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NYERI COUNTY

WEEKLY REVIEW



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Ksh. 900 million projects kick-off in Nyeri



ABOVE: The new modern Matiriongo Bridge in Chinga ward, Othaya, which was last done in the 1960s, is now complete and operational. More photos of projects on page 2,3 & 5.

In the current financial year, every ward has been allocated Ksh. 30 million for projects to be implemented as per the Annual Development Plan (ADP) and County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP). All these projects have also created jobs for the youth who have been stuck in villages during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Story on page 2



Meet the Economic Advisor Ndirangu Gachunia

He is an ex-officio member of the cabinet and advises H.E Mutahi Kahiga on social economic policy direction. Gachunia has been an Economic Advisor to the governor for over two years. He is also CEO of Central Region Economic Bloc (CEREB) and coordinates the 10 Central Region Counties to leverage on their huge economy.

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County projects

Nyeri transforms as Ksh. 900 million projects kick-off

Nyeri County has witnessed great transformation with the commencement of the ward specific projects worth over Ksh. 900 million.

In all corners of the 30 elective wards, with over 400 new projects being established, residents are excited to witness the various projects coming to life including roads, energy (street lighting projects), education, agricultural, sports, water, trade, health, and youth's projects among others.

The projects by the County Government of Nyeri under the leadership of H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga have substantially transformed the county

and also created jobs for hundreds of youths locally.

This comes only few months after Nyeri was ranked second position out of 47 counties, by the World Bank under the Kenya Devolution Support Program (KDSP), for its adherence to set parameters and indicators such as prudent public finance management, planning and evaluation, human resource management, civic education and participation, and investment implementation.

In the current financial year, every ward has been allocated Ksh. 30 million for projects to be implemented as per the Annual Development Plan

(ADP) and County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP).

The County Government of Nyeri is tarmacking various roads within the vast region, one being Ngangarithi Primary School- Muthaiga Estate road in Kamakwa /Mukaro ward and another road at Ihururu trading center in Dedan Kimathi ward, Tetu sub-county. Hundreds of kilometers have also been graded, graveled, and murramed with many ongoing projects set to be completed by the end of the financial year this June.

Continued on page 3



ABOVE: H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga and Gataragwa MCA Hon. Clement Warutere (left) during the flagging off of water pipes. Nganyuthe, Manooro, Gituchu and Kiahuria water projects in Gataragwa ward, Kiini West sub-county are among the beneficiaries of the pipes.

INSET: Some of the 39 milk gallons that were flagged off recently by the governor for co-operatives in Mweiga ward.



The new Kinunga Basketball court in Dedan Kimathi ward, Tetu sub-county. BELOW: Upgrading of Ngangarithi Primary School - Muthaiga Estate road, Kamakwa ward to bitumen standard on progress.

Roads machinery has opened up roads that were rarely used, with bridges being constructed and renovated. An example is Matiriongo Bridge in Chinga ward, Othaya, which was last done in the 1960s, is now complete and operational. The upgrading of Kandara- Ngangarithi Valley road in Kamakwa ward, which was last done 37 years ago, is almost complete. Motorists and residents are now able to traverse both sides at any time of the day. This has also eased transport at the grassroot levels.

In Nyeri town, roads within Asian Quarters are being upgraded to bitumen standard while parking slots within town have been upgraded using cabro paving blocks unlike before. Thousands of residents who did not have access to clean water can now access clean piped water at their doorstep for domestic use and irrigation.

For the first time in the county, an ICT hub is being constructed and equipped at Mahiga ward in Othaya where youth can benefit. An ICT center offers opportunities for youth empowerment and education, particularly in societies where resources are limited. Research has shown that the youth in various areas can use ICT to maintain the culture, gain knowledge, develop skills, and generate income.

The first biogas project is being initiated at Aguthi/ Gaaki ward in Tetu sub-county. Biogas also has many environmental benefits as it saves people the labour of collecting large amounts of firewood, freeing them up to do other activities.

On sports, there has been a tremendous improvement in sporting facilities by fencing stadia and purchasing sports gear, including uniforms, balls, nets and kits.

Traders in the county now have the right working environment after markets and stalls built in various wards have been installed with street lights for the first time.

All these projects have also created jobs for the youth who have been stuck in villages during the Covid-19 pandemic. Contractors who qualified for the jobs have also been aggressive on the ground despite the challenges of heavy rains.

It is notable that these projects are over and beyond the identified ongoing county flagship projects in the county, including the construction of Nyeri Town Bus Termini and Naromoru Level 4 Hospital.

