

Humanitarian aid at Kiawara slums

The Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services came to the aid of 23 families who lost all their property when a fierce fire which gutted 23 houses at Kiawara slums near Grogon, Nyeri. The cause of fire was not immediately established though no one was injured during the incident.

The team from the department was able to deliver three sacks of clothes of different sizes, assorted food stuffs and sanitary products. The beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to the County Government of Nyeri for aiding them during this difficult time.



Nyewasco explains about the water tariffs adjustment

Nyeri Water and Sanitation Company Limited (NYEWASCO) has explained to its customers on the recent water tariff adjustments saying the new charges are set to benefit over 70 % of its customers.

Nyewasco acting MD Eng. Peter Kahuthu said the tariffs of those who are domestic consumers without sewer from one to six units have been reduced from Kshs. 368.40 to Kshs. 332.00. In case of no consumption, one will pay a small standing fees of Ksh. 50 only and not the current Ksh. 368.40 or Ksh. 686.80 equivalent of 10 units.

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The NYERI MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL ISSUE, 2021

CGN's Strides in provision of medical oxygen

RIGHT: An oxygen plant in one of the hospitals in Nyeri County. Oxygen plants have been set up at Mt. Kenya and Karatina Level 4 Hospitals, as part of the Kshs. 125 million project of setting up such facilities in various hospitals across the county.

It is almost incomprehensible to imagine that a commodity that is freely available around us would, if things ever took a turn, be a daunting task to acquire in the undesirable circumstance such as an illness. Oxygen, a gas found all around us in the air we breathe is vital for human life. Nevertheless, people sometimes tend to forget that it is also a life-saving essential item that none of us can do without.

Medical oxygen is key treatment for severe respiratory illnesses including severe pneumonia, non-respiratory conditions such as

sepsis, meningitis and for use for patients in the High Dependency Unit (HDU) as well as Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

With the Covid-19 pandemic, medical oxygen has become an essential tool, a much sought after commodity, being the primary treatment for the majority of the patients experiencing severe Covid-19 symptoms for instance difficulty in breathing.

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As such, the World Health Organization has recommended countries to focus on the development of medical oxygen systems and provision of pulse oximeters to measure blood oxygen levels. Never has there been such a time that this stark hard hitting reality has hit us hard like it has now, in the midst of the chaos that Covid-19 has plunged us in.

To this effect, the County Government of Nyeri under the leadership of H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga has set up a number of oxygen plants to meet the rising demand for medical oxygen across the county.

Oxygen plants have been set up at Mt. Kenya and Karatina Level 4 Hospitals, as part of the Kshs. 125 million project of setting up such facilities in various hospitals across the county. The oxygen plant at Mt. Kenya Hospital, which serves as one of the Covid-19 isolation centres, produces 67litres/minute and has already been

operationalized. Further, the medical oxygen has already been piped to the wards serving a total of 35 patients. The hospital also has an additional 12 back up oxygen cylinders and five oxygen concentrators. Projected to produce 200litres/minute, the oxygen plant at Karatina Hospital is complete and awaits commissioning. Oxygen has been piped to the wards to serve 103 ports.

The county government also has an existing oxygen plant at the Nyeri County Referral Hospital (PGH) which serves the wards as well as the ICU. Further 100 cylinders of oxygen have been spread across all the other health facilities in the county.

In addition, Nyeri County also benefits with oxygen from reserves in private health facilities including the Outspan Hospital and Kenyatta Hospital-Othaya Annex which serves the larger Mt. Kenya region and has a bulk oxygen plant.

While inspecting the projects, governor Kahiga noted that he is committed to meeting the rising demand for oxygen amidst the Covid-19 pandemic by constructing more oxygen plants

across the county.

Covid-19 is a public health crisis which has turned the spotlight on the importance of medical oxygen as one of the defining health equity issues. In



light of this, the county government has planned to set up a bulk oxygen plant in Othaya and Mukurwe-ini to meet the demand for the same. Further, an oxygen plant will also be set up at Naromoru Level 4 Hospital, a medical facility which is being constructed to serve the larger Kieni constituency.

So far, Nyeri has recorded 1,700 Covid-19 cases, 57 patients are currently in isolation with confirmed 91 deaths.

The county government leadership continues to urge Nyeri residents to continue observing the laid down Ministry of Health (MoH) guidelines including: Washing their hands, sanitizing, wearing masks and maintaining social distance.

