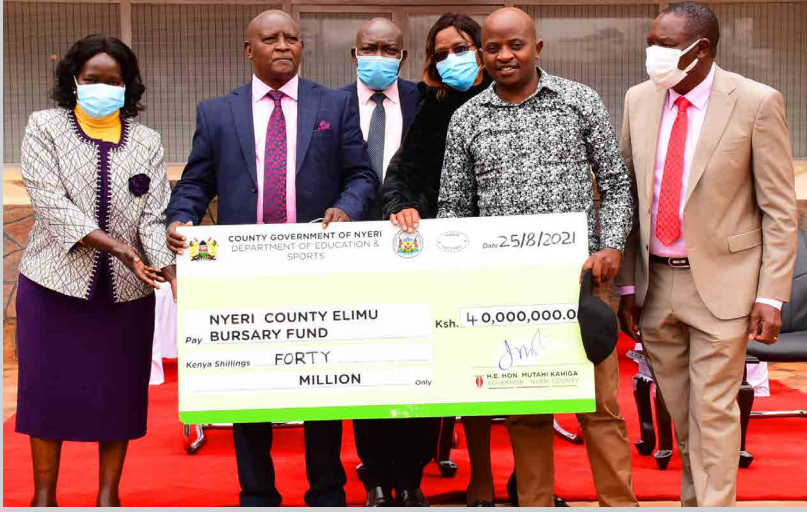


Governor disburses Elimu Fund bursaries to over 10,000 students



An additional 180 students have benefitted through the Governor's Scholarship programme, which supports two bright students per ward who come from vulnerable backgrounds.

In the last four years, the county government has disbursed bursaries worth Kshs. 270 million to over 60,000 students.

Story on page 3



Issuance of consent letters to Park Lane Road traders

The traders from Park Lane Road have been trading in the temporary stalls since 2004 but with the consent letters they can now construct modern stalls which will be a game changer in their lives.

Story on page 6

The NYERI MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST ISSUE, 2021

Infrastructure

CGN injects Kshs. 37.3 million into 12 bridges

A bridge is a structure that provides a means to transport animals, agricultural produce and people from one side to another ensuring accessibility within villages, neighborhoods and across wards.

For many years, Nyeri residents have called upon the County Government of Nyeri to construct bridges in their areas to ease movement noting that most of the bridges had not been repaired since pre-colonial times

while some have never had bridges since time immemorial.

It is for this reason that the County Government of Nyeri under the stewardship of H.E Governor Mutaahi Kahiga has constructed a total of 12 bridges during the last financial year 2020/2021; eight bridges/ box culverts and four footbridges at a cost of over Kshs. 37.3 million..

Continued on page 2



DOWNLOAD

NYERI COUNTY WEEKLY REVIEW

LOG ON

www.nyeri.go.ke



Some of these bridges are complete while others are undergoing construction. The box culverts/ bridges include; Gachatha Kwa Duncan, Mukaburo, Ha Kamune, Ria Gatiti, Gitegi- Kamweiga, Kahachu – Kahutini, Gikono and Lusoi bridges.

The foot bridges include;

Karangia- Gaturuturu, Kianjiru, Gatiki- Gathagana and Chania

The bridges are being constructed by the Department of Transport, Public Works, Infrastructure & Energy which is led by CEC, Muthui Kariuki and Chief Officer Julius Ringer.

For the last four years, the department has constructed a total of 18 box culverts and seven foot bridges.

The CEC, Muthui Kariuki noted that this is an effort geared towards significantly improving the county's economy through easing the transportation of goods and movement of people consequently, improving revenue streams from trade.

Gichatha-ini Kwa Duncan in Iria-ini Mathira ward, Mathira East sub-county (below)

Local residents led by Sam Wanjiru and Rhoda Muthoni lauded the construction of the bridge at Iria-ini Mathira ward and expressed their gratitude to Governor Kahiga and area MCA Hon. David Kabatha for supporting the construction of the bridge along Ragati River noting that it has helped connect and ease the movement of the people of Gichatha-ini, Kinyota and Gatura areas.

Wanjiru added that transporting their farm produce like coffee and horticultural crops to the market will now be easier. She further lauded the leadership of the county for the project which has eased and ensured pupils safely access their learning institutions including pupils of Kangocho Primary School.

Rhoda Muthoni said since the completion of the bridge, it has eased transportation of goods and movement of people, which has resulted in increased trading activities.