Governor Kahiga, who regularly inspects the projects, has since urged residents to monitor how the work is being done to ensure transparency and accountability of the funds.



Covid-19

Donations from KEPSHA



A group photo of KEPSHA Nyeri Chapter together with H.E Mutahi Kahiga (third right). The association donated assorted foodstuffs meant to feed the vulnerable people in the county.

By Njambi Mugo

The County Government of Nyeri through H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga was appreciative to receive assorted foodstuffs donation from the Kenya Primary School Heads Association (KEPSHA) Nyeri Chapter. The team led by the branch chairman Peter Macharia, noted that this is yet another effort which is geared towards feeding the vulnerable people in Nyeri County in the wake of Covid-19. Those who would wish to make their donations can channel through the Mpesa Paybill Number which is 400222, Account Number is 562706#Your Name. You can also deposit directly to Co-operative Bank, Account Number 01141991686400-Nyeri County Covid-19 Fund.

Education

Education CAS courtesy call

By Njambi Mugo

H. E Governor Mutahi Kahiga hosted Education Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS) Zack Kinuthia who paid him a courtesy call in his office. They deliberated on issues including partnership between the County Government and the National Government on support of Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) in the county to ensure more youth are empowered by acquiring the necessary knowledge and skills. The National Government has been supporting the youth learning at the VTCs with tuition fees with the County Government chipping in by improving facilities and equipping the institutions.



Development

Inspection of ongoing projects in Mweiga ward

By Njambi Mugo

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga inspected the ongoing ward specific projects at Mweiga ward, Kieni West sub-county. He inspected the ongoing refurbishment of Mweiga slaughterhouse, construction of Mweiga public toilets, upgrading of Mweiga bus stage, repainting and roofing of Mweiga Health Centre and the planned drainage system of Mweiga Township.

While inspecting the projects, Governor Kahiga also distributed sanitizers and face masks to area residents. He urged the people to obey government's directives of washing hands and sanitizing, maintaining social distancing and observing curfew in the wake of novel Coronavirus pandemic. Area MCA Hon. Kwanjiku Kwanjiku, who had accompanied the Governor, hailed the joined efforts between the executive and the county assembly, while committing to identifying and increasing developmental projects in the area.



Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga (in front) inspecting one of the two septic tanks of Mweiga slaughterhouse which are under construction in Mweiga ward, Kieni West sub-county. He was accompanied by Hon. Kwanjiku Kwanjiku (right) and Mweiga sub county administrator Patrick Wanjohi (second left).

Photos by Peter Wangari



The governor (second right) inspecting the ongoing refurbishment of Mweiga slaughter house.



The governor inspecting the ongoing upgrading of Mweiga Bus Park to cabro/paving block standard in Mweiga township. The project is expected to be completed in early July this year.

Meet the Governor's Economic Advisor, Ndirangu Gachunia

What are the responsibilities of an economic advisor?

The Economic Advisor serves at the pleasure of His Excellency the Governor and reports directly to him. I function as an ex-officio member of the cabinet and advise the Governor on social economic policy direction. I also write briefs on important issues and serve as liaison for the County Government at Council of Governors (CoG) and other stakeholders who want to engage government.

What policies have been made by the County Government to ensure Nyeri County has a long term economic development?

County Government of Nyeri's development agenda strictly follows the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP) which is the long-term strategy that morphs and domesticates the bigger Vision 2030 and Jubilee Manifesto. Every year we break it down to Annual Development Plans (ADP) that helps us in planning and budget making processes. Nyeri is now on the fast lane in timely delivery of these economic planning tools and budget implementation. This makes service delivery faster, smooth and very organized. We do not engage in haphazard implementation of every idea that is presented to us because we have to weigh it against the long-term vision to see if it's aligned.

You have been an Economic Advisor to H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga for over two years, perhaps you can update us on what achievements you have made economically which have directly benefited the local Mwananchi?

The easiest way for an advisor to lose their jobs is to take credit for any success that happens during the course of their work. This is a background

support job and we credit everything that happens in Nyeri to the Governor because he is the overall policy maker with our support. I believe that we are slowly making the shift from purely infrastructure led growth towards a productive economy. Investments in TVETs, agriculture especially the blue economy are starting to pay off and creating new revenue streams to diversify from the traditional sources of income. We are moving to new sectors like ICT and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) which Nyeri is poised to lead due to its youthful educated population and superior internet infrastructure that the government facilitated. The IT department has been moved to governor's office specifically for this reason.

