



Boda Boda Industry gets empowered through County Sacco

The Municipality Upgrades Key roads within Makutano town



West Pokot County

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Weekly NEWSLETTER



At a glance

- Traders to gain from Wepesa SACCO
- West Pokot County feted in athletics
- SILC raise millions to purchase tipper
- Finance department gets new chief officer
- Governor, MPs Meet to foster peace

West Pokot among Counties agitating for zero tolerance to FGM



H.E THE Governor Prof. John Lonyang'apuo presenting a certificate to HSC Domtila Chesang of Irep Foundation



Mt. Pongong

Explore our county for hidden treasures

International Day of Zero Tolerance to FGM Story pg2

Governor Prof. John Lonyangapuo and CAS Rachel Shebesh joined the rest of the world in marking International Day of Zero tolerance for FGM in an event that was held at Alale Primary School, West Pokot.

Governor Lonyangapuo said that retrogressive practices have negatively impacted the livelihoods of residents in rural areas, citing FGM. He said that his administration is keen on ensuring girls get education, which will be critical in the fight against FGM. He further urged all stakeholders to fully support the fight to end FGM. “Doing so will have a positive ripple effect on the health, education and economic advancement of girls and women” said the Governor.

The event culminated in a landmark signing of a declaration to end FGM among Pokot communities living in Uganda and Kenya by representatives from the two countries.

CAS Shebesh noted that there is still much to be done to end the vice. She said her department will continue with the fight, while strengthening existing efforts. Earlier on, Governor Lonyangapuo hosted CAS Rachel Shebesh- Ministry of Public Service and Gender CAS Maureen Mbaka- ICT, Innovation and Youth,



Hon. Agnes Mantaine Pareiyo-Chairperson anti-FGM board speaking at the event

Anti-FGM Board Chair Agnes Pareyio and UNFPA Representative ahead of the commemoration of International Day of Zero tolerance for FGM.

Globally, it is estimated that at least 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone some form of FGM.

If current trends continue, 15 million additional girls between ages 15 and 19 will

be subjected to it by 2030.

In 2012, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution that calls on all countries and civil society to observe the international day of zero tolerance for FGM annually on 6 February. Observance of the day is part of UN efforts to meet one of its Sustainable Development Goals and fully eliminate FGM by 2030.

Story by Carolyne Mwok

WEPESA Sacco set to change livelihoods of small scale traders in West Pokot County



H.E THE Governor Prof. John Lonyang'apuo Flagging off 100 motorbikes acquired by bodaboda riders through affordable loans at WEPESA

The contribution of bodaboda industry to Kenya's economy cannot be underscored. The county government of West Pokot is cognizant of the economic impact of the Bodaboda industry, and has reengineered its programs to empower players in this industry.

H.E the Governor Prof. John Lonyangapuo has unveiled a Sh40.5 million West Pokot County Co-operative Development Fund to be channeled through saccos and cooperatives where a board has been constituted to manage it.

Consequently, through the fund, WEPESA Sacco has enabled bodaboda operators to purchase 100 motorbikes through loans given to the operators at an affordable rate. Other groups which have received money from the County Development Fund are Kaptabuk, Muruny and Kamelei Milk Cooperatives and more are set to benefit after

meeting the requirements. The Fund, in addition, will enhance access to loans and cushion residents against exploitative money lending institutions.

Consequently, beneficiaries of WEPESA Sacco loans continue to testify how their livelihoods have improved significantly since it is one of the ways of stimulating economic growth at the household level.

West Pokot dominates 10KM Junior Men North Rift Cross Country championships

A strong team of athletes from West Pokot, Elgeyo-Marakwet, Trans-Nzoia and Turkana will represent North Rift region in the Nation cross country championship to be held at Ngong Racecourse, Nairobi.

Michael Kibet, National 5,000m champion, led his fellow junior male athletes from West Pokot in clinching position 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 and 8 to finish the 10km junior men cross country race. Vicoty Chepng'eno clinched the 10km junior women race held at Kishaunet showground.

Kibet said he is ready to bring home the Olympic Games 5,000m title last won by a Kenyan in 1988 through retired John Ngugi, but said he is currently eyeing the African Cross-country championships to be held May 2021, in Togo. The County Secretary who flagged off the event, John Karamunya said that county is keen on supporting local talents by



County leadership led by the Ag. CS Mr. Karamunya and CEC for Tourism, Culture and Sports Mr. Joel Arumonyang pause for a photo with West Pokot athletes at Kishaunet



Athletes running at Kishaunet Show ground during the Competition

providing them with good facilities to enhance the various sporting activities across the county.

His sentiments were echoed by CEC Joel Arumonyang, whose department hosted the event, saying The Sports Department will endeavour to support talents from the grassroots level. He further said sporting activities have played a critical role in nurturing peace between the three neighbouring counties.

CEC Anita Kimwatan in charge of Sports in Elegeyo- Marakwet, CEC Joel Angolesia in charge of Roads & Transport in West Pokot, Chief Officer Alex Lokimoi, North Rift Region Athletics Chairman Jackson Kabila and former 5,000m World Record Holder Daniel Komen were among officials who graced the event.



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West Pokot County athletes to represent the Country in Lome Togo



Photo of girls competing in their category



Leaders, Officials and Athletes showcase trophies won during the race



CEC. Joel Arumonyan addressing athletes after the posting good results in the concluded races

Three West Pokot County Athletes have won their places in the Kenyan team that will represent the country in the African Cross Country Championships which will be held in Lome Togo next Month.

