking of boreholes in the county to a tune of Kshs. 2.5 billion. The programme is on course and will start soon. This will greatly help pastoralist communities to access water for domestic and irrigation purposes.

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Kenya Demographic and Health Survey

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Ministry of planning is not only a census business says the County statistics officer Mr. Nyongo. The Kenya Demographic and Health Survey is a national research activity designed to collect data to monitor the population and health situation in the 47 Counties across the Country. This is a follow up of the exercise which was conducted last in 2009 stated the County statistic officer.

Mr. Nyongo who is leading the Turkana County team and currently in Turkana South sub-county said KDHS will take six (6) month from May 2014 to October 2014 and the target participants are women aged between 15 and 49 and men aged between 15 and 54, who are residents or visitors in the selected households.

KDHS will collect information on maternal health and mortality, antenatal and postnatal care, infant and child mortality, nutrition, breastfeeding,

child health, family planning, fertility and fertility preferences, female genital mutilation, fistula, domestic violence, tobacco use, HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitude and practice, malaria, house and respondent characteristics, and other health related issues. KDHS is being conducted by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, KNBS. KNBS is the principal Government agency for official statistics. To conduct this exercise, KNBS has partnered with the Ministry of Health and a number of development partners.

It is important to participate if you have been selected so that the Government can the necessary information to and implement health programmes in your area and in the entire country especially at the county level. The information provided to KNBS data collection teams will be treated in confidence, as guaranteed by the Statistics Act, 2006. The information will be used for research purposes only.



Proposed Resort City in Turkana County

By Turkana Mirror Reporter

Residents along Lake Turkana near Eliye springs are living in tension, not knowing what will happen next, after the resort city was proposed on their land. Mr. Duncan Ekai, a 64 years old man, said that the piece of land belongs to their forefathers. Who lived there about 200 years ago and displacing the residents from their ancestral land would be showing disrespect to their ancestors.

Moreover, he said that the proposed resettlement site is far from the lake and would make it difficult to access water for their animals and themselves. If they would be forced to move out they would need to be compensated highly and be provided with a path to access water for their livestock and themselves.

Kenya's Vision 2030 report on the development of resort cities along the Lamu Port and South Sudan Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor proposes the need to establish two more cities at Lamu and Turkana. Turkana is to be developed as a resort town because of relative lack of resort towns in



Eliye Springs, near Lake Turkana

Africa. The proposed sites are Turkana, Lokichogio and near Eliye springs along lake Turkana.

There are several factors leading to the selection of this location. The LAPSSET Corridor project launched on 02 March 2012 proposed a railway route passing

through the resort cities: Lamu, Isiolo and Turkana which facilitate efficiency of transport.

There is hope for electricity power; proposed wind energy which will produce 150MW at the shore of the lake on 17 April 2012 to supply energy to the

resort city.

The effect of micro climate. Generally Turkana is hot and dry atmosphere but the breezes of the lake will bring out cooling effect at day time and warmth at night hence regulating the temperature of the resort city.

The drilling of crude oil. The drilling will attract many foreigners to visit the county who will come as investors, missionaries and tourists who will be accommodated at the resort.

The presence of beaches. The shores of Lake Turkana have numerous unique beaches which will attract many tourists and also market the lake which has not been marketed since 1963.

The availability of clean water. Water from Eliye Springs is good for domestic use. Moreover, the discovery of plenty of underground water in Turkana brings hope to the site.

If the construction of proposed Resort City will be successful, then development will go at high and rapid force as it will attract investors. The problem of unemployment and insufficiency of resources will be alleviated.

Transforming Turkana through Personal Responsibility

Continued from page 13

A member of the county assembly shall not be directly or indirectly involved in the executive functions of the county government and its administration; or delivery of services as if the member were an officer or employee of the county government. (County Government Act 2012).

Our Rights, Our Responsibilities as Turkana electorate

All Turkana residence regardless of ethnic group, colour, political, social and economic background we all have rights and responsibilities:

A right to seek the position of a MCA through any of the four ways and a responsibility to execute the duties given

with a sense of devotion, justice and integrity.

A right to support candidates seeking the position of MCAs whose principles, policies and values we agree with, and a responsibility to do so while shunning divisive, exclusionist, and bad blood politics;

A right to be heard when giving our opinions to our respective MCA and a responsibility to ensure that such proposals seek to advance the common good of all persons in our ward;

A right to demand for efficient services and a responsibility to honour our end through respecting the rule of law;

A right to hold our MCA accountable of their actions in serving us and a responsibility to model the very actions we

demand of others.

If the County Assembly is to do its proper work properly, then both the MCA and the citizens they represent need to play their respective roles. Let those who can lead present themselves, let us weigh their offers and support them based on what they are willing to do and what we are willing to live with. Let us take the responsibility to build our COUNTY seriously. Only we can build our county and since no house is built from the roof let us start with our wards. Make sure public resources are properly used. Don't ignore how public officers are misusing PUBLIC VEHICLES at night in DRINKING PLACES, PERSONAL USE yet the funds used to fuel, maintain are from the TAX PAYERS KIT.

TUBAE Open Forums

TUBAE kicked off their series of open forums at Mikeka grounds on 04th July, 2014 whereby they held an open forum on devolution and oil. An open forum is intended to be a venue in which people can gather to find out about a specific issue, reach a resolution on a controversial subject, or interact with members of their communities. Often officials and representatives are present to answer questions from the public, facilitate the discussion, and provide information which people may find valuable or useful. The theme of Mikeka open forum was on the impacts of devolution and oil exploration in Turkana County. The debate was chaired by the speaker Pastor Nicholas Ekuwom. After each open forum public opinions will be documented and written reports submitted to the

relevant authorities and to the public through Turkana Mirror magazine.

The calendar of events for open forum is as follows:

Every week
Tuesday- Kanamkemer 'kerio stage'
Thursday -Napetet 'slaughter'
Friday- Nakwamekwi 'market'
Saturday- Lodwar town' mikeka ground'
Turkana west
17th July- Lokichoggio
18th July- Kakuma
Turkana south
22nd July- Kainuk
23rd July- Katilu
24th July - Lokichar
26th July- Lokori
Loima
11th July - Turkwell
12th July - Lorugum
Turkana north
23rd July- Lowarengak
24th July - Kataboi