Why do we have a section of the population in Nyeri relying on relief food despite Nyeri being considered as one of Kenya's food baskets due to its agricultural viability?

Nyeri is 52% Arid and Semi-Arid mostly in Kieni Constituency that experiences perennial water shortages. We have channeled a substantial investment in servicing community water projects to the tune of Ksh. 300 million last budget to sink boreholes and water pans. There is need for a lot more investment in irrigation to completely stop rain dependent farming. We still have the opportunity to make Kieni the Israel of Kenya with national government support to do the mega dams that have stalled. Nyeri is rich with water flowing from the many rivers streams and dams and yet the farmers still need accessibility to sufficient water for irrigation mostly in Kieni constituency.

What is your advice to relevant au



thorities?

It's important to note that there are some wards that are not in Kieni but have the same weather patterns like the focus in this area should be two. Opening up infrastructure and water. If these two are resolved the rest of the development will follow suit in my opinion.

What efforts has the County Government of Nyeri done to ensure farmers receive maximum benefits from their agricultural products?

One of the smartest things that Nyeri Government did was to take the cooperative movement head on. The leaders were trained on management in collaboration with Kimathi University. This was followed up with an in-depth audit and a cleanup of cooperatives. The massive infrastructure development that has opened up all the rural areas will ensure that the farmers can get their produce to the markets and get proper value and reduce post-harvest losses.



Value addition is the only long term solution which can benefit farmers fully including the establishment of cottage industries. Has the County Government of Nyeri put in place such solutions?

The county government is cognizant of this fact as the largest frontier of growth and development. We prefer small farm-based industries that aggregates small producers which is the Italian model of rural development. We have developed a long-term plan for Leather Value Chain as we have already trained Trainers of Trainers (TOTs) who will tutor the youths in the shoe making skills in a center of excellence based in Rukira Polytechnic. We have factored money in the budget for a leather hub in Chania that will be the first industry of that sort in Nyeri to produce what the Governor calls the 'Nyeri Shoe'.

Youth in the county form the bigger percentage of Nyeri's 850,000 population. Majority of them are jobless. What advice can you give them and even the authorities to ensure they have their own income? Has the County Government initiated programs for engaging them?

A properly functioning economy takes advantage of the demographic dividend to increase output in a cheaper efficient way. However, our economy is largely informal but since we are in the digital age there are new jobs that are coming up that suits the youth. With the internet you can do business with the world while seated, this includes Nyeri, where we have fast internet connectivity. Youth must transcend the government-led initiatives because they are simply catalysts of growth. Their focus must be private-sector-led growth where the government becomes a facilitator through policy development. The government has initiated many programs in conjunction with USAID KYES program among many mostly for groups especially in agriculture. This year the budget factored close to 100M that will be used as a growth catalyst for organized groups through the Department of Agriculture. This effort is also part of the wider food security solution.

The County Government of Nyeri has been engaging in PPP (Public- Private Partnership) for a long time and yet more needs to be done. What else do we need to improve the lives of the people of Nyeri?



The Government has initiated several Public Private Sector Partnerships in the areas of Energy and Waste Management which are in the pipeline. However, this engagement is guided by the PFM Act and national treasury has a big role to ensure that they sail through without raising audit queries. We believe in doing things right the first and even in this area we shall not relent.

Are there any plans by this current regime to hold an investors' conference and how would that pan out?

We held a successful one in 2018 and a few initiatives were born out of it. There was a lot of networking for Nyeri businessmen and collaboration with the government through the Chamber of Commerce and Kenya Primary School Heads Association (KEPSHA) has been sustained. The effort to get the Kimathi Industrial park finalized is key in getting the investment commitments come to fruition.

You are the CEO of Central Region Economic Bloc, which major long-term projects do you see will benefit the counties from the Mt Kenya region (Nyeri included)? Who are initiating the projects?

As the CEO of the Regional Bloc my role is to coordinate the 10 Central Region Counties to leverage on their huge economy. My goal is to increase trading among the member counties. My vision is to be deliberate to attract investment in manufacturing and value addition of agricultural produce. CEREB has a GCP of KES 2.12 Trillion larger than 31 countries in Africa and contributes 28% of the Kenyan Economy with a population market size of 10 million people. We intend to be deliberate and market this region as the investment destination of choice. The region is dubbed the cradle of entrepreneurship and we have a great platform to unleash this potential.

Social visit

Social visit for affected families

By Dynah Mwangi

The County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services visited three families in Kieni East and one from Mathira West sub-county affected by floods as part of their routine work.

