

Over 200 students benefit from Elimu Bursary Fund

H.E Mutahi Kahiga disbursed over 200 cheques to beneficiaries of the Elimu Bursary Fund ahead of schools re-opening. The needy students were some of those who missed the funds during the last disbursement of the Kshs. 100 million where 18,560 students benefitted. After the disbursement in October, the Department of

Education and Sports came up with a list of the most deserving cases that missed in the programme and have now been brought on board.. The governor reiterated the need for education and the fruits that it bears. He persuaded the parents and students to keep their hopes alive and encouraged them not to focus on the hard-

ships encountered while pursuing education. The students who were drawn from various secondary schools, colleges and universities were handed the cheques by the governor during the event held at Nyeri Governor's office grounds, Nyeri town.



Big plans!

Nyerians to reap big as year 2021 unfolds



The upcoming Naromoru Level 4 Hospital in Kieni sub-county, which is in its completion stage.

In his New Year's message, Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga expressed his intentions to the great people of Nyeri County towards the commissioning of the two mega flagship projects to ensure that they

enjoy the benefits which will aid in transforming the county and also creating thousands of jobs. The two projects which are over 90 per cent done are the Nyeri Town Main Transport Termini in Nyeri Central sub-county and Naromoru

Level 4 Hospital in Kieni East sub-county which were initiated by the governor about two years ago.

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CGN partnership with new KCC Kiganjo Factory

Nyeri Agriculture CEC James Wachihi held a consultative meeting with a team from New KCC Kiganjo Factory led by the Manager Mrs. F.M Munga to discuss on areas of partnership between the County Government of Nyeri and the factory.

The discussions revolved around an enhanced partnership and increasing the capacity of New KCC to take in more milk from Nyeri farmers in a bid to increase the amount of milk processed and marketed through formal channels.

The County Government of Nyeri is impressed by the ongoing rehabilitation and expansion at the factory, which will bring back its capacity to 75,000 litres a day from the current 40,000 litres a day. Their current prices to farmers range from Kshs. 36 - 42 based on volumes, which is also encouraging. They also discussed the possibility of co-packing for a milk-feeding program targeting the ECDE pupils: this is in line with the County food and nutrition policy.



“2020 has been a tough year that has severely tested our resilience and mettle but like the phoenix, we shall rise again from the ashes and declare victory upon Nyeri and its great people. We have been severely tested due to the global Covid-19 pandemic but our trajectory this far fills us with hope that a brighter future lies ahead. Our perseverance and commitment is the beacon that illuminates our path towards greater accomplishments for the people of Nyeri. We remain anchored in our desire to transform lives and create a greater, mightier Nyeri for us all,” said Governor Kahiga.

The two state -of- the art projects have been constructed in partnership between the County Government of Nyeri and the World Bank.



Nyeri Town Bus Termini

Nyeri Town Main Transport Termini (above) whose ground breaking was done by the governor on 19th June 2019 will be done in two phases. The first phase of the project which costs Kshs. 600 million is almost complete.

It is funded by the World Bank under the Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP) in partnership with the County Government of Nyeri.

The Municipal Board in collaboration with the Department of Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urbanization is currently constructing the Nyeri Town Bus Termini, a mega flagship project situated at Asian Quarters, Nyeri town.

The bus park, set to be one of the largest smart termini hubs in Kenya, will create an affordable and efficient

transport mechanism which a truly inclusive society needs access to. Not only will it reduce traffic and human congestion within the Central Business District but it will also create job opportunities to thousands of area residents.

Governor Kahiga has termed the multi-million project as transformational noting that it will bring about an economic turn around and progression for the people of Nyeri, taking it back to its lost glory as an ideal place to live and work in for generations to come.

“We are committed to reviving the town’s infrastructure and our plan is to approach the outskirts of Nyeri. With the Asian Quarters Bus Termini, we will have a very robust economy which is the real outcome of devolution,” governor Kahiga said.

This is in line with the dream of making Nyeri town the cleanest and most beautiful city to increase our tourist numbers and build a thriving local economy.

Once complete, the termini will have 800 business stalls, six restaurants, 240 matatu stages, taxi bays, Tuk

Tuk bays, 98 booking bays, 51 lorry bays, 94 passenger waiting bays and ticket offices.

Other amenities will include a fire sub-station, a police post, a power sub-station, a garage, five sanitation blocks, an open air market, shops and block of offices and an ICT hub.

Rehabilitation of access roads in the neighbouring estates has also been done to ease traffic movement and street lighting projects to enable a 24-hour economy. The project which started in June 2019 has already created jobs for hundreds of youths per day who have been involved in construction.

The termini will employ approximately 7,000 people on a daily basis and also have daily movement of over 20,000 passengers once operational.

