

## 3rd cohort of the governor's scholarship launched



A total of 60 students will benefit from this programme, bringing it to a total of 180 students to benefit from this programme since it was inception in 2018 by governor Kahiga. The students, a boy and a girl, per ward are those who hail from vulnerable backgrounds and scored 350 marks and above in their KCPE.

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## Governor hands over Nganyuthe Irrigation Water Project site

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga handed over the site for the proposed rehabilitation and upgrading of Nganyuthe Irrigation Water Project for Gatarakwa and Endarasha/Mwiyogo wards to the contractor Transworld Construction Ltd in Kieni West sub-county. This will involve construction of two water storage tanks, a water intake and distribution lines. The water project is set to benefit over 1,500 households.

# The NYERI MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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## Empowerment

## Kshs. 26 million set to empower Nyeri youth, women & PWDs

Kenya is categorized as having a youthful population. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) 2019 national census, 35.7 million Kenyans (75.1%) are below 35 years, while 32.73 million (68.9%) live in rural areas. This accounts for approximately 55% of the country's total labor force.

The conventional population of youth aged 18 to 34; 13.7 million or 61% were working while 11.6 million were seeking work or indicated that there was no work available.

This implies that youth unemployment stands at 39%.

This share of potentially productive workforce, therefore, needs to be fully harnessed and optimized to contribute to the country's development.

Unfortunately this large group of unemployed youth feels marginalized even in terms of access to economic opportunities.

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The Kenya Youth Policy states that, “the youth are relatively disadvantaged in socio-economic outcomes including employment. A majority of the youth remain on the periphery of the country’s social, economic and political affairs.”

The same grim data can be said of our women in Kenya. Indeed women account for 52% of our population and their contribution to the national GDP cannot be overemphasized. Yet women like the youth are marginalized hence the need for support to their economic activities.

This grim data has informed the County Government of Nyeri under the leadership of H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga in implementing a program dubbed ‘The Nyeri County Youth, Women and PWD Empowerment Programme’ through the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services.

The main goal of this programme is to incubate an assortment of income generating activities into viable economic activities for youth, women and people living with disability (PWDs) which will graduate into established business for the social economic development of the county.

To benefit from this programme, the interested groups must meet some conditions which include:

- The youth, women or people abled differently groups must be registered with the state department for social development.
  - The group must be active and must have a constitution or rules and or regulations that govern its operations.
  - The group must have at least five or more members and where at least two thirds of those members must be within the 18 to 34 age bracket for the youth group or must be women for women groups or people abled differently depending on the category of the group or as may be prescribed by any written law or policy and at least half of the group members must reside within the ward where the application is made.
- The pilot programme was launched in September, 2020 in Iria-ini ward, Othaya sub-county, where youth and women benefitted with car wash machines, saloon equipment, photocopy machines



and tents and chairs for hire. About 70% of those who benefitted succeeded and those who are struggling have given the department insight on how to continuously improve on this programme especially on business counselling, monitoring and evaluation and conflict resolution.

In the last financial year 2020/2021, Ksh. 26 million was set aside to purchase equipment for groups within other 15 wards in the county. The various groups will get various equipment which include: chaffing dishes, blow driers, car wash machines, concrete vibrators, shaving machines, chicks incubators with generators, refined fuels dispensing machines, animal feeds processing mixers, tents and chairs for hire and even smaller tools such as spades, trowels, machetes, crow bars among others.

Governor Kahiga is expected to officially launch the programme in October and the exercise will take approximately 10 days to cover the 15 wards.

For the sustenance of the youth, women and PWDs empowerment program, in this year’s budget 2021/2022, the County Government has committed a further Kshs. 27 million, which is an increase from the previous year’s allocation.

The department’s Chief Officer George Mwangi, noted that an assortment of 238 groups made up of youth, women and PWDs registered have qualified to benefit from this programme and over

100 of these groups the majority of their members are the youth below the age of 35 years.

“These groups will also receive training in small business management and refresher training to continuously hone their business acumen,” he added.

The youth, women and PWDs are an essential component of the county’s development agenda and that is why apart from the youth, women and PWD empowerment program, the county government through the department of Gender is deliberately and systematically implementing other empowerment programs to appropriately equip and empower these groups attain and realize their full potential.

The other empowerment programs include:

- In partnership with the Centre for Rights, Education, and Awareness (CREAW), the county government launched a widows empowerment programme, to address some of the issues affecting them. The governor also directed Kshs. 3 million in the bank set aside by the previous regime to be released to benefit the widows financially.