The first visit was to a family of five, at Ragati village, Gakawa ward, which has three of their children living with special needs and issued them with food stuff.

The second visit was to a family in Thirigitu village, Thegu River ward, who have been living on a water logged land.

The mother of one, who also lives with her two grandchildren, claimed that whenever it rains, water uncontrollably wells up on her compound making it inhabitable and she doesn't have a land to relocate to. It was observed that her land has water emanating from underground and has also filled up her latrine. This family received foodstuff donation as the department will work closely with the relevant department to address this concern.

Officers from the department also visited an elderly couple at Kairi village, Kabaruru ward. The two had been requesting for assistance to help them improve their dwelling space. The family was issued with foodstuff donation and some building materials. The last visit was to the family of Ann Njoki Macharia of Karingoini village, Konyu ward. The visit followed a report of the family living in a water filled house and muddy compound. Water has been emanating from the ground during rainy seasons making the place muddy and wet throughout. A multi-sectoral disaster management team drawn from infrastructure, physical planning, environment and social services were there to advice on mitigation measures and found it necessary to relocate the family to Karindundu colonial village to protect them from dangers posed by floods. Construction of new houses for the victims to start soon.



PHOTO | DYNAH MWANGI

Aid for landslides victims



PHOTO | PETER WANGARI

H.E Mutahi Kahiga (left) distributing assorted foodstuffs to residents affected by landslides in Konyu ward, Mathira East. He also gave a personal donation of Ksh. 20,000 to help in the rebuilding of houses for 4 families whose houses were completely swept off.

By Njambi Mugo

H. E Governor Mutahi Kahiga visited 11 families in Gathugu/Ihiga village, Konyu ward, Mathira East sub-county who had been affected by floods and landslides following the heavy downpour being experienced in the county. Governor Kahiga distributed assorted foodstuffs and building materials with which they will use to rebuild their homes.

Governor Kahiga asked them to be watchful of signs of a mudslide like cracks with very loose soils, signs that will prompt them to act immediately.

He also gave a personal donation of Ksh. 20,000 to help in the rebuilding of houses for 4 families whose houses were completely swept off.

Area MCA Hon. Erick Wamumbi thanked the Governor for heeding the pleas of the residents and hailed the continued collaboration with the County Government of Nyeri. Governor Kahiga also took the opportunity to sensitize the residents on Covid-19 and also distributed face masks and sanitizers to them.

Health



Healthy nutritional lifestyle as Covid-19 bites hard

By Muthoni Kanja

In the face of COVID-19 pandemic, many people are now confined to their homes, as such their eating habits have been affected.

For instance, where food is not a problem, people may increase their rate of consumption resulting to overweight and subsequently an increase in cases of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) like diabetes and hypertension. On the other hand, some households may experience food insecurity since most bread winners have lost their jobs resulting in increased malnutrition cases.

A balanced diet is hence recommended with an emphasis on whole grains, fruits and vegetables which are important in supplementing vitamin C that boosts immunity. Nutritious fluids like milk, natural fruit juice, soup

enriched porridge among others consumption are also highly recommended. Spices like ginger, garlic and cinnamon should also be included in diets. The public is being urged to avoid highly refined foods, high fat foods, high sugar and salty foods. At least three meals per day, up to 4 fruit servings and regular weight monitoring is recommended.

Film hub launched at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology

By Jackline Gikunju

Nyeri Governor H. E Mutahi Kahiga joined ICT CS Joe Mucheru in the launching of a film, animation and gaming hub at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology in Nyeri (DeKUT). The event was preceded by the signing of a MoU between the Kenya Film Commission three months ago with the aim being providing employment opportunities to the youth through innovation. The County Government of Nyeri and DeKUT have had continued progressive collaborations.

Speaking during the event, Governor Kahiga thanked the Kenya Film Commission for honouring the promise and termed this a giant step for Nyeri, citing that it will spur economic growth in the film industry. He also revealed that plans to rehabilitate some go-downs into cinema theatres are underway to ensure people consume local content.

The CS lauded the seamless coordination between the national and county governments and noted that the initiative is geared towards devolution of film making to encourage growth and creativity in content creation. He cited stories of Nyeri such as Field Marshal Dedan Kimathi, Prof. Wangari Maathai, Baden Powell; Scouts founding father, among others that can be told through film.