So far, over 35,000 dairy cows have been served in the A.I coverage.

Nyeri cow's breeding improves as CGN expands A.I services

The County Government of Nyeri under the stewardship of H.E Mutahi Kahiga has in the recent past improved and expanded Artificial Insemination services programme whereby 12,000 dairy cows are serviced annually.

This programme which has been introduced to farmers is meant to improve the breed of livestock. So far, over 35,000 dairy cows have been served in the A.I coverage.

Further, the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries has also procured four vehicles to increase coverage of the service. These vehicles go a long way in enhancing the mobility of A.I service providers, enabling them to reach more farmers even in the remotest parts of the county.

This is in addition of six motorcycles which were purchased earlier for use around the county.

For the last three years, the county government has spent over Kshs. 19.2 million in expanding and delivering services which has in return increased quality breeding of the animals.

In the financial year 2018/2019, the directorate spent Kshs. 10.8 million in the breeds and breeding program including the procurement of semen for livestock breeding in all the 30 wards.

In year 2010/2020, the directorate spent



Kshs. 8.4 million in all the wards for dairy improvement which included the purchase of semen, liquid nitrogen and small A.I equipment.

Joseph Mugwe, a farmer from Konyu ward in Mathira East sub-county, who is a beneficiary of the free AI services being offered unto his livestock has every reason to smile seeing that one of his cows that was served has borne him two heifers, increasing his livestock population.

"I want to sincerely thank the County

Government of Nyeri for this initiative. I have seen an increment in the production of milk from my cow and in the next few months I will also start milking these other heifers," he noted.

The farmer added that increased milk production is a major source of income for his family.

On the other hand, the directorate of Veterinary services has also been carrying out annual vaccination programme to control notifiable diseases with over 90,000 animals being vaccinated for a

period of one year.

Artificial Insemination (A.I) is an Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) used worldwide to deposit stored semen directly into a cow or heifer's uterus. A.I prevents in-breeding which can result to the same traits of genes from animals, secondly it controls infectious breeding diseases, and thirdly it improves reproductive performance and genetic quality of livestock.

Wireless technology for disaster preparedness

The company will enhance technology transfer and put Nyeri in the global map.



Being on the frontline, wireless connectivity to firemen is a lifeline. They rely on fast and always on access to critical applications and data to perform their mission, whether in a vehicle, station, or on-scene.

For many years, the Nyeri Fire station has been relying on fixed copper landlines in receiving distress calls. This type of technology is prone to many disruptions from weather, to vandalism and the archaic telephone infrastructure, thus exposing the public to danger due to delayed response.

To address this challenge, the County Government of Nyeri, through the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services recently acquired new wireless landlines for both Nyeri and Karatina Fire Stations. With wireless systems, firefighters will no longer be

tethered to fire equipment and apparatus as in wired system configurations. They are guaranteed to get real time reports on disasters as well as identify callers to deal with false alarms which were a hard to identify and trace with the old fixed lines.

Modern mobile phones have also been ordered for both stations, and will be delivered soon to enable the firemen capture the scenes of disaster which will come in handy in reporting, thus leading to possible investigations. The added freedom and mobility will dramatically improve safety, response time, and situational awareness-both en route to an incident and at the scene.

"One small step for our fire-stations, one giant step for our county and country!"

CGN pumps Kshs. 53.4 Million into water projects

Water is a critical basic commodity that is crucial not only for meeting basic human needs but also for socio-economic development. Due to the insufficiency of this basic commodity, parts of Nyeri county particularly Kieni East and Kieni West sub counties which forms 52 % land mass of the county have not been able to live up to their full potential - being the food basket for the county. It is estimated that with sufficient water supply, Kieni could feed the country, as it has good soils and a favorable topography.

It however falls on the leeward side of Mt. Kenya and is therefore classified as an ASAL area. Most rivers are seasonal, further aggravating the drought situation. The area largely depends on rainwater, which is unreliable and erratic owing to the geographical location of the vast sub-county.

The County Government of Nyeri under the leadership of H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga has remained committed to providing this basic commodity and ensures its demand is met across the county.

According to Department of Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change CEC Fredrick Kinyua, there are plans to implement water projects at a total cost of about Kshs 53.4 million in this current financial year 2020/2021.

These projects will benefit over 6,200 households in the county.