- The Kuza Kazi Youth empowerment program, an initiative which the county government has partnered with the Coca-Cola Company to provide 150 beneficiaries with business skills training. The beneficiaries have also been incorporated into the company’s retail network and have each been provided

with a starter kit consisting of an ice-box, a parasol and a garden set.

- The department has also partnered with Help Self Help Center (HSHC), a development agency in Kenya to offer free training on soft skills to 250 Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) graduates in a bid to increase their chances of being employed or starting their own businesses.

“These groups fit very well into our empowerment strategy which involves creating, supporting and sustaining an environment that unlocks the potential of the people of Nyeri to achieve progressive socio-economic growth,” noted governor Kahiga.

The leadership of Governor Kahiga and his government is a leadership that is innovative, empathetic and benevolent and that is why he keeps on steering such groups in the right direction with such empowerment programs.

This government is also cognizant of the fact that there is no demerit in empowering these groups and especially the youth, seeing that youth empowerment will help to build a better tomorrow which elevates the standard of living of the people.

Indeed, it is the most effective means of making a better future for this county and ultimately this country.



## 3rd cohort of the governor's scholarship launched

H. E Governor Mutahi Kahiga presided over the awarding ceremony for the 2021 Governor's Scholarship Program beneficiaries.

The event was held at Town Hall Grounds, Nyeri town.

A total of 60 students benefitted from this programme, bringing it to a total of 180 students to benefit from it since it was inception in 2018 by governor Kahiga. The students, a boy and a girl, per ward were selected from vulnerable backgrounds with a score of 350 marks and above in their KCPE.

The governor urged the students to maintain discipline as they report back to their respective schools and emphasized on the need to focus on their studies, to set goals and work towards achieving their dreams.

Education and Sports CEC, Margaret Macharia urged the students to make use of the opportunity accorded to



them assuring them that all necessary support will be given to them.

Jackson King'ori and Agnes Wangechi, parents to two of the beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to the governor for such a noble initiative that will go a long way in transforming the

lives of their children positively.

The County Government of Nyeri has also issued out Elimu Fund Bursaries to students in secondary schools, colleges, polytechnics, universities and special schools. In the last three years, over 51,000 students have benefitted from the same and another 10,000

will benefit from this year's allocation.

In the current financial year 2021/22, Kshs. 160 million has been set aside for the Elimu Fund kitty.

## Commissioning of Wings to Fly and Elimu 2021 scholarship

The scholarship seeks to improve secondary education and it takes care of school fees, transport and learning materials



*Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga (second left) with a team from Equity Bank during the official commissioning of the Equity Bank Foundation's 'Wings to Fly' and 'ELIMU 2021' scholarship. The scholarship seeks to improve secondary education in Kenya and it takes care of school fees, transport and learning materials.*

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga joined the Equity Bank fraternity led by the Managing Director Gerald Warui during the commissioning of the Equity Bank Foundation's Wings to Fly and Elimu

2021 Scholarship beneficiaries.

The Wings to Fly scholarship program is an initiative of the Equity Group and Mastercard Foundation that was established to support secondary education

for top performing children from financially challenged backgrounds. With support from other partners, the program offers access to leadership training to previously marginalized children in

all counties.

The Elimu scholarship program is a Kenyan government-run education scholarship funded by the World Bank through the Ministry of Education and the Equity Group Foundation. The scholarship seeks to improve secondary education in Kenya and it takes care of school fees, transport and learning materials.

The two programmes offer comprehensive support for bright but needy scholars through provision of full tuition fees and other necessities needed during their four years of secondary education. Governor Kahiga lauded this great effort as it showed great concern for the welfare of children and vulnerable families and a great relief to their parents.

He also congratulated the 105 beneficiaries of the two programmes for their exemplary performance and urged them to keep up with the same spirit for a better future.

# Governor issues cheques worth over Kshs. 36 million



From left: Governor Kahiga, Agriculture CEC James Wachihi, Agriculture Chief Officer Ruth Mwangi during the handing over of a cheque worth about Kshs. 26.58 million to farmers of KCSAP Gatarakwa ward Community Development Driven Committee. On the second right is Endarsha/Mwiyogo ward MCA Hon. Clement Warutere. The governor also handed over 25 milk cans to Kieni Dairy Farmers worth about Ksh 300,000 and farm inputs including seeds, chemicals and spray pumps worth Ksh 490,750.