The launch of the film hub is among the many stimulus packages the commission has put in place to ensure that the



film businesses in the country remain vibrant and rewarding ventures as well as advancing the youth agenda in the county. The hub, which will benefit students, staff and other animators will be liaising with the Konza Metropolis for storage of data and related linkages. CS Mucheru stated that there are only two science hubs in Kenya; Konza Metropolis and the upcoming DeKUT Science and Technology Park. The film hub launched has 20 computers, video cameras, studio lighting, screens and other equipment, all geared towards enhancing film professionalism in the industry.



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A group photo of H.E Mutahi Kahiga (centre) with Nyeri Asian community led by philanthropic businessman Bipin Shah (second left) and associates. The families (below) drawn from Nyeri small scale traders, who lost their source of income following the Covid-19 pandemic, will be receiving a package of assorted foodstuffs every Friday for the next one month.

The Nyeri Asian community's support for over 200 families

By Njambi Mugo

Over 200 families are set to benefit with food donations from the Nyeri Asian community through philanthropic businessman Bipin Shah and associates. The families drawn from Nyeri small scale traders, who lost their source of income following the Covid-19 pandemic, will be receiving a package of assorted foodstuffs every Friday for the next one month.

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga thanked Bipin Shah for heeding his call noting that this is yet another effort which is geared towards feeding the vulnerable

people in Nyeri County in the wake of Covid-19.

Governor Kahiga added that the County Government of Nyeri has set aside Kshs. 10 million and is in the process of initiating a similar program which will feed the vulnerable people affected by Covid-19 across the county. In addition to the initial 10 million shillings in the Nyeri Covid-19 Fund kitty, other organizations and individuals have already come forward with their donations, both in cash and kind, as their contributions to the fund.

Those who would wish to make their donations can channel through the Mpesa Paybill Number which is 400222, Account Number is 562706#Your Name.

You can also deposit directly to Co-operative Bank, Account Number 01141991686400-Nyeri County Covid 19 Fund.





COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI
DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, YOUTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

For those in Nyeri Central, Kieni West, Kieni East, Tetu and its environs, incase of a fire tragedy kindly contact;

061 203 2961

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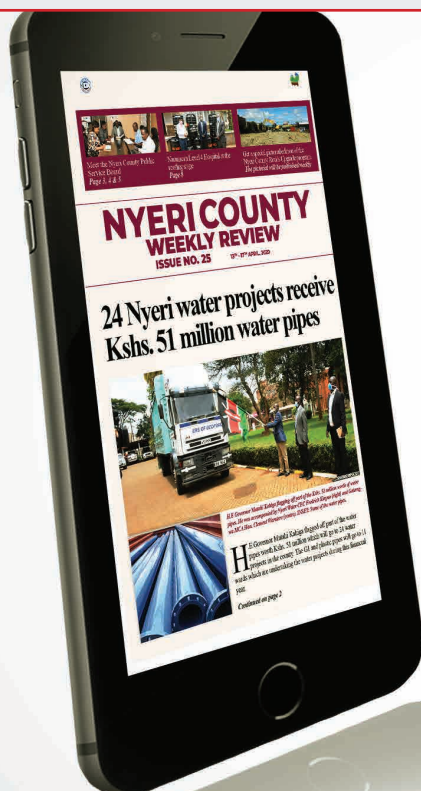


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DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, YOUTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

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The newly built classes of Kamuyu ECDE in Kamakwa ward, Nyeri Central sub-county. The facility will provide a conducive learning environment for pupils once schools resume.



Kinunga Vocational Training Centre workshop in Kamakwa ward is complete and ready for use.



Construction of microwave and shredder machine premises at the County Referral Hospital is complete and awaits installation of machines. The project, funded by the County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Health Services will ensure a safer and easier management of volumetric medical waste and in turn, prevention of secondary infection. This modern technology is environment friendlier since all activities take place in a closed compact system. It also has a longer life span thus sustainability of the project.



The construction of one of the two septic tanks of Mweiga slaughterhouse in Mweiga ward, Kieni West sub-county on progress.

Ongoing Nyeri County projects

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The construction of changing rooms of Mweiga slaughterhouse in Mweiga ward, Kieni West sub-county are almost complete.



The newly refurbished Mweiga Health Centre in Mweiga ward, Kieni West sub-county by the County Government of Nyeri.



The new face of Kamakwa market in Kamakwa ward after roofing and cabro paving work. This has improved the working environment of the 100 traders who are conducting their businesses at the facility.