The department has already drilled and is currently equipping 10 boreholes with solar system fitting. Out of these, Small Irrigation and Value addition Project (SIVAP) has drilled two boreholes at Naromoru, Kieni East through the Department of Agriculture while the National Irrigation Authority (NIA) at Ragati area in Gakawa ward, Kieni East sub-county has drilled one.

In addition, the National Government has proposed to drill 50 boreholes in



the county.

Some of these projects are also being done in close collaboration with key development stakeholders including NIA which is planning to work on nine water projects; Ihwa, Kihuyo, Githiru, Wangi Kanuna, Gitero, Kabati, Muthuini, Changachicha and Kaguyu Kienjaini.

Through the Department of Agriculture, other irrigation projects that have been completed are Kiria Dam, Kamangura Dam, Lusoi Dam and Thiha Sagana Irrigation Project and three masonry tanks. The World Bank through the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP) funds these projects.

Further, before the end of this financial year, a masonry tank will be built at Gatina in Konyu ward, Mathira East sub-county and 10 irrigation and pipeline works have already been planned, with the completed Kahigaini/Kanjora pipeline at Dedan Kimathi ward awaiting inspection.

The county government has collaborated with Tana Water Works Development Agency to improve water distribution in Naromoru town and its environs. The county has constructed a water treatment plant at a cost of Kshs. 34 million and Tana has financed the new pipeline at a cost of Kshs. 10 million. The department is also currently working in partnership with the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC), in installation of three phase power at Titie and Naromoru Treatment Works. Implementation of the same is currently underway once tendering is completed.

In the last three financial years, the county government has drilled and rehabilitated 46 boreholes with majority of the boreholes being in both Kieni East and Kieni West sub counties where many residents are already benefiting from the water directly for either domestic use or for irrigation.

These projects have increased water supply from 65% to a projected 80%

by 2022 in rural areas and from 80% to a projected 90% in urban areas.

Out of the 46 boreholes, the county government has drilled 29, while 17 have been done in partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Tana Water Works Development Agency (TWWDA). 42 boreholes are in Kieni East and Kieni West sub counties while four are in Mathira East sub-county.

The boreholes have a capacity of pumping over 400,000 litres per hour with Kienjero water project in Mugunda ward having a water discharge of up to 47, 000 litres per hour.

On conservation of environment, Nyeri County boasts of having the highest percentage of tree cover at 38.3% percent and the county government's leadership has remained committed to retain it by supporting initiatives that seek to increase it.

Through the Directorate of Environment and Climate Change, it has planted over 80,000 tree fruit seedlings and a further 50,000 fruit trees through the Department of Agriculture through greening initiative in partnership with government institutions, private sector and other non-state actors.

Recently, the county government also collaborated with the Akurinu Church to plant over 100,000 indigenous trees in public lands as its members were celebrating 100 years since the inception of the church.



Self-medication is not safe as it increases chances of inappropriate self-diagnosis, incorrect choice of antimicrobial drugs.

Raising public awareness on the use of antimicrobial drugs

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a natural occurrence exhibited by organisms/microbes namely; bacteria, viruses, fungi and protozoa. The emergence of AMR is accelerated by misuse, overuse and underuse of antimicrobial drugs. As a result, the microbes no longer respond to antimicrobial drugs they were previously sensitive to thus increasing the burden of disease, longer hospital stays, increased cost of treatment and death. Studies have shown that, globally, approximately 700, 000 people have died from infections that were previously treatable by existing antimicrobial drugs. If antimicrobial drugs are not used rationally, approximately 10 million people could die from drug resistant infections by the year 2050.

Antimicrobial drugs are used to treat diseases/infections caused by organisms mentioned above and are further classified as below:

- Antibiotics – are drugs used to treat infections caused by bacteria e.g., TB.
- Antivirals – are drugs used to treat infections caused by viruses e.g. HIV, COVID 19 and Hepatitis B.
- Antifungals - are drugs used to treat infections caused by fungi e.g. ring worms
- Antiparasitics - are drugs used to treat infections caused by parasites e.g., malaria

Do's and Don'ts of using antimicrobial drugs:

- **Do not take antimicrobial drugs without the advice of a qualified medical professional.** Self-medication is not safe as it increases chances of inappropriate self-diagnosis, incorrect choice of antimicrobial drugs, inadequate dosage, potential for developing allergic reactions and the likelihood of increased resistance to microbes. Diseases caused by resistant microbes usually costs more treat, increases hospital stay and can cause death.