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga presented cheques worth over Kshs. 36 million from the Kenya Climate Smart Agricultural Project (KCSAP) to farmers in Endarasha/Mwiyogo ward, Kieni West sub-county. A cheque worth Kshs. 10 million was presented to the Kieni Dairy Products Limited (KDPL), for the purchase of a milk pasteurizer. KDPL is a farm-

er-owned company which serves farmers along Aberdares ranges and farmers from semi-arid areas within Nyeri County. It has eight affiliate co-operatives namely; Mweiga FCS, Watuka FCS, Gatarakwa FCS, Nairutia FCS, Lamuria FCS, Thuruthuru FCS, Endarasha FCS and Mulatha FCS. Governor Kahiga noted that the milk

pasteurizer will aid in milk value addition by increasing production of pasteurized milk and yoghurt, which KPDL has started selling to local outlets. Another cheque worth about Kshs. 26.7 million was presented to Mugunda Community Development Driven Committee (CDDC) to boost agricultural production amongst farmers

across the five value chains implemented by KCSAP. The governor also handed over 25 milk cans to Kieni Dairy Farmers worth about Ksh 300,000 and farm inputs including seeds, chemicals and spray pumps worth Ksh 490,750. The sub-county was also allocated an additional AI vehicle.

## Commissioning of Kiria Earth Dam

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga officially commissioned Kiria Earth Dam in Gatarakwa ward, Kieni West sub-county. The rehabilitation of the dam has been done through the Kenya Climate Smart Agricultural Project (KCSAP) which is funded by the World Bank. The project aims at increasing agricultural productivity and building resilience to climate change risk in the targeted smallholders farming and pastoral communities in Kenya, and in event of an eligible crisis or emergency to provide immediate and effective response. Kiria Earth Dam has been rehabilitated and fitted with solar systems which will enhance the distribution of water



for irrigation and domestic purposes and is set to benefit about 2,515 farmers. A storage tank with a capacity of 225m<sup>3</sup> has also been constructed. 31 farmer groups also received cheques worth over Kshs. 26 million.

The groups are in the value chains of: Dairy cows, indigenous chicken, Irish potatoes, beans and natural resource management. Through this, the youth and vulnerable marginalized groups have benefitted greatly.

The project is implemented in 24 counties and Nyeri County is among the implementing counties. Nyeri County recently bagged an accolade when it emerged at Position One among the 24 counties under KCSAP.

# Nyewasco shines yet again!

The Nyeri Water and Sanitation Company Limited (Nyewasco) has been hailed yet again for being position one in the recently conducted IMPACT REPORT 13 (Water Services Utility Performance Report) among 81 utilities in the country for the 13th year in a row.

Heartfelt congratulations to all the men and women who work day and night to deliver exceptional water and sanitation services to the residents of Nyeri Central sub-county and its environs. The success is truly a result of collective hard work of Nyewasco's members of staff, management, Board of Directors, the County Government of Nyeri, the National Government and all involved stakeholders.

Nyewasco has retained low non-revenue water levels which in turn increases the amount of water delivered to people's households. The company is also the NRW champions in the country which currently stands at 15% compared to the national average and target of 42 and 20 % respectively.

Nyewasco remains committed to maintaining excellent quality of water to the present rating of 100% and continual improvement of all their services.

Previously, the company has been recognized globally for exemplary work performance having been awarded the Water Leaders Award, during the Global Water Awards 2020, an award which was established in 2006 by Global Water Intelligence. The coveted award recognized the most important achievements in the international water industry within several categories and rewards those initiatives in the water, wastewater and desalination sectors that are moving the industry forward through improved operating performance, innovative technology adoption and sustainable financial models.

Nyewasco was recognized for being a key player in terms of governance in the water sector. The company has also won other awards for instance, in the sports category, during the 9th edition WSPs games, it emerged third position and in 2016, scooped the MAPI award related to good governance and best practices.



## Nyeri health workers trained on safe phlebotomy



50 health workers from the various public health facilities comprising of nurses, medical doctors and lab technicians underwent intensive three-day training on safe phlebotomy. Upon successful completion, they were awarded a certificate. This is one of the activities under the third phase of a program which was rolled out in 2008 and launched three years ago at the Nyeri County Referral Hospital courtesy of NASCOP and Amref Health Africa in Kenya as local implementing partner.