Ria Gitutu bridge in Gikondi ward, Mukurwe-ini sub-county

A resident Joseph Kiai lauded the work of Governor Kahiga and area MCA Hon. Mary Wamuyu for project which was completed recently.

"The bridge has helped connect the areas of Muhito and Gikondi. I also appeal to the county government to murram roads leading to the bridge to ease movement particularly during the rainy season since Rwarai River sometimes floods. Murramming will also help open up the other side of the bridge," appealed Kiai.

A local farmer Mwangi Ngunjiri noted that the construction of the bridge has boosted trade in the area while Kiraithe Kariuki said the bridge has significantly transformed the lives of the area residents.

Mukaburo bridge in Mugunda ward, Kieni West sub-county

Charles Rukwaro who hails from the area noted that this is the first vital project in the area which will be of much help to residents of Tanyai and Karemeno areas. The project is almost complete.

"For the first time, we shall have a bridge which is motorable. Crossing over Karemeno River will no longer pose danger unto us. The pupils from the area will be crossing over the bridge safely even when there are floods," said John Ndung'u who is a local boda boda operator.

Gitegi- Kamweiga bridge in Kiganjo/ Mathari ward, Nyeri Central sub-county



The project is over 90 per cent done "This is very good work which is being done by the county government. The residents of Kimenju and Witemere villages will now be able to connect since transport has been made easier," noted Charles Kamau, an area resident.

Another resident Maina Kahoro said the bridge has shortened the distance by many kilometres. He added that pupils of Nyaribo and Kamatongu Primary Schools who have been skipping classes due to overflowing Kamweiga River during the rainy season will no longer have excuses of absenteeism.

Charles Maina also echoed Kahoro's words noting that from time immemorial, they have not witnessed such development. He expressed his gratitude towards the governor for building them the bridge.

Ha Kamune bridge in Chinga ward, Othaya sub-county

The project is over 80 per cent done.

Local residents hailed the good work of the contractor noting that once complete it will significantly boost economic activities between the villages since people can easily access each other and engage in economic activities.

Kiangonina- Kahiga Foot Bridge in the boundary of Kiganjo/ Mathari and Ruguru ward

This foot bridge which was completed during the financial year 2019/2020 has been of much help to the local residents.

Timothy Mathenge said the project has notably made their lives easier adding that the project has economically empowered area residents as they can trade freely amongst each other as they cross over Sagana River.

CEC Muthui added that in the current financial year 2021/2022, the department has allocated a total of Kshs. 30 million for the construction of 14 bridges and foot bridges.

Further, the county government has also gravelled/ murrammed 1,058 Kms, graded 3,709 Kms, opened 37 roads and tar-macked/ recarpeted 10.7 Kms in the last four years.