By early last month, the project was at various stages of completion; the main works are 90 % complete, the Cluster 1 road are 70 % complete, the Cluster 2 are 45% complete and the Rehabilitation of Addis Ababa & Kartar Singh has been completed.

Naromoru Level 4 Hospital

The other mega project is the Naromoru Level 4 Hospital in Kieni constituency, which is in its completion stage.

The laying of the foundation stone of the medical facility was done by the governor on 22nd August 2019.

The cost of construction is Kshs. 329 million and a further Kshs 300 million for equipping the facility.

The hospital is being constructed using funds that were awarded to the County Government of Nyeri by the World

Bank through the Kenya Devolution Support Program (KDSP) after attaining position two and subsequently, position one.

Despite the many challenges in the year 2020, the County Government of Nyeri emerged at the top of the World Bank Kenya Devolution Support Program that evaluates counties on financial integrity and accountability among other parameters. The funds gained were channeled into the completion of the level 4 hospital.

The construction of the three-storeyed 175-bed capacity hospital will host key departments including; two operating theatres, general OPD, Casualty, Pharmacy, Laboratory, Maternal and Child Health unit, specialized clinics, maternity and inpatient wards (medicine, orthopedic, surgical).

The hospital will also guarantee provision of surgical and inpatient services and ultimately contribute to decongestion of the Nyeri County Referral Hospital as well as be of great relief to Kieni residents who travel very long distances to seek medical attention.



Governor lauded for excellent services at PGH

The residents of Kirichu village in Kiganjo / Mathari ward, Nyeri Central sub-county have applauded Nyeri Governor H.E. Mutahi Kahiga for the incredible work his government is doing for Nyeri citizens.

They expressed their gratitude for having a leader who is development oriented, further, acknowledging the great work done particularly in the health sector.

One of the area residents Charles Nduhiu Gathemia, who has had a first-hand experience at the Nyeri County Referral Hospital (PGH), lauded the top notch services he received at the facility.

“My wife recently delivered our last born at the Nyeri County Referral Hospital and compared to other medical facilities that we have visited before, I must say I was happy with the services offered,” he said.

He also commended the medical personnel at the hospital adding that they were very professional, friendly and served diligently as well as the support staff who were zealous in the way they carried out their duties.

“I wish to commend the hygiene and sanitation at the hospital as well as their observation of Covid-19 protocols which was outstanding and could not go unnoticed,” he added.

The Nyeri County Referral Hospital is one of the hospitals that has had a face lift since Governor Kahiga took the leadership mantle over three years ago. Other medical facilities which have been renovated include; Karatina, Mukurwe-ini, Mt Kenya and Othaya Level 4 Hospitals.

The County Government of Nyeri initiated the refurbishment of these medical facilities a few years ago to ensure quality services are offered to the people of Nyeri County.



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World Bank KUSP team thumbs up Bus Termini Project



From left Eng. Charles Mutunga from KUSP, Nyeri Lands CEC Dr. Kwai Wanjaria, Municipal Board chair Jeremiah Ichaura and contractors during a site visit to Nyeri Main Bus Termini at Asian Quarters, Nyeri town.

With only 10% remaining for the completion of the Nyeri Main Bus Termini, the County Government of Nyeri under the stewardship of H. E Governor Mutahi Kahiga has been lauded by a team from the Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP) for the smooth implementation of the project and his great oversight role.

The Bus Termini is a flagship project by the County Government of Nyeri in partnership with the World Bank through KUSP. It is located at Asian Quarters in Nyeri town.

The Kenya World Bank Support Programme (KUSP) is a World Bank funded programme that is aimed at establishing and strengthening urban entities in a bid to improve infrastructure and service delivery in counties that qualify. Nyeri county, having met the requisite parameters,

joined the list of participating counties that fall under the umbrella of KUSP. It is evident that rapid urbanization is accompanied by economic growth and prosperity and this is an outcome whose fruition will be witnessed in Nyeri once the Nyeri Bus Termini project is completed. The County Government of Nyeri under the leadership of governor Kahiga is continually working with the World Bank cordially by meeting expectations and adhering to set guidelines, protocols and procedures to maximize on the gains of this partnership.

The World Bank through KUSP has been granting the County Government of Nyeri funds to finance the construction of the ultra-modern bus termini, which is being implemented by the Department of Lands, Housing, Planning and Urbanization together with the Nyeri

Municipal Board. A total of Kshs. 600 million have been budgeted for the first phase.

Eng. Charles Mutunga, lauded the leadership of Nyeri County for the progress made in the construction and implementation of the bus termini, a multi-tier project running for three financial years and is almost complete for the first phase.

Prof. Caleb Mireri noted that the World Bank is particular on timely delivery and urged the departments involved to get the work done and completed within the agreed timeframe. He further advised the project implementers to comply with the social safeguard and environmental issues which are paramount for one to remain competitive in the World Bank ranking.