Phlebotomy is a process of making a puncture in a vein, usually an arm with the aim of drawing blood for medical testing, transfusion or donation hence important for safety practice for those involved in patient care and their clients. Nicholas Kimotho, program officer at NASCOP lauded the mutual working collaboration with the Nyeri County Referral Hospital enabled by the County Government of Nyeri which has made it easier to lobby for equipment and capacity building forums.



## Commissioning of poultry feed processing plant in Endarasha/ Mwiyo ward



**TOP:** Governor Kahiga inspecting poultry feed processing plant for the Labura CBO soon after he commissioned it. The processing plant will ensure availability of high quality feeds for faster growth rate and increased laying percentage of poultry reared.

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga commissioned a poultry feed processing plant for the Labura Community Based Organization (CBO) which has been implemented through the Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP) in Endarasha/Mwigoyo ward, Kieni West Sub-county.

Labura CBO is an indigenous chicken value chain organization formed in the year 2019 in Kieni West sub-county with a membership of over 500 members inclusive of men, women and youth.

The CBO was supported with an indigenous chicken feeds formulation project of Kshs 3.4 Million which included; feed mill with a mixer, feed ingredients for 17 tons of indigenous chicken feeds, 1,000 packaging bags, 2 digital weighing scales, 2 electric bag closing machines, 50 Kg sunflower seeds and 2 Black soldier fly kits

The processing plant project will ensure availability of high quality feeds for faster growth rate and increased laying percentage of poultry reared subsequently increasing value chain productivity and income earned.

The Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP) has been running in the county for the last nine years. It has been implemented in two phases, focusing on the three value chains of cow milk, Indigenous chicken and Irish potatoes.

In phase one, the farmers through capacity building spent Kshs. 38 million while in phase two which started in year 2017- 2022 has been allocated Kshs. 37 million.

Through ASDSP, the county government has increased productivity of prioritized value chains, strengthened entrepreneurial skills of value chain actors, improved access to market by value chain actors, strengthened structures and capacities for coordination, cooperation and consultation in agriculture sector.

## Biricha Water Irrigation Project kicks off

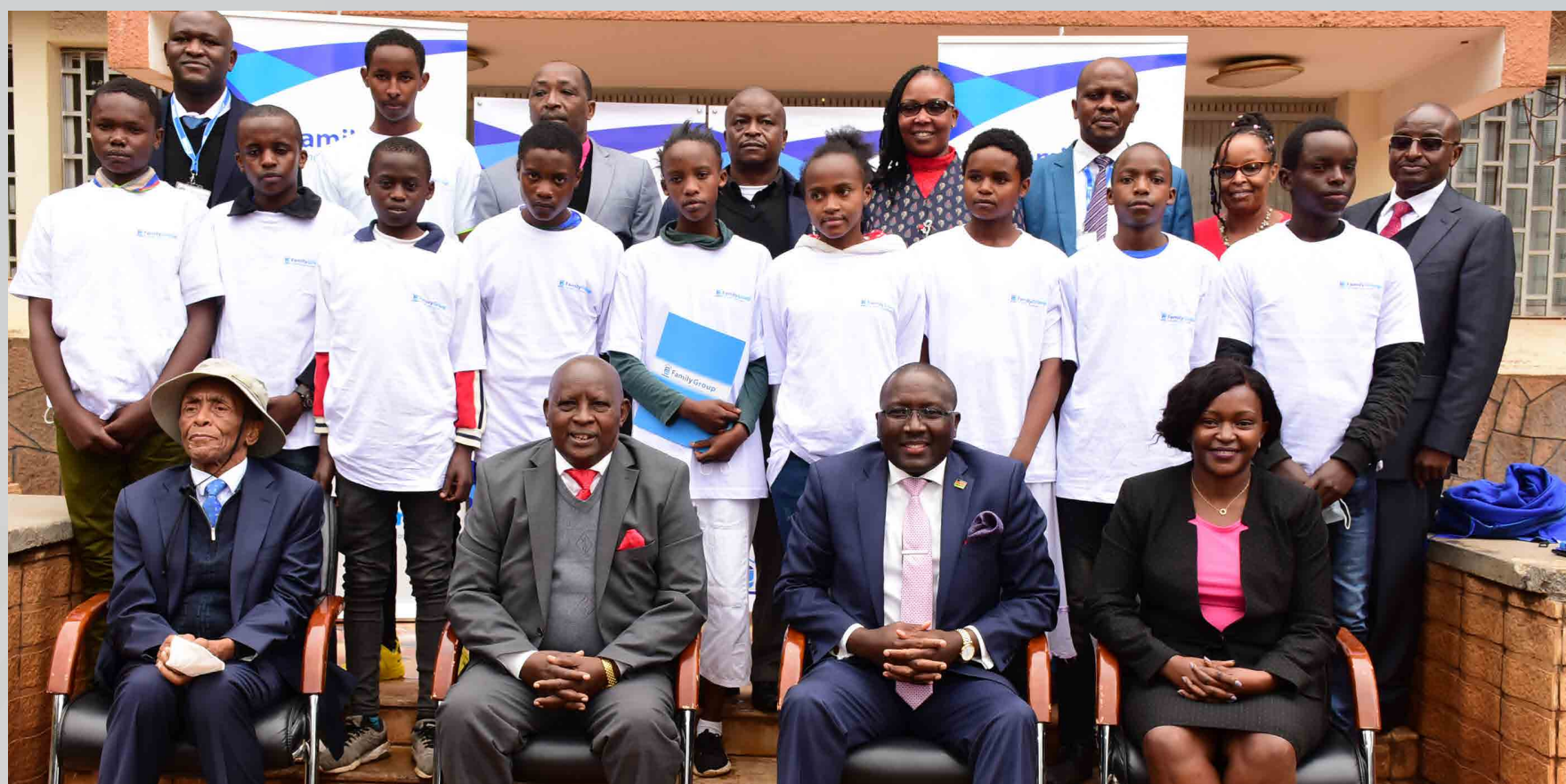
H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga (*pictured*) handed over the site for the proposed rehabilitation and upgrading of Biricha Irrigation Water Project for Mugunda ward to the contractor, MITZ Earth Work Ltd. in Mugunda ward, Kieni West sub-county.