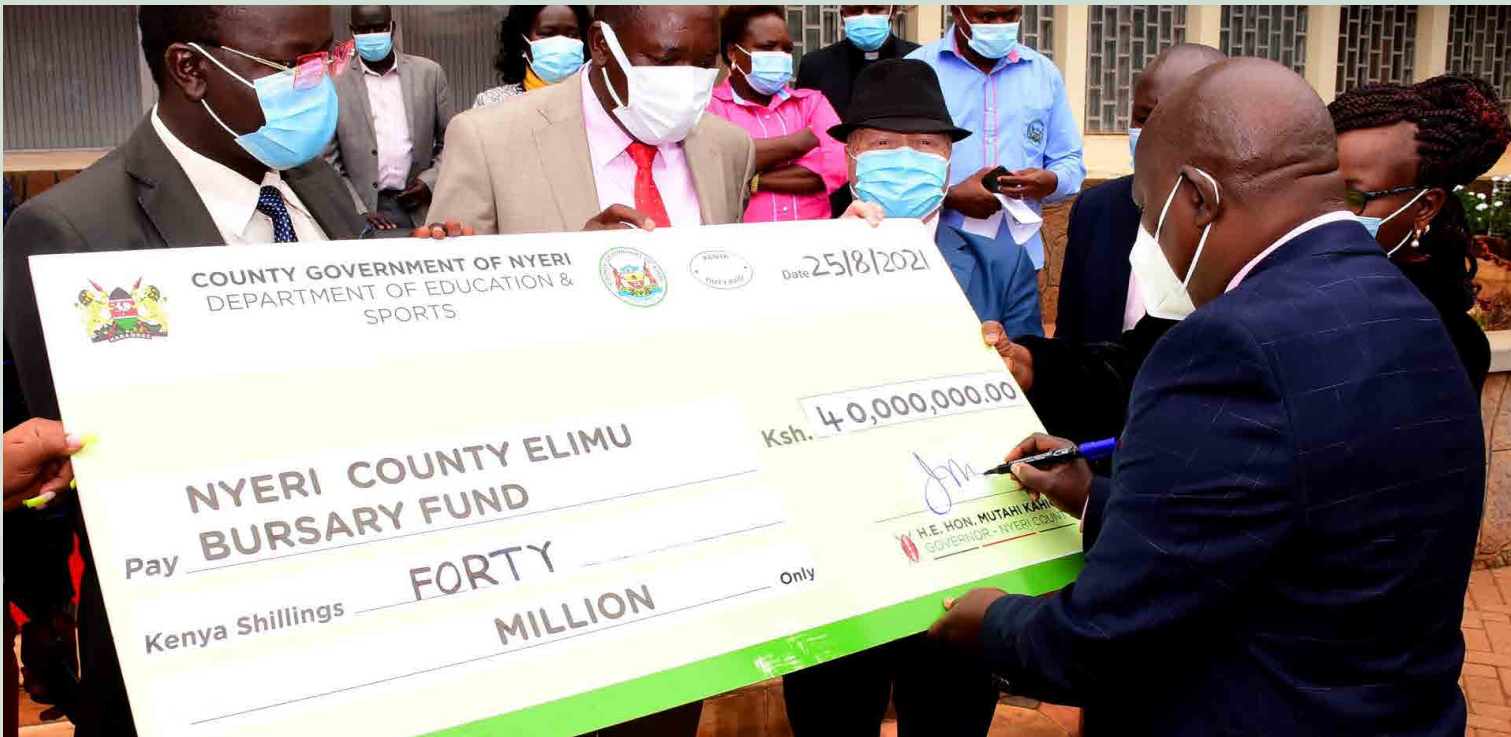
The department has also constructed two bus parks (Mukurwe-ini and Mweiga), installed 2,898 street lights and 207 flood lights.

These projects have transformed the county in a great way.



Governor disburses Elimu Fund bursaries to over 10,000 students

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga presided over the commissioning and disbursement of Elimu Fund bursaries worth Kshs. 40 million for the financial year 2020/2021. The bursaries will benefit over 10,000 students in secondary schools, colleges, polytechnics, universities and special schools across the 30 wards in Nyeri County. Due to Covid-19, the bursaries will be distributed by the sub-county administrators and Principal Education Officers in their respective sub-counties. Governor Kahiga noted that he is committed towards promoting the education sector as it is the only tool which can make a difference in Nyeri and the country at large. In this current year, additional Elimu Fund bursaries worth Kshs. 160 million will also be distributed. In the last four years, the county government has disbursed bursaries worth Kshs. 270 million to over 60,000 students.



An additional 180 students have benefitted through the Governor’s Scholarship programme, which supports two bright students per ward who come from vulnerable backgrounds. Nyeri County Director of Education

Sabina Aroni lauded the county government for this programme which benefits students from needy backgrounds. She added that so far 98% students have transitioned smoothly to secondary schools in Nyeri County

and the office is following up on the remaining 2%. Nyeri is currently the leading county in primary- secondary school transition. Nyamira, Mandera and Bomet are the second, third and fourth respectively.

Governor receives donation from GoalSmiles Onlus

The NGO is also constructing a multipurpose hall at Nairutia Vocational Training Centre



Nyeri Governor H. E Mutahi Kahiga received a donation of medical supplies, kitchenware and furniture worth Ksh.

15 Million from GoalSmiles Onlus, a non-governmental organization in Italy.

The medical supplies donated include four complete dental units, assorted medical equipment, one ventilator,

endoscopy equipment and maternity equipment. The kitchenware and furniture will go towards furnishing Nairutia Vocational Training Centre. The donation is a fruition of the collaboration that came after Governor Kahiga and Kieni MP Hon. Kanini Kega visited Italy in 2019. The bilateral talks culminated to the signing of an MOU between the County Government of Nyeri and the Region of Veneto to collaborate on areas of education, agriculture and health. Through this collaboration, the NGO is also constructing a multipurpose hall at Nairutia Vocational Training Centre and has injected a further Kshs. 2.6 Million towards its completion. Further through this collaboration, Italian doctors will help in capacity building of health practitioners by training them on specialized treatment in endoscopy and renal treatment among other specialized services.

