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For Immediate Release

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**LAIKIPIA FARMERS' ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR POST-POLLS ECONOMIC SURGE
AFTER 4 BILLION SHILLING LOSSES FROM INVASIONS**

Nanyuki, Kenya - The people of Laikipia voted overwhelmingly for peace and rejected violence in this month's national elections – and now it is time for all to join in a surge to rebuild the County's economy and tackle its many social challenges. At this crossroads of great hope for the future, the Laikipia Farmers' Association (LFA) offers its sincere congratulations to our newly elected leaders across the County and the Nation.

LFA Chairman Martin Evans said, "The recent months have been extremely costly for Laikipia, both in terms of human suffering with many lives lost and grave damage to the economy. The elections proved that people want peace and development, not chaos. LFA members are thrilled by the outcome and we look forward to working with all newly elected officials to rebuild our wonderful home county."

As Laikipia's largest employers, taxpayers and private contributors to social welfare, LFA members wish to offer their significant resources and skills to assist leaders in their plans to develop the economy and provide fresh investments that will create jobs.

LFA members are committed to helping in the urgent task of rebuilding Laikipia from the ashes – but this cannot begin until peace returns. The LFA extends the hand of friendship to all communities and welcomes calls for reconciliation. There is still a critical need for security agencies to restore law and order across Laikipia where gunmen continue to inflict havoc on communities. Herders with thousands of cattle are still invading smallholder farms, ranches and conservancies, on the excuse of drought despite the onset of rains many weeks ago.

Laikipia's economy may have suffered losses topping an estimated four billion shillings due to the invasions so far. The LFA is currently compiling accurate data on the loss of life, injury, arson, vandalism of property and environment, livestock theft and the massive losses for businesses caused by the lawlessness.

It is now widely acknowledged that a few now-failed politicians orchestrated invasions as a central plank of their election campaigns. It was a strategy that voters resoundingly rejected – but the inciters must not be allowed to enjoy impunity nor have the chance to ever resume public office.

Prominent among alleged inciters is the defeated former Laikipia North MP Mathew Lempurkel, who faces a battery of criminal cases including those relating to assault, threatening to burn down a police station and for inciting racial contempt. Some of these cases will be heard in September. He is also being investigated for alleged fraud.

ENDS

For more details, including interviews with the LFA chair or specific members, please email elodiesampere@yahoo.com. For more information and news from the LFA, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

The Laikipia Farmers' Association is authorised to talk on behalf of all of its members and can quickly find information for reporters directly from the parties concerned. We encourage

journalists to approach us with any requests for information they may have, rather than trying to contact our members individually.