The project being rehabilitated through the Kenya Climate Smart Agricultural Project (KCSAP), a program funded by the World Bank, will involve construction of two water storage tanks, a water intake, distribution lines and installation of solar panels.

The water project will benefit over 2,800 farmers.



## Family Group Foundation scholarship program awarding ceremony



*Seated from left Family Bank Founder T. K. Muya, H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga, Executive Director of the Family Bank Foundation John Waimiri and Family Group CEO Rebecca Mbithi among other officials with beneficiaries of the Family Group Foundation.*

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga was delighted to preside over the awarding ceremony for the Family Group Foundation 2021 High School Scholarship Program, where 10 beneficiaries from needy backgrounds, drawn from Nyeri County are set to benefit.

They are among the 110 pupils set to benefit from both tuition and upkeep through this programme in 11 counties. The other target counties include

Bungoma, Kisumu, Kiambu, Kajia-do, Mombasa, Makueni, Meru, Murang'a, Nakuru and Uasin Gishu.

Governor Kahiga emphasized on the importance of supporting education especially in these difficult times occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic. He noted that the County Government of Nyeri has a similar program dubbed the Governor's Scholarship Programme, whereby 180 students have so far benefitted with full schol-

arships. Further the county government has provided bursaries to other students from needy background through the Elimu Bursary Fund.

In this year, the Family Group Foundation has spent Kshs. 30 million on scholarships for needy students. Through their education pillar, the foundation has offered bright and needy students the opportunity to pursue and successfully complete secondary education. It has also provid-

ed relief to parents struggling to meet tuition needs, especially those who lost their sources of income due to the Covid-19 pandemic and greatly contribute to the 100 per cent transition policy put in place by the Ministry of Education.

The team had earlier paid a courtesy call to the governor in his office.

## Governor joins Tetu leaders during a prize giving day



H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga together with Tetu MP Hon. James Gichuhi

and MCA Hon. Gibson Wahinya joined parents, teachers and students

for a prize giving ceremony at Gatumbiro Primary School in Dedan

Kimathi ward, Tetu sub-county.

The governor urged parents and teachers to work harmoniously towards improving the students' performance. He also encouraged the students to continue working hard in their studies as education bears fruits in the long run.

The prize giving day was organized by GNT group led by Alex Gathii. The County Government of Nyeri plans also to fully sponsor any student who scores 350+ marks in next year's KCPE examination. This will motivate the pupils to work hard.