The construction of the retainer wall in the Nyeri Bus Termini is ongoing.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, PUBLIC WORKS, INFRASTRUCTURE & ENERGY

PICTORIAL

PHOTOS | PETER MUBARI & SOURCE

Residents of Gitathi-ini and Gitero areas in Kamakwa / Mukaro ward, Nyeri Central sub-county will for the first time be able to cross over Kanoga River at ease after the County Government of Nyeri constructed a box culvert (Rianderui Bridge) which has linked the two villages. Motorists will also be able to traverse the two areas easily as the neglected roads on both sides will be murramed soon.



Upgrading of Kamakwa Catholic Church - Kwa Nyawira Estate Road in Kamakwa ward, Nyeri Central sub - county is complete.



Kamuyu Catholic Church street lighting project in Kamakwa ward, Nyeri Central sub county is complete.



Ongoing upgrade of roads in Chinga ward in Othaya sub-county.



The ongoing unblocking of drainage systems and culverts at Kiawara, Rware ward in Nyeri Central sub-county..



Street lighting installation project on progress at Giachuma (Mureru) shopping centre at Gakawa ward, Kieni East sub-county.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, PUBLIC WORKS, INFRASTRUCTURE & ENERGY

PICTORIAL

PHOTOS | PETER MUBARI & SOURCE



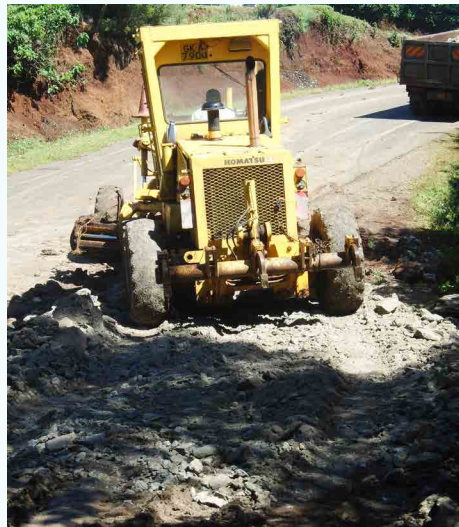
Ongoing Kiganjo/Gatei footbridge in Kiganjo/Mathari ward, Nyeri Central sub-county is almost complete. The footbridge will enable easy access of residents in the area.



Process of improving drainage systems by installing culverts in Kirmukuyu ward, Mathira West has already kicked off.



One of the two high mast flood lights (mulika mwizi) which were recently installed in Mweiga township, Kieni West sub-county.



Ongoing upgrading of Wandumbi - Kindara Farm Road in Wamagana ward, Tetu sub-county.



Upgrading of Game Rock Shopping Centre in Kiganjo / Mathari ward, Nyeri Central sub-county has commenced.



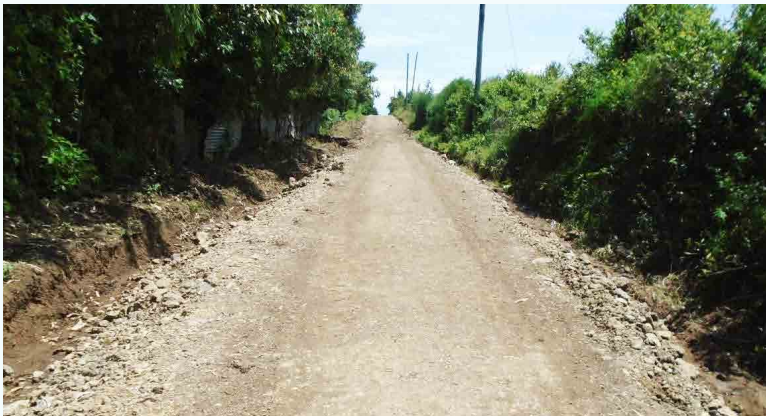
Upgrading of parking slots using cabro paving blocks along Gakere Road, Nyeri town in Rware ward on progress.

PICTORIAL

PHOTOS | PETER MUBARI & SOURCE



Recently upgraded Muthenya-Kihara Road in Naromoru/Kiamathaga ward, Kieni East sub-county. Culverts were also installed.



Recently upgraded Ngutik Road in Gakawa Ward, Kieni East sub-county. The road has been installed with culverts.



Upgrading of Gikoro road in Rugi Ward, Mukurwe-ini sub-county almost complete.



Installation of street lights at Gathagara, Kiang'onde, Thangathi Poly and Mbugwa (nuru center) in Mukurwe-ini Central ward.



Progress of Gitumbi road upgrading in Mweru area, Rugi ward, Mukurwe-ini.



Upgrading of Villa road in Kabarú ward, Kieni East sub-county almost complete.