Multiple Covid-19 vaccine introduction training

The County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Health Services in conjunction with Amref Health Africa conducted a two-day training on multiple Covid-19 vaccine introduction.

The training was attended by hospital managers and County Health Management Teams from all Level 4 and 5 hospitals in Nyeri County as well as Kenyatta National Hospital - Othaya Annex.

The training touched on the introduction of the following vaccines: Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson and Sinopharm.

The medical practitioners were also trained on other areas which include: Covid-19 vaccines attributes, storage & supply logistics, Covid-19 vaccine administration, Covid-19 safety monitoring & surveillance and communication for Covid-19 vaccines.

Speaking at the training, Joyce Maina, the County Expanded Programme of



Hospital managers and county health management teams during a training on multiple Covid-19 vaccine introduction. They were also trained on other areas which include: Covid-19 vaccines attributes, storage & supply logistics, Covid-19 vaccine administration, Covid-19 safety monitoring & surveillance and communication for Covid-19 vaccines.

Immunization Logistician noted that Nyeri County has a low wastage of the Covid-19 vaccine which is very impressive. “Nyeri is also among the top counties that have registered the highest pro-

portion of fully vaccinated people in the country. I like that Nyeri residents have embraced immunization against Covid-19,” she added. The County Government of Nyeri encourages its residents to go for vacci-

nation at their nearest vaccine station and to continue adhering to MoH protocols.

Consultative meeting between CGN and DeKUT’s CIEM

They both seek to promote youth skills through innovative initiatives



Officers from the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services led by the CECM Esther Ndung’u held a consultative meeting with the Vice Chancellor, DVC Academic Affairs and the Director for Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Management (CIEM) Dr.

Roselyne Kangodu at Dedan Kimathi University on matters youth empowerment. They deliberated on various channels which are meant to improve the welfare of the youth and other special interest

groups within Nyeri County. The County Government of Nyeri and DeKUT share similar views when it comes to promoting and enhancing social initiatives as well as gender and youth empowerment. As such, they both

seek to promote youth skills through innovative initiatives.

The meeting shed light on areas of mutual interest for collaboration and framework of engagement in youth and gender programs and other mainstreaming programs that require more attention and those that need to be actualized. The leather tanning industry, coffee value addition, internship programs and ward specific projects being among the business ideas discussed and are considered to be commercially viable.

After hours of discussions with representatives of the chemistry department, the ICT department and the department of science and technology and CIEM convener Dr. Kang’onde, the two parties were in agreement that DeKUT would play a vital role as a partner in the present and future plans. The meeting concluded with a tour of the University to the institutions Film Hub.

Nyeri clears Kshs. 1.29 billion 4-year pending bills



Governor Kahiga and Nyeri Assembly speaker Hon. John Kaguchia (seated) during the signing of new bills to laws. From left County Secretary Ben Gachichio, Majority Leader Hon. James Kanyugo (Othaya), Finance CEC Robert Thuo, Water CEC Fredrick Kinyua, Education CEC Margaret Macharia, Hon. Erastus Karanja (Ruguru MCA), Nahashon Mung'ora (Governor's PA), Hon. Gibson Wahinya (Dedan Kimathi MCA), Hon. John Theuri (Iriai-ni MCA) and Chief of Staff Paul Wambugu.

Following the inception of devolved governments in 2013, it led to devolving of huge resources in the county governments. Nevertheless, for counties to run smoothly there is a need for effective and efficient management of these resources including timely payment of pending bills.

Pending bills are unpaid bills that arise when a payment voucher reaches the County Treasury and it's not paid during the financial year for one reason or the other and it is rolled over to the next financial year. The reasons could range from unsupported claims in terms of documentation, inadequate budget or technical challenges in IFMIS. According to the Controller of Budget Annual report there has been a rise in pending bills as a result of delay in payment to contractors and suppliers. This, however, is a challenge attributed to delay in transfer of funds from the National Government as well as low revenue collection within the county governments.

In accordance to the Public Procurement & asset Disposal Act, 2015, all procuring entities are required to submit their reports on public procurement and asset disposal transactions to the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA). Last year, Nyeri

County was recognized for complying with the public procurement laws in the three categories including:

1. Among the 12 counties who have submitted the half-year report on implementation of the preference and reservation scheme under the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) programme for the youth, women and persons with disabilities.
2. Among the 15 counties who have published tender opportunities and contract awards in the Portal every 15th day of the subsequent month.
3. Among the 24 counties which have timely registered and published tenders and contracts in the portal.