Governor Kahiga has termed the multi-million project as

transformational noting that it will bring about an economic turn around and progression for the people of Nyeri, taking it back to its lost glory as an ideal place to live and work in for generations to come.

Nyeri Lands CEC Dr. Kwai Wanjaria noted the Nyeri Main Bus Termini will be the biggest transport termini upon its completion in East Africa. He thanked the KUSP team who had come to assess the progress of the project as well as welcomed their encouragement and support.

Dr. Kwai expressed his gratitude to the governor for his continued support and his guidance towards the implementation of the project. He noted that the project which is almost done, will lead to an economic transformation by creating over 10,000 job opportunities directly. The CEC further added that not only will it promote small and medium sized businesses but it will also benefit the neighborhood around as well as the larger Nyeri.

In addition, both the department and the municipal board have remained committed to upgrading the access roads to bitumen standard as well as installing street lights in a bid to promote a 24-hour economy and improve security in the area.

Nyeri Municipal Board Chairman Jeremiah Ichaura noted that through collaboration with the Department of Lands and guidance from the governor, they have been able to successfully implement the construction of the bus termini which is now almost done.

Once complete, the project will include 1,000 trading stalls, 98 booking bays, bus parking spaces, ticket offices, fire post, police post, sacco rooms, taxi bay, market, revenue offices, an ICT hub, a block of offices among others.



3rd phase internship programme unveiled

25 of the interns have been selected from outside Nyeri County coming from as far as Kisii, Marsabit and Samburu.

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga officially launched the third phase of the internship programme where 200 interns have been hired to work in the County Government of Nyeri for the next one year. The colourful launch was held at Town Hall grounds, Nyeri town.

Nyeri County Public Service Board received over 1,400 applications when the positions were advertised. The applicants underwent two rigorous interviews until 200 were selected, 187 have so far reported.

25 of the interns have been selected from outside Nyeri County coming from as far as Kisii, Marsabit and Samburu achieving the requirement for 30% of recruitment of persons not from the dominant community in the county. This is in line with the provisions of the Kenya Constitution and the principles and values of Public Service of promoting national cohesion and affords opportunities for appointment, training and advancement to members of all ethnic groups.

The success of the internship programme is evident as over 40 interns from the previous two cohorts have been able to secure employment



H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga (third left) and Department of Public Service CEC Beth Karimi together with some of the third cohort interns during the official launch of the internship programme at Town Hall grounds, Nyeri town.

in the county government.

Governor Kahiga lauded the Nyeri County Assembly for passing the budget of the cohort in order for them to have an opportunity to be mentored by seasoned public servants.

He urged the interns to remain dedicated in their work, and take full

advantage of this platform which not only gives them a chance to bridge gap between theory and practical but also to network. He further encouraged them to remain FAT- Faithful, Available and Teachable.

MCAs present led by the Majority Leader Hon. James Kanyugo

lauded the programme aimed at mentoring the youth and promised to continue providing budget for the same.

Nyeri County has provided a benchmark for other counties.

NYEWASCO receives trophies from WASREB



Nyeri Water and Sanitation Company (NYEWASCO) has received its trophies following their win in last year's Impact 12 2020 Assessment Awards conducted by Water Services and Regulatory Board (WASREB) led by the CEO Eng. Robert Gakubia.

The award ceremony for water utilities within the Tana region was held at White Rhino, Nyeri town.

The company emerged the best in the following categories:

1. Overall top

performing water utility countrywide for 12th year in a row.

2. Top utility in the very large category.

3. Top utility in the Tana Region.

4. Top utility in non-revenue water.

The water companies were being assessed in the areas of pro-poor services that is-giving back to the society particularly to those in the low income bracket, water governance and credit worthiness assessment.

Eng. Gakubia lauded the Nyewasco's

management for their continued good performance and their commitment to the validation exercise which is being conducted for the whole week.

Nyewasco's Ag. MD Eng. Peter Kahuthu thanked the entire staff and the board of directors for their stellar performance and dedication which has seen them achieve this success as well as the exemplary leadership of the late MD CPA Peter Gichaaga.

In brief...

The County Government of Nyeri upgraded the Express-Barclays road in Karatina ward, Mathira East sub-county to bitumen standard. The 250-metre road, which has not been tarmacked since 1989, is part of the ongoing upgrading of roads within Karatina and Nyeri towns.

The road will ease the movement of people as well as transportation of goods. So far, the county government has tarmacked 13 kilometres of roads, upgraded 660 kilometres of earth roads to gravel standards as well as renovated Mukurweini and Mweiga bus parks using cabro paving blocks.



CGN efforts towards supporting the education sector

Education is one of the key components that bring growth and progress in a society. The more people in a society are educated, the more they can provide a beneficial contribution to their environment. It is also a powerful agent of change, improves health and livelihoods, contributes to social stability and drives long-term economic growth.