- **Get your antimicrobial drugs using a valid prescription**



Dr. Sarah Kibira, Deputy Chief Pharmacist at her work place in Nyeri Referral Hospital.

ONLY from registered pharmacies/chemists, clinics and hospitals.

Accessing antimicrobial drugs using a valid prescription allows you to receive the right antimicrobial, for the right diagnosis and at the recommended dosages considering any allergies associated with the choice of the antimicrobial.

- **Ensure you complete the full dose of antimicrobial drugs prescribed to you.**

Completing a full dose of antimicrobials prescribed ensures that disease causing microbes are cleared off your body. Do not stop taking medicines prescribed for you when disease symptoms improve.

- **Return unused antimicrobial drugs to the pharmacy/chemist where it was obtained from or take them to the nearest clinic/hospital.**

Incorrectly disposed antimicrobial drugs can find their way into human bodies through contaminated

water bodies, plants, livestock and fish. This promotes the emergence of more resistant microbes that are difficult and expensive to treat.

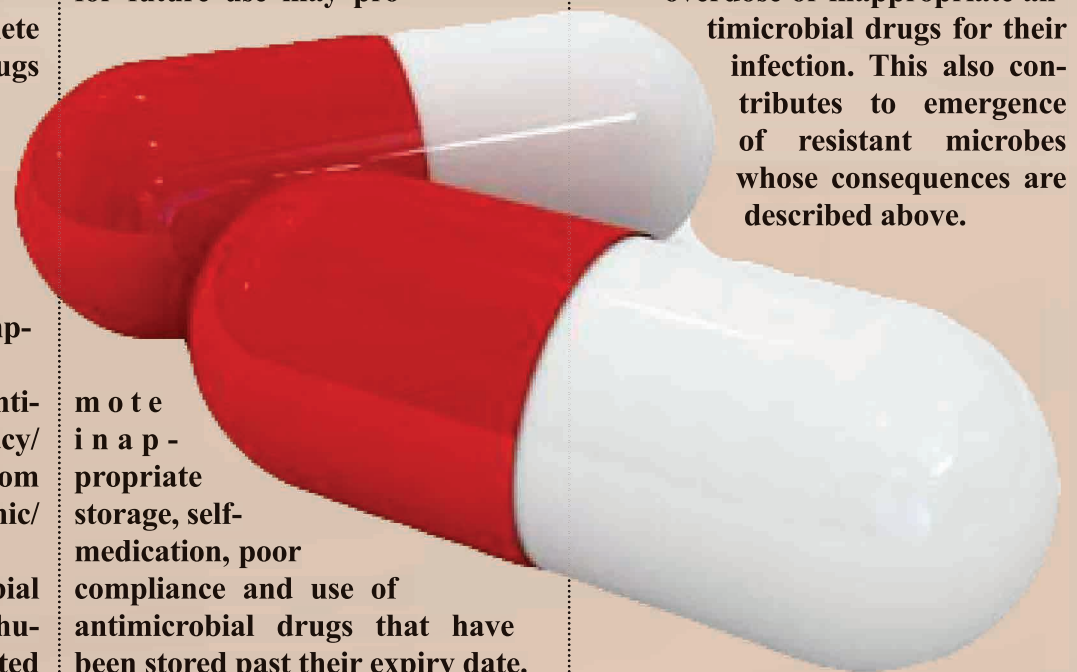
- **Do not keep antimicrobial drugs at home for purposes of future use.**

Storing antimicrobial drugs at home for future use may pro-

- **Do not share antimicrobial drugs with friends or relatives.**

Do not share antimicrobial drugs with friends and families as this may worsen the condition of the other person. Reason being the other person may receive an underdose, overdose or inappropriate antimicrobial drugs for their infection. This also contributes to emergence of resistant microbes whose consequences are described above.

note in a p - appropriate storage, self-medication, poor compliance and use of antimicrobial drugs that have been stored past their expiry date.



In case of no consumption, one will pay a fee of Ksh. 50 only, not the current Ksh. 368.40 or Ksh. 686.80

Nyewasco explains about the water tariffs adjustment



Nyewasco water treatment plant at Kamakwa area near Nyeri town. INSET: Nyewasco acting MD Eng. Peter Kahuthu speaking to journalists. Nyewasco has reduced the tariffs by an average of 10% for the interests of the poor who are the majority. Meanwhile some of the rates have increased especially for the government, institutions and other large consumers.