# Nyeri ranked 3rd in aqua-culture



Nyeri County has once again shone nationally after the county delivered impressive results during the first national stakeholders annual review workshop held recently in Kirinyaga County.

The objective of the workshop held on the 29th and 30th June 2021 was to review programme implementation progress attained by the Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP) so far, review the challenges

encountered and to find solutions to the inherent challenges faced during implementation.

During the review workshop, Nyeri County ABDP was ranked position three out of the 15 implementing counties after Busia and Meru.

The 15 programme implementing counties were ranked as follows:

1. Busia
2. Meru
3. Nyeri

4. Homabay
5. Kirinyaga
6. Siaya
7. Kakamega
8. Kisii
9. Machakos
10. Kajiado
11. Kisumu
12. Migori
13. Embu
14. Kiambu
15. Tharaka-Nithi

The parameters used to evaluate the annual performance during the forum were:

- Prudent absorption of funds.
- Timeliness and good quality of reporting.
- Timeliness and quality of Statement of Expenditure (SOE).
- Quality and excellence in extension services
- Proper coordination among county staff.
- Support in the procurement function.

The ABDP is a programme jointly funded by the Government of Kenya and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Its geographical scope is the 15 select counties with high aquaculture, potential, high production, existing sectoral infrastructure (processing, marketing and research), adequate water, resources and high marketing potential. The overall goal of the programme is to reduce poverty and increase food security and nutrition in rural communities.

Its success can be traced back to H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga's commitment towards the promotion of aquaculture in Nyeri County, the collabora-

tion of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries with the ABDP Nyeri faction and the resilient county staff who are always at hand to serve the people of Nyeri.

The county government has distributed over 945,000 fingerlings to over 1,400 fish farmers across the county at a cost of about Kshs. 14 million. It has provided both mixed sex and mono sex fingerlings which have been stocked in dams and ponds respectively over the last few years.

In the financial year 2019/2020, the county government undertook stocking of 30 public dams each with 7,000 tilapia mixed sex fingerlings, stocked 45 fish cages each with 1,000 Tilapia monosex fingerlings.

Further, through the department, it has supported fish farming through provision of fish farming inputs, pond liners, cover nets, fish cages, rehabilitation of ponds for individual farmers as well as offering extension support to fish farmers through fisheries officers located in all the eight sub-counties.

So far, fish farmers have harvested over 89 tonnes of fish earning a total of about Kshs. 35 million. The county govern-

ment also uses Wamagana Fish Factory in Tetu sub-county as a fish bulking/ collection center. Further, the county is indirectly involved in fish value addition.

For the last four years, the county government has continued to bag commendable victories in a show of dedication and devotion through its leadership under the stewardship of Governor Kahiga.

Last year, Nyeri emerged position one in the implementation of the Kenya Climate Smart Agricultural Program (KCSAP) activities. This is a program that aims at increasing agricultural productivity and building resilience to climate change, reduce/remove greenhouse gases and enhance achievement of national food and nutrition security as part of the Big Four agenda.

The county has also been selected among the pilot counties for the coffee revitalization program which will be undertaken through the National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Project funded by the World Bank with an aim of reforming the coffee sector.

Nyeri County also rose to the top position in the World Bank's Kenya Devolution Support Program (KDSP)

rating. The KDSP program is financed by the World Bank and seeks to support capacity building and institutional strengthening.

Nyeri is now among the best run devolved units, having tied at position one with three other counties in the World Bank rating (Makueni, Nyandarua and ElgeyoMarakwet). In 2019, the county government was ranked at position two before emerging at position one in 2020. The tranche of money awarded is what the Governor Kahiga led administration is using to construct a Level 4 facility in Naromoru, Kieni East.

The county government has also been hailed for being the third best out of the 47 counties in the County Budget Transparency Report 2020.

On another score, Nyeri was awarded Kshs. 236 Million by the Kenya Urban Support Program (KUSP). Through this funding, the county government has put up a state-of-the-art Modern Bus Termini in Nyeri town that will cost Kshs. 600 Million. This enormous facility that is now settled on what was previously an illegal garbage site, will tremendously decongest Nyeri Town Central Business District as well as create new opportunities for businesses and traders.

Nyeri County through the Department of County Public Service Management was also awarded by the County Pension Fund as the best county in timely payment of employee pension and member affiliation.

The County Government of Nyeri will continue being dedicated in serving the interests of you, our esteemed stakeholder in Nyeri County.

