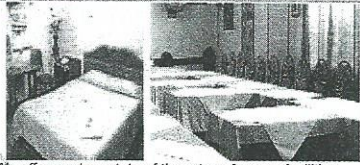




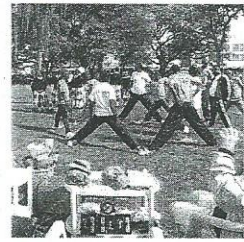
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# The Laikipia County Times

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FREE

## Australia enables villagers to draw water from a rock

By PAUL wa MTOTOO

**F**or the over 2,000 residents of Kimagandura village in Laikipia East District, accessing clean drinking water from a rock is a miracle. This is now possible, thanks to assistance from the Anglican Church and the Australian government.

Through the Naibor Rock Catchment project, the mostly pastoral community has tapped rainwater using a huge rock, thereby saving women in the area from long walks in search of the precious commodity.

The project was opened recently during the visit of the Australian High Commission in the county who visited the area in the company of the Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu and members of the Anglican Church.

According to High Commissioner Mr. Geoff Tooth, Australia has sponsored projects worth Sh217.5 million in Laikipia County, and he expressed optimism that the partnership will continue.

Project Manager James Supa noted that 15,000



An elderly lady fills her bottle with the precious liquid at Kurum Dispensary in Laikipia North. More than 2000 residents of Kimagandura Village in Laikipia East District are now getting clean drinking water from a project that collects water from a rock catchment through the assistance of the Australian Government and the Anglican Church.

residents could be sustained through the catchment system. He said the shortage of water tanks has runoff water causing massive soil erosion in the

area. The runoff water, if harnessed, can easily be put to good use. Governor Irungu promised that his government would construct rock catchment systems in

Laikipia North.

In addition to clean water projects, Mr. Tooth said that his government would work closely with Kenyan authorities in fighting

insecurity in various parts of the country. Addressing the media when he paid a courtesy call to Governor

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NEWS

# Over 500 died of HIV in Laikipia in 2013 – Ministry

By PAUL MTOTOO

**M**ore than 500 adults and 72 children died from HIV-related diseases last year in Laikipia County. Furthermore, over 80 percent of children living with the HIV virus in our county are in need of anti-retroviral drugs but are not receiving treatment.

Speaking during a consultative meeting for HIV/AIDS at a Nanyuki hotel, Laikipia Aids and Sexually Transmitted Diseases Coordinator (CASCO) George Mochama said there are 10,324 people living with the virus in the county, with 1,324 being children. He added that there are 692 new infections among adults and 33 among children in the county this year.

The prevalence rate in the county was 3.7 percent, according to a survey done by the Ministry of Health in Laikipia County. Mochama added that the ministry is aiming at reducing the number to 346 among adults and 16 in children annually.

Mochama noted that the ministry is targeting



Participants at an HIV/AIDS seminar held in Nanyuki recently. In Laikipia, it is estimated that more than 10,000 people are said to be living with HIV, out of which 1,300 are children.

to test about 7,000 people for HIV and AIDS in the next three months, which will help assist in strategic management planning.

“Our mission is to [access] those related to people living with the virus who do not know their HIV and AIDS status. They can be spouses, children

or sidekicks,” he said. Mochama noted that they would also be reaching out to the children who need treatment to help prolong their lives.

The exercise got a boost after the county’s First Lady Mrs. Grace Wakahora promised her support. Speaking at the forum, Mrs. Wakahora expressed the need

to reduce mother-to-child infection and the mortality rate.

She said she would approach donors and fundraise to build more health facilities so that residents can access services. Wakahora also addressed wife inheritance, saying it is an outdated culture that should be done away

with. “Some people inherit wives just because it is a culture without considering testing for HIV/AIDS. It is very wrong and should be discouraged because it will only accelerate infections,” said the First Lady.

Laikipia County has a population of 454,412 according to 2009 census.

## Elderly man ‘commits suicide’

**A**n 80-year-old man from Mwakinya village in Laikipia Central district has died after taking poison.

The body of Samuel Waruru was spotted by a villager lying on the grazing fields with a bottle of poison by the side.

Lamuria location Chief Christopher Ndirangu said it is suspected he committed suicide but there was no note left explaining the reason behind the move.

Ndirangu said that the deceased was living in his son’s compound and used to look after livestock.

“It was not the first time that Waruru has attempted to commit suicide, some months back he was taken to hospital ill after consuming poison,” noted the administrator.

It is however suspected that the elderly man developed depression after his only son was shot by police after he was suspected to be a criminal in Nairobi.

“He has been exhibiting weird actions since his son who was in a gang of five was shot dead by police officers in Nairobi several months ago” said the Chief.

Ndirangu said that Waruru had even said that his body should not be taken to mortuary when he dies.

# Australia enables villagers to draw water from a rock

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Irungu, Mr. Tooth said that security was paramount for any country to develop, adding that foreign investors would only go where there is adequate security.

“Government should be able to respond to security needs of its people, and that is why we are working together with the national and county governments to improve the security situations,” said Mr. Tooth, accompanied by several Anglican Church of Kenya

leaders.

The High Commissioner later toured several development projects in Laikipia North sub-county that have been funded by the Australia government through the ACK Church.

Mr. Tooth said that his government would be on the forefront in supporting health facilities in Laikipia, such as the Kurum Dispensary, which he officially opened. Health workers at the dispensary have recently complained of the lack of clean water, but the county

government assured them of water delivery by a water boozler every week.

Governor Irungu said health and agricultural sectors are the major focus to ensure local people have food and can access primary health care. The governor said the county has a lot of untapped potential, especially when it comes to natural resources and tourism, saying Laikipia has the second largest population of wildlife living outside protected areas in the country.



A committee member of Kurum Dispensary fastens a maasai belt around the Australian High Commissioner after opening the dispensary, which is one of the projects built with the assistance of the Australian Government.