Nyeri Water and Sanitation Company Limited (NYEWASCO) has explained to its customers on the recent water tariff adjustments saying the new charges are set to benefit over 70 % of its customers. Nyewasco acting MD Eng. Peter Kahuthu said the tariffs of those who are domestic consumers without sewer from one to six units have been reduced from Kshs. 368.40 to Kshs. 332.00.

Nyewasco, which is one of the Water Service Providers (WSPs), is required by the Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB) to review their Tariffs every five years. The last tariff expired in year 2013. Nyewasco started off the process in January 2019, as guided by the Public Consultation for Regular Tariff Review Guidelines issued by WASREB. A survey done by WASREB on the company's service area showed that 72% of the consumers are poor and consumed a maximum of six units per month. As such there was need to review the tariff and come up with a structure which subsidized the rates for this group of customers.

Eng. Kahuthu added that the company engaged a consultant to carry out an Economic Survey within its service area which showed that the customers were desirous of better services. However, it was also observed that the tariff that was in place was non-cost recovery and therefore could not support the same. Nyewasco has reduced the tariffs by an average of 10% for the interests of the poor who are the majority. Meanwhile

some of the rates have increased especially for the government, institutions and other large consumers.

The MD emphasized that the company engaged the public and stakeholders to deliberate on the proposed tariff changes and incorporated their views before presenting the proposed tariff in a public consultation meeting held on 9/10/2020. The views gathered during this meeting and throughout the public consultation period were considered by WASREB and the final approved tariff structure published in the Kenya Gazette.

A successful implementation of the new tariffs will help the company to dispense its mandate effectively while taking care of the people living in the Low Income areas.

The following are the benefits of the proposed tariff to the customers:

In case of no consumption, one will pay a small standing fees of Ksh. 50 only and not the current Ksh. 368.40 or Ksh.

686.80 equivalent of 10 units.

The water tariff for water kiosks will remain the same ie. Ksh. 1 for 10 litres.

Sewer charges will be reduced for domestic users by charging 75% of the quantity of water consumed. This has been reduced from 100%.

The current tariff charges the same price for sewer and water. The proposed tariff will charge a separate rate for sewer which is lower than that of water for all the categories. It is 20% lower on average for the domestic customers.

Therefore, sewer charges for domestic customers will be reduced to an average 60% of water charges. Minimum charges for low consumption of up to 6 units is Ksh. 332 for unsewered connections and Sh.534.50 for sewer connections down from the current Sh.368.40 and Sh.686.80 respectively.

For business accounts, minimum charges for low consumption of up to 6 units is Ksh. 500 for unsewered connec-

tions and Sh.812 for sewer connections down from the current Sh. 527.70 and Sh.1,005.40 respectively.

Key expected Impacts on Service Delivery:

The cost recovery tariff will enable the company to sustain the achieved service delivery levels in terms of efficiencies and effectiveness across board.

The proposed tariff will make it possible for the company to upgrade the pipeline to improve water supply to the residents of Kihuyo, Mweiga, Ikumari and Ngangarithi among others.

It will enable the company to reduce water losses further to 12%.

It will assist the company in putting in place measures to maintain 100% drinking water quality that Nyewasco is known for.

This will also enable the company to implement automation of its systems to assure its customers of accurate, timely and consistent billings.

This proposed tariff will enable the company to increase its sewer coverage from 28% to 40%.

The charges have reduced for some categories in keeping with WASREB's safeguard for the interests of the poor as categorized by the level of consumption, who are the majority.

However, the rest of the costs are structured to be borne by the other categories and therefore their rates have increased especially for the government institutions and large consumers.



These hydrants will allow firefighters to access a steady flow of water supply during firefighting operations.

CGN embarks on the construction of fire hydrants

By Jane Barua

Fire hydrants are an essential and integral component in firefighting. They significantly reduce the lead time in responding to fire disaster, especially where the fire engines need to refill, after exhausting their water reserve. The difference between life and death, and the loss or salvage of millions of shillings worth of property, is determined by the time it takes for fire fighters to access an available hydrant.

In seeking a permanent solution to this challenge, the County Government of Nyeri under the leadership of H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga has initiated a project to construct at least one fire hydrant in each ward.

To kick start this historic feat, the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services on Wednesday the 14th of April 2021, handed over eight sites to various contractors to commence the work of constructing the first batch of fire hydrants.