The County Government of Nyeri under the stewardship of H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga is acutely aware of the sentiments highlighted above and that it is why it has invested heavily in the education sector with an aim of improving the standards for both young and old learners.

Governor Kahiga, who doubles as the CoG Education Committee chair has continuously expressed his commitment to the education sector noting that a good foundation in education is the key to success, hence a need to create a good learning environment for learners as well as allocate financial resources to those from needy families with an aim of helping them realize their dreams

Over the last three years, through the Department of Education & Sports, a total of Kshs. 240 million has been expended through the Elimu Bursary Fund Programme. The bursary, which targets students from vulnerable and needy families across the 30 wards has benefitted over 51,000 students. Within the same period, 120 best, bright and needy students in secondary schools, two per ward, have also benefitted from a full Governor's Scholarship Programme.



H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga together with ECDE teachers during the official launch of ECDE learning materials which were distributed to the 436 ECDE centres across Nyeri County.

In the pursuance of improving Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE), the county government has employed over 800 ECDE teachers, built and renovated 39 ECDE centres across the county with an aim of ensuring young novices have favourable learning environs. The governor has further promised ECDE caregivers that their terms of service will be looked into in a bid to improve their salaries and benefits.

In light of this, the county government annually distributes ECDE learning materials and teaching guides across the 436 ECDE centres. In the financial year 2020/2021, a consignment of learning materials worth Kshs. 9.3 million were disbursed to all the centres benefitting over 23,000 pupils.

Nyeri Education CEC Margaret

Macharia, highlighted that the county government is committed to supporting the education sector including the ECDE centres and VTCs through this annual programme which involves providing learning and reading materials.

Esther Kioni, Officer in-charge of ECDE centres in Nyeri County lauded the county government for taking up the responsibility of refurbishing ECDE centers since Governor Kahiga took up the leadership mantle.

Head teachers from various schools also hailed the governor Kahiga for the astounding support towards bettering the standards of ECDE centers across the county as well as hiring caregivers who posed a challenge to them when it came to payments and salaries, as most schools lacked the financial resources for the same.

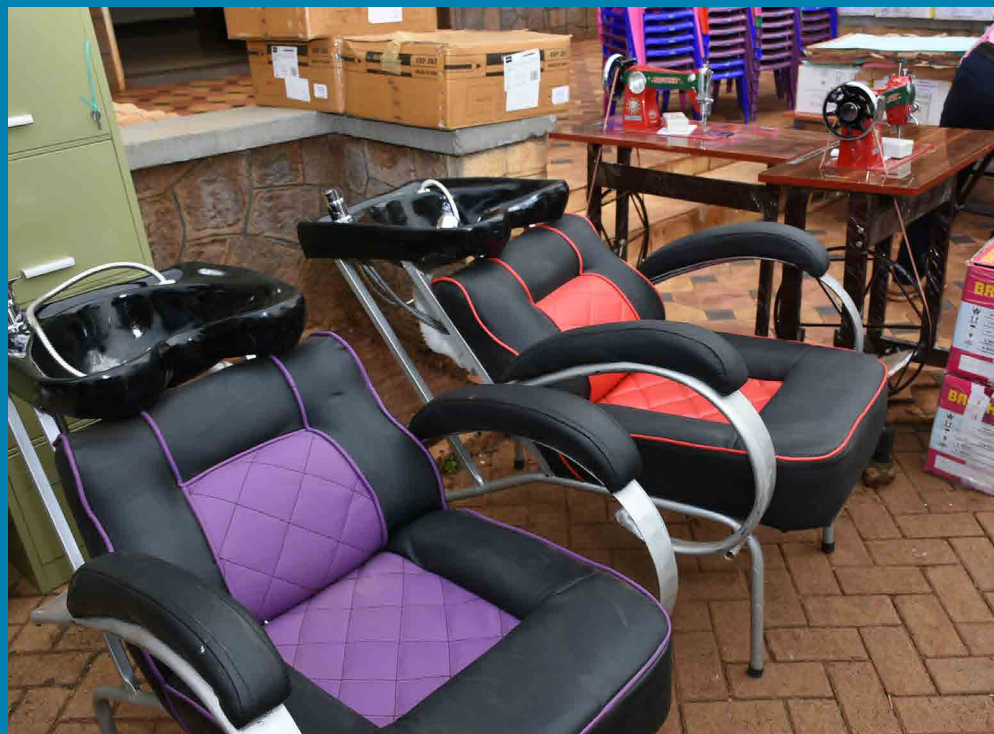
Parents are also a happy lot with the great input that the ECDE centers have received from the county government. One of the parents, Catherine Wangui, a parent at Kirigu ECDE in Karatina ward thanked the governor for purchasing learning and teaching materials which will put the young learners at ease as they learn.