Charles Rotich, a form 1 student at St. Peter's secondary school Kapkecha, Fredrick Domong'ole who hails from Cheparten and Felix Korir a form four student at Chewoyet high school, gave a spirited track fight to finish in rewarding positions at the Cross Country National Championships held at the Ngong Race Course in Nairobi.

The trio helped the North Rift team to lift a total of 6 trophies, having held the first positions in both boys under 20 8km race and the under 18 boys 6km race. Their female counterparts took the 2nd positions in similar disciplines.

In the senior men 10km race, the North Rift team which comprises West Pokot, Elgeyo Marakwet, Samburu, Turkana and Uasin Gishu counties contented with the second positions as the senior women came in third.

Mixed relays became an uphill task for the North Rift team, having finished in the eighth position out of 10 teams which participated.

The team will now join a troop of 40 Athletes who will fly the Kenyan flag in the March 6th and 7th 2021 African Cross Country Championships.

A strong delegation that accompanied this year's team could have acted as a morale booster for the youthful runners. Tourism Chief Administrative Secretary Joseph Boinnet who was also to be the chief guest in the event and renowned marathoner Amb. Tegla Loroupe led a high powered

delegation that made matters merrier for the North Rift team.

The two cautioned the team against the temptation of using banned substances that might ruin their reputation and careers in the future. Amb. Loroupe encouraged the Athletes most of whom are still in school to balance their sporting careers with education for brighter days ahead.

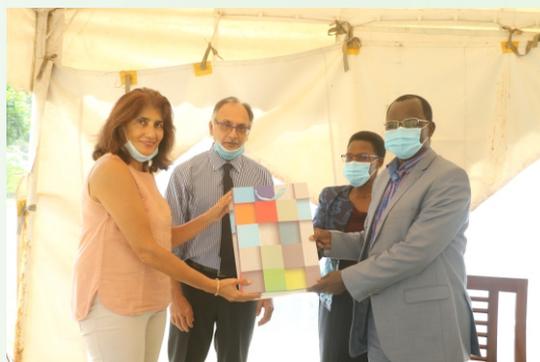
West Pokot Sports CEC Joel Arumonyan who was flanked by his Chief Officer Elijah Lopuke assured the athletes of the county government support even as they plan to travel to Togo for the regional event.

Mr. Arumonyan said the County Government of West Pokot endeavors to continue exploiting the hidden talents in the county of hidden treasures in a bid to make the county a talent hub.

Eurodent proposes to partner with County dental Unit to better services

A team from Eurodent led by their CEO Nithi Kent visited the Dental Unit at the Kapenguria County Referral Hospital.

The visit aimed at providing a roadmap for the County Government as it enters into partnerships with EuroDent to face-lift the dental services at the County Referral Hospital.



Saving and Lending Groups in Riwo Purchase Tipper worth 7million

Saving Internal Lending Communities (SILC) is a worthwhile local saving and loaning initiative that has uplifted many residents of West Pokot County which has inculcated a saving and lending culture that has never been witnessed before in the county.

In 2019, Riwo SILC Network covering 107 SILC Groups collected over Ksh. 9.5 Million to purchase a tipper to transport sand to customers within and outside West Pokot.

Recently H.E Governor Prof. John Lonyangapuo together with Hon. Mark Lomunokol of Kacheliba Constituency, Hon. David Pkosing of Pokot South, Hon. Peter Lochakapong of Sigor Constituency, the County Women Representative, Hon. Lilian Tomitom joined more than 4500 members of Riwo SILC Network at Kitalakapel Catholic Church in the dedication of the newly bought groups' Tipper.

The governor urged other SILC Groups in the county to emulate Riwo SILC Network and venture into other income generating projects as they save and lend money.



Clergy blessing the tipper purchased by Riwo SILC groups

Finance department gets a boost as new Chief Officer takes oath



Dr Grace Amurle Soprin taking an oath of office at the Governor's residence-Kapenguria

Dr. Grace Amurle Soprin is the new Chief Officer, Finance and Economic Planning after taking an oath of office.

Dr. Soprin holds a doctorate degree in Business Administration from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology, a Master's degree in Business Administration from University of Nairobi and a Bachelor's Degree in International Business Administration from the United States International University and is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA-K) from the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK).

She attended Chepareria Primary and Ortum Primary Schools for her CPE and Nasokol Girls Secondary School for her O Level Education. She was employed in the Government in 1980, Family Planning Association of Kenya 1989-2002 and African Economic Research Consortium from 2003-2020 where she served in various positions.

The department had been hampered in its discharge of duties which are critical to the running of the county government due to a vacancy that arose after Mr. Richard Koech left. With the new officer in place the department is confident its business will move with speed.

Governor meets Mps to deliberate on matters peace for the county and her neighbors



H.E THE Governor Prof. John Lonyang'apuo and the First Lady Dr. Lonyang'apuo in a group photo with Mps and CECs after the peace meeting

Peace and harmony in a community is a dominant factor when it comes to the social-economic development of a region and as such West Pokot County holds peace at the heart of all her undertakings.

Recently, Governor Prof. John Lonyangapuo held security meeting with MPs David Pkosing (Pokot South), Mark Lomunokol (Kacheliba), Peter Lochakapong (Sigor), Lilian Tomitom (County Women Representative) and National Government security team led by the County Commissioner, Apollo Okello to deliberate on matters regarding county security and ensure the county residents enjoy peaceful living within county and along the county borders.



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