Located in strategic areas, these hydrants will allow firefighters to access a steady flow of water supply during firefighting operations.

The water service providers in all the eight sub counties are major stake-



holders as the hydrants will be elected on their water service lines.

Othaya and Kiawara will particularly benefit from the hydrants as they will serve the proposed new fire stations to be situated there. Other locations include; Naromoru, Wamagana, and

Mukurwe-ini Central wards, Karatina Town, Nairutia Shopping Centre and Kaiyaba in Mathira West.

The parties involved including members of the public, CEO MAWASCO, Mr. Peter Muturi, and the MD OM-WASCO, lauded governor Kahiga for

this initiative which will give value for money to the community. They also agreed that it is a noble gesture which will address fire outbreaks in the county.

Ruring'u Stadium project inspection

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga conducted a routine inspection of the ongoing construction at Ruring'u Stadium. It is a joint project between the County Government and the National Government. The perimeter fence being constructed by the county government is in its second phase and is set to be completed in three months.



The Bills have been drafted in close collaboration between the County Executive and the County Assembly.

How the four new Nyeri Bills will benefit locals



Nyeri Governor H.E. Mutahi Kahiga has assented into law four vital Bills which are set to benefit Nyeri citizenry immensely.

The Bills which include the Nyeri County Health Services Fund Bill, 2021, the Nyeri County Forest Management and Conservation Bill, 2021, the Nyeri County Climate Change Bill, 2021 and the Nyeri County Inspectorate Bill, 2021 whose speedy implementation by the concerned departments will see the lives of the people of Nyeri transformed positively.

The Bills have been drafted in close collaboration between the County Executive and the County Assembly of Nyeri. While assenting to the Bills into law, governor Kahiga lauded the assembly committees for their focus, patriotism and the dedication they have showed towards achieving their mandate as a county assembly.

County Assembly of Nyeri Speaker Hon. John Kaguchia lauded the executive for its continued support through the process of coming up with these bills that will be of great benefit to Nyeri citizens.

The Speaker further noted that the county assembly will continue upholding this trend to ensure to ensure that Nyeri citizens continue to access proper services as they deserve. The four bills assented to laws are:

Nyeri County Health Services Fund Bill, 2021

Under the Big 4 Agenda, the national government has remained focused on improving access to quality healthcare services for all citizens. This is a need that has trickled down to the devolved governments, which has seen the County Government of Nyeri establish a Health Services Fund Bill to address the various challenges in the health sector. Through this bill, the county government has established the Nyeri County Health Services Fund whose main purpose will be to improve health care service delivery in health facilities across the county. Subsequently, the Fund will ensure facilities have better access to financial resources as well as ensure health facilities are more responsive to medical and public health emergencies.



The Nyeri County Forest Management and Conservation Bill, 2021

Nyeri County has been acclaimed as the leading county in Kenya in terms of forest cover at 38%. In

light of this, governor Kahiga has assented to the Nyeri County Forest Management and Conservation Bill, 2021 which will ensure the sustainable management of forest and forest resources in Nyeri County. The bill purposes to come up with incentives geared towards forest conservation as well as engage relevant stakeholders and the community at large in realization of the same. The measures will seek to increase forest and tree cover, encourage stakeholders' participation and encourage operation of payment for ecosystem service mechanisms.

The Nyeri County Climate Change Bill, 2021

The bill envisions putting in place a framework and mechanisms for mobilization and facilitation of the county government, communities and other stakeholders to respond effectively to climate change through appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures and actions. Some of the measures will include facilitating the creation of a Nyeri County Climate Change Fund for the purpose of funding climate change projects, programs and activities provided for in the climate finance framework established. The various activities will be spearheaded by several committees as well as have the platform for the public to participate in the climate change process.

Both the Climate Change and Forest Management and Conservation Bill, push Nyeri forward in being REDD+ ready i.e. reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, an effective climate change mitigation strategy.

The Nyeri County Inspectorate Bill, 2021

The Bill seeks to provide for the establishment of the Nyeri County Inspectorate Unit and to provide for its' organization, functions, powers and for matters connected thereto. The bill provides for the institutional framework for the enforcement of compliance of County laws and regulations, regulates the conduct of the County Inspectorate officers and establishes an inspection mechanism so as to ensure the effective performance and exercise of the powers conferred to the unit. The execution of their mandate will now have a proper legal backing as they carry on with the discharge of their duties as enforcement officers.