Vocational Training Centers (VTCs) have also had a tremendous input from the county government in a bid to give the youth a conducive environment for learning and innovativeness. The county government has built and renovated 13 polytechnics as well as equipped them to ensure they are centres of

excellence

In this financial year, three centres: Kaberero, Githiru and Nairutia received materials such as sewing machines, salon and barber equipment which will be instrumental during classes.

Education is a ray of light in the darkness. It certainly is a hope for a good life. It is also a basic right of every human and that is why the County Government of Nyeri is committed to keep on educating its citizens and supporting them in the pursue of it.



Governor encourages teachers to invest in business

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga has encouraged teachers to invest in business opportunities arising after development projects have been initiated by the County Government of Nyeri.

Speaking during the 45th Newfortis Sacco AGM at Nyamachaki Primary School grounds, Nyeri town, the governor noted that there are also other projects being done by the National Government where teachers or any other Nyerian can also invest.

“Othaya Level 6 Hospital has brought with it huge opportunities for the people of Othaya and beyond. The Techno City coming up in Dedan Kimathi University is a golden goose. Take the opportunities at the first chance. I am putting up a New Bus and Matatu termini at the Asian Quarters. There will be 1,000 shops, hotels, a new market... take the opportunity. My government is setting up a Level 4 hospital in Naromoru which will also open up opportunities in housing, in supplies and even



Newfortis Sacco members following proceedings during this year's AGM which was held at Nyamachaki Primary School grounds, Nyeri town.

employment. Someone once said, it is better to be prepared for an opportunity and not get it than get an opportunity and not be ready for it,” he added.

The governor also officially launched the New Fortis verve debit card for the Sacco which will help its members access their money as they travel.

He at the same time thanked the Sacco members and the board led by the chairman John Githinji for the continued good performance which is evidenced by the growth in quick and increased loan disbursements, increase in membership, and a steady rise in dividend percentage payout with an all-time high rate of 14% last year.

Governor Kahiga also promised all the over 800 ECDE teachers hired by the County Government of Nyeri that their terms of service is being looked into in a bid to improve their salaries and benefits.

Newfortis chairman also announced that Kshs. 662.8 Million will be paid immediately as dividend and interests to its members.

The Sacco with 15,758 members has branches in Nairobi, Karatina, Nanyuki and Othaya with its headquarters situated in Nyeri town.

Nurturing sports talents at an early age

The bus purchased by the county government through the Department of Education and Sports is also available on first priority basis for any team that would like to use it.



H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga joined Maragima Volleyball and Football teams in Maragima for the official handover of club uniform and sports kits purchased by the club board, led by their patron John Munyiri.

Nurturing talent and honing skills at a young age is crucial because it shapes the path of a sportsman or sportswoman early in life, thus optimizing their skill.

As a show of commitment to nurturing sports, the County Government of Nyeri will pay for all the 18 soccer teams in Nyeri to join the FKF County League.

The bus purchased by the county government through the Department of Education and Sports is also available on first priority basis for any team that would like to use it.

Digitizing health services in Nyeri

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga received 75 new computers procured by the Department of Health for distribution to the different health centres across Nyeri County.

The move will shift the facilities from a manual system to a digital system, which will significantly improve service delivery.

The Health Department will also liaise with the ICT Department to centralize the health facilities' IT infrastructure by implementing a Digital Health Care

Patient Management and Tracking System which will enable the digitization of Health Records making patient data portable. Notably, digitizing the health care system will also improve the delivery of NHIF-Linda Mama programme for instance in returning claims filed.

So far, the county government has equipped and digitized the Nyeri County Referral Hospital, Mukurwe-ini, Karatina and Mt.Kenya Level 4 Hospitals as well as an additional 33 health centres.



The Coffee Bill, 2020 set to benefit over 80,000 Nyeri coffee farmers



The new reforms by the national government as detailed in the proposed Coffee Bill, 2020 is set to immensely benefit over 80,000 small scale Nyeri coffee farmers.

The farmers are optimistic that the Bill will cascade an overhaul in the coffee sector after radical changes are implemented. This will help the farmers potentially earn more than Kshs. 100 per kilogram of cherry.

The Bill is in the public participation stage before it is returned to the National Assembly. Once passed, it will be assented into law by H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Radical changes will be done in the Coffee Research Institute while new amendments have been introduced in laws of licensing provisions, registration provisions, production and processing, coffee trading and marketing, quality assurance, financial provisions, audit and report and saving and transitional provisions.

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga has fully supported the new reforms in the coffee sector saying this is the only way the local farmers will benefit directly as well as ensure good governance in coffee management.

The governor expressed his commitment and that of the county government's in supporting coffee farmers to ensure they increase production. He said that his government has set aside Kshs. 17 million for coffee revitalization in this current financial year which will support the coffee production activities in the county. Next year, the county government is

planning to set aside Kshs. 50 million for coffee revitalization.

Governor Kahiga further noted that the county government is continuously training the societies' management on proper governance as well as supporting farmers by providing them with extension services, lime, subsidized fertilizers and soil testing facilities.

During the recent visit in Othaya, Mathira, Mukurwe-ini and Nyeri Central sub-counties, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Co-operative Development CS Hon. Peter Munya said the national government is also planning to modernize machines and drying beds in all the coffee factories to ensure quality coffee.

The CS expressed his commitment towards addressing the challenges being faced by the farmers in the coffee

sector adding that the ministry has also introduced other reforms geared towards revitalization of coffee including paying more focus on coffee value addition.

He also committed to looking into coffee cooperatives and unions, which are mostly mismanaged, noting that auditing of the same will be done and he will ensure the apprehension of corrupt managers who are exploiting farmers by taking up hefty loans.

Nyeri Agriculture CECM James Wachuhi reiterated the importance of the Bill which will address a lot of challenges faced in the sector.

Already, many farmers have started receiving part of the Kshs. 3 billion Coffee Cherry Advance Revolving Fund which was unveiled by the national government last year at a low interest rate of 3%. Cooperative so-

cieties are also set to benefit from the Commodity fund that will be administered at a rate of 5% and will aid in the running of the cooperatives.

The new KPCU Chairman Henry Kinyua said that two coffee societies in Nyeri County have already started to benefit from the cherry fund with farmers receiving Kshs. 16 million.

New Gikaru Farmers' Cooperative Society farmers in Mukurwe-ini received an advance of over Kshs. 3.3 million and Kshs. 12.5 million funds have also been disbursed to Othaya Farmer's Cooperative Society members.

From the farmers, all that is needed is for them to deliver cherry coffee in their societies and fill in the forms available. They will later receive Kshs. 20 per kilogram as an advance before the marketing of their coffee is done.

On the other hand, Nyeri County is among the eight pilot counties under the Coffee Revitalization Programme. The programme aims at increasing production and productivity, improve the efficiency of coffee farmers' co-operative societies, support research development and technology dissemination and develop alternative coffee market.

Nyeri Trade, Tourism and Cooperative Development CECM Diana Kendi noted that the County Government of Nyeri has been committed to supporting the farmers using extension officers and use of lime to improve soil in order to double their production. Nyeri county produced 24 million Kgs in year 2019 while last year the county produced 20 million kilograms which was a shortfall of 4 million kilograms.



The Coffee Revitalization Programme has been introduced by the ministry with an aim of addressing coffee issues within the country.

CGN sets aside Kshs. 17 Million for coffee revitalization



Agriculture CS Hon. Peter Munya with Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga when he paid the governor a courtesy call in his office in Nyeri.

The County Government of Nyeri has set aside Kshs. 17 million for coffee revitalization in this current financial year.

H. E Governor Mutahi Kahiga said the funds will support the coffee production activities in the county.

The governor was speaking during a public participation exercise on the Coffee Revitalization Programme for Coffee Bill at Ruring'u area near Nyeri town.

Governor Kahiga threw his weight behind the Bill saying it will benefit local farmers immensely as well as ensure good governance in coffee management.

"I'm sure that farmers will be paid over Kshs. 100 per Kg of Cherry if the Bill is passed," added the governor.

Agriculture CS Hon. Peter Munya, who was visiting Nyeri County for the bill's public participation exercises, said that the new reforms will ensure coffee farmers take home good payments.

The Coffee Revitalization Programme for Coffee Bill which has been introduced by the ministry with an aim of addressing coffee issues within the country.

The CS noted that he is committed towards addressing the challenges being faced in the coffee sector adding that the ministry has also introduced other reforms geared towards revitalization of coffee including paying more focus on coffee value addition.

He also committed to looking into coffee cooperatives and unions, which are mostly mismanaged, noting that auditing of the same will be done and he will ensure the apprehension of corrupt managers who are exploiting farmers by taking up hefty loans.

CS Munya also called upon farmers to take advantage of the Coffee Cherry Advance Fund which was unveiled by the National Government last year, through which farmers can borrow as many times as possible at an interest rate of just 3 per cent.

Governor Kahiga expressed his commitment and that of the County Government of Nyeri in supporting coffee farmers to ensure they reap maximum benefit from the crop.

He further noted that the county government is continuously training the societies' management on proper governance as well as supporting farmers by providing them with subsidized fertilizers and soil testing facilities.

Nyeri Agriculture CEC James Wachihi reiterated the importance of the bill which will address a lot of challenges faced by the farmers in the coffee sector.

The bill is currently in the public participation stage to which the CS is engaging with coffee farmers and other key stakeholders to gather their feedback.

In support of water sector

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga held a meeting with Tana Water Works Development Agency's (TWWDA) team led by the Board Chair Hon. Joseph M'Eruki and CEO Eng. Phillip Gichuki who paid him a courtesy call in his office.

TWWDA has been very supportive on matters of water and sanitation in the county,

having initiated many developmental projects. Currently, there is an ongoing construction of Othaya sewerage infrastructure project as well as last mile connectivity project. Othaya sewerage project is due to be completed by mid next month.

Governor Kahiga lauded the cordial partnership between the County Government of Nyeri

and TWWDA. He also emphasized on the need for more collaboration in future projects to ensure more benefits for the Nyeri citizenry.

Nyeri Water and Irrigation CEC Fredrick Kinyua noted that there is need to expand sewerage of all towns in Nyeri County due to the fast population growth.



Governor joins Akurinu in tree planting event

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga launched a tree planting exercise for the General Conference of Akurinu Churches at Tumutumu Hill, Kirimukuyu ward in Mathira West sub-county. The church members who are celebrating 100 years since inception of the church are planning to plant over 200,000 indigenous trees in public lands in Nyeri County.

The team led by the National Secretary General Rev. Macharia Prince lauded the County Government of Nyeri under the leadership of Governor Kahiga for exemplary leadership and good management of the people's resources.

The governor on the other hand thanked the Akurinu Church for this initiative saying that this will aid

in the conservation of the environment and increase the forest cover from 38.3% in the county.

Nyeri County boasts of having the highest percentage of tree cover at 38.3% percent and the governor is determined to retain it by supporting initiatives that seek to increase it.

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Nyeri farmers venture into poultry farming

...earning Kshs. 185 million



Some members of Mwireri Good Hope Self-Help Group holding some of the mature KARI improved kienyenji chicken they received from the County Government of Nyeri.

Poultry meat is one of the most valued foods among people of all ages, throughout the world for its highly nutritional value.

Some of the benefits of eating poultry products include: they are a great source of protein, amino acids which build muscle tissue consequently promoting healthier bones as well as decreasing the risk of injuries and diseases, promote better weight management as it has no cholesterol, source of Vitamin B12, zinc, iron, copper among others.

In addition to its food security aspect, rearing poultry is one of the livestock subsectors that have a huge potential to generate income as well as foreign earnings.

The practice is not only ideal for small-scale farmers due to its need for small space to carry it out but also it can be practiced by vulnerable members in the community hence empowering all.

Under the stewardship of H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga, the County Government of Nyeri in partnership with Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP) has remained committed to supporting farmers through poultry rearing programmes particularly

targeting vulnerable farmer groups including the youth, women and People Living with Disabilities (PWDs).

While issuing out one-month old chicks to the farmers groups at Wambugu ATC Farm, governor Kahiga expressed his commitment to ensuring there is food security in Nyeri County.

The county government and partner projects have distributed about 76,000 chicken (indigenous) worth about Kshs. 20 million for the years 2018/2019 and 2019/2020. The indigenous chicken distributed to the farmers were of the KARI improved kienyenji chicken, Kroiler and Rainbow variety.

According to Livestock & Fisheries Ag. Director Warugongo Theuri, the direct beneficiaries of the programme are about 3,800 farmers who have been issued with the birds while the household food security and nutrition and income generation has improved for a further estimated 10,000 Nyeri citizenry.

In the last two financial years, 181 farmers groups have been provided with KARI improved kienyenji chicken helping them earn about Kshs. 185 million in 2019/2020 from farming of

the same including selling of the poultry meat and by-products such as eggs and feathers.

Gladys Wachira, one beneficiary from Mwireri Good Hope Self Help Group who received KARI improved kienyenji chicks from the county government through the Department of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries three years ago noted that poultry rearing business is a lucrative one if you put in enough effort and take note of the trainings.

Another group member, Charles Wachira noted that he has also set up a kitchen garden where he plants several vegetables and nourishes it using manure from his brood. Some of the vegetables he has planted include collard greens and capsicum which double up as chicken feeds and have helped him save when it comes to buying chicken feed.

Bilha Wambaire, the secretary of Thung'are Disability Self Help Group in Thegu River ward, Kieni East sub-county noted that the group has brought them together as a community and helped set an example of how when people come together they can go far in personal and social development.

Jane Wairimu from Kahuro-ini/Thenge-ini Self Help Group in Iria-ini ward, Mathira East sub-county also thanked the county government for the 200 high quality Kroiler chicks provided to them which subsequently lead to production of quality eggs and poultry meat for both consumption and sale.

The farmers however urged the county government to provide them with incubators which can hatch more eggs at a time and is a lot more reliable than the hen, increasing their chicks stock for sale subsequently increasing their income.

The Ag. Director advised the youth to venture into poultry farming since it requires little capital to set up; it isn't labour intensive and yet brings about quick returns within a short time.

He further noted that the county government has also supported the poultry farmers through training them on animal husbandry and prevention of poultry diseases and providing with poultry incubators which is used locally for chicks/breeding stock support to farmers.

In this financial year 2020/2021, the department is planning to provide 130 farmers groups with indigenous chicken.

Governor Kahiga re-elected as CoG Education Committee Chairperson

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga was re-elected as the Council of Governors (CoG) Education Committee Chairperson to serve for another one year.

The governor thanked his colleagues for re-electing him as the Chairperson - Education Committee.

He pledged to continue working diligently and earnestly at large and also work hand in hand with the newly elected executive members and the relevant national arms of the government for the benefit of Nyeri County residents and the country at large. H.E Governors Martin Wambora and

James Ongwae were elected as the Chairman and Vice Chairman of CoG respectively during the CoG Executive and Chairperson's elections at Movenpick Hotel in Nairobi.



BEFORE & AFTER PICTORIAL



BEFORE

GATITU MARKET

Gatitu/Muruguru ward, Nyeri Central sub-county



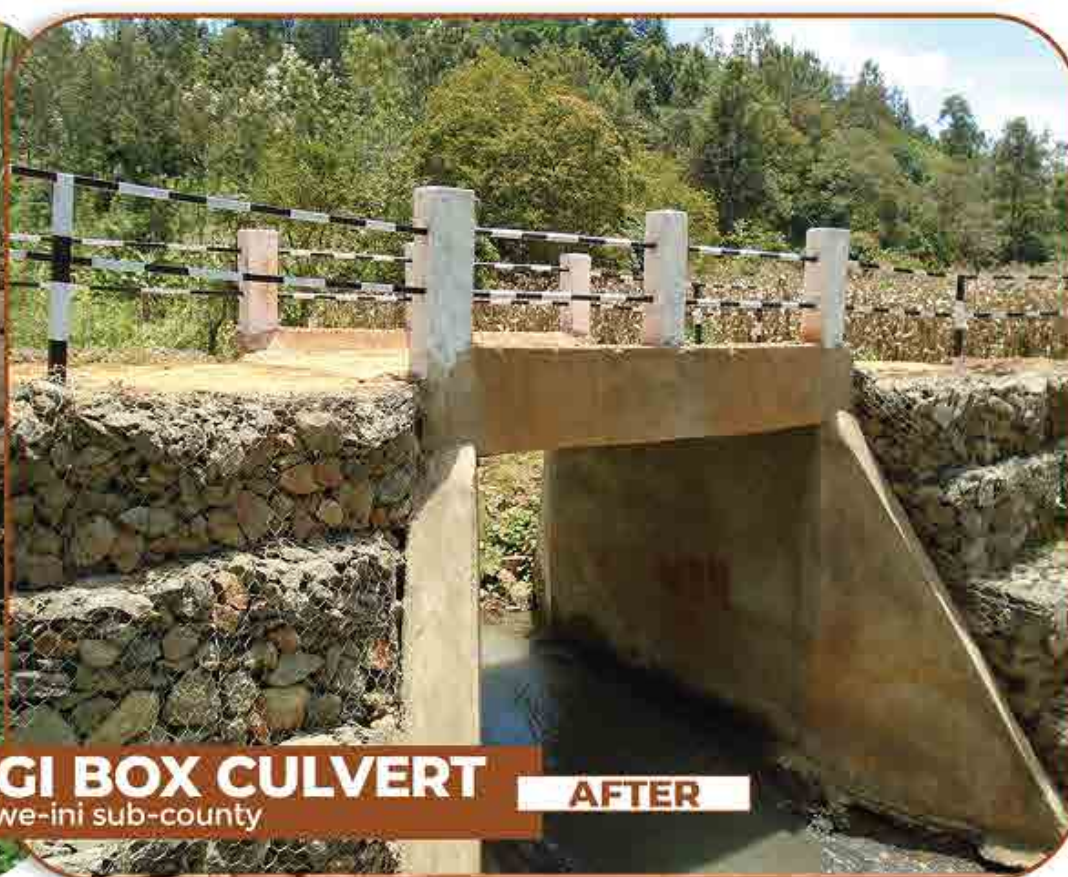
AFTER



BEFORE

GUMBA - GICHAGI BOX CULVERT

Rugi ward, Mukurwe-ini sub-county



AFTER



BEFORE

MWEIGA BUS PARK

Mweiga ward, Kieni West sub-county



AFTER

BEFORE & AFTER PICTORIAL



BEFORE

CLASSIC- NGANGARITHI ROAD

Kamakwa ward, Nyeri Central sub-county



AFTER



BEFORE

ITHEKAHUNO MARKET

Aguthi Caaki ward, Tetu sub-county



AFTER



BEFORE

GAKERE ROAD

Nyeri town



AFTER