Nyeri Finance CEC Robert Thuo noted that the County Government of Nyeri has endeavored to comply with Public Procurement and Disposal Act 2015 and Regulations 2020. The Finance department also put Nyeri on a pedestal for being among only 12 counties that were hailed by Treasury CS Ukur Yatani for clearing their pending bills.

In the last four years, the county government has paid pending bills worth a total of Kshs. 1.2 billion.

The County Government of Nyeri is well known for paying its contractors and suppliers, most of whom hail

from Nyeri County, on time. As such, this has encouraged them to apply for jobs with the county since the suppliers of services get confidence that once they deliver the procured for services, payment will be made. The main challenge the department of Finance faces when clearing the pending bills is the delay of disbursement of funds from the National Treasury or IFMIS downtimes.

From the County Treasury vote books, you can easily get all the details on which contractors and suppliers was paid, amount, to which bank and when as supported by RTGS. All genuine contractors/suppliers are paid upon their work being certified done satisfactory by an acceptance & inspection committee. All support documents must be availed to the County Treasury and in time.

When pending bills are cleared, there is a huge positive impact to the economy of Nyeri. For instance, there is an increase in trade/Investment and flow of money in the county. Through a multiplier effect other sectors of the economy experience growth. The cash flow improves and cascades to SMEs and other informal sectors.

Some of the financial implications that a county government experiences in the even pending bills are delayed

before clearing is that it becomes un-creditworthy by suppliers refusing or reluctant to offer services. This affects many critical supplies e.g. medical drugs are not supplied impacting negatively on the Health sector. Suppliers/contractors with bank credit facilities may experience some penalties or more interest on their loans when overdue with some being auctioned.

"Once the first supplementary budget for FY 2021/2022 is enacted, the balance for the pending bills will be paid. The amount of pending bills however, can only be determined after the closure of a Financial Year. The allocation to pay pending bills is budgeted for during the supplementary budget which is yet to be done," added the CEC.

Previously, the County Government of Nyeri's Finance Team was recognized by the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) as being in Position One among all counties in Kenya for its adherence to procurement laws and regulations with a 75% success.

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

Issuance of consent letters to Park Lane Road traders

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga issued consent letters to 176 traders from Park Lane Road to formalize the existing temporary stalls at Nyeri Central Business District.

The traders from Park Lane Road have been trading in the temporary stalls since 2004 but with the consent letters they can now construct modern stalls which will be a game changer in their lives.

Through the Department of Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development, the traders have been provided with guidelines on how these modern stalls will be constructed and utilized. Some of the guidelines include:

- The orientation of the stalls shall be strictly as guided by the County Physical Planner through the provided stall layout.
- That the stall shall be used for commercial retail purpose only.
- The owner of the stall will abide by the county government’s rules and regulations as shall be enforced and introduced from time to time.

Speaking at the event, Rware MCA Hon. Paul Kanyari thanked the governor for leading a government that is working harmoniously with the county assembly to ensure that Nyeri residents get quality services in all areas.

Park Lane Road Traders Chairman Fredrick Njogu, lauded the County Government of Nyeri for having their businesses and interests at heart. He further noted that with the issuance of these consent letters, this will mean more security for their businesses and ultimately this will bring notable growth in their businesses which will in turn positively impact their lives.

Governor Kahiga lauded the traders for the unity they have demonstrated when working with officials from the county government through the whole process of attaining the consent letters.

He further noted that the County Government of Nyeri is committed towards prioritizing the welfare of traders all over Nyeri and ensuring that they work in a conducive environment which is essential for any business to thrive.



CGN’s efforts in streamlining the health care sector



H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga met with all the hospital managers from five hospitals in Nyeri County namely Nyeri Referral Hospital, Mt. Kenya, Karatina, Mukurwe-ini and Othaya Level 4 Hospitals. The hospital managers included: medical superintendents, hospital directors, hospital administrators and nursing managers.

They deliberated on hospitals’ operations on a daily basis, patients’ experience in the facilities, the welfare of the healthcare workers and subordinate staff, operationalization of the Nyeri County Health Services Fund and ways of expanding ICUs & oxygen plants due to the strain that Covid-19 pandemic has put on hospitals.

The governor noted that the health-

care workers are the gatekeepers of the health system, as such, the hospital managers should strive to make their working environment conducive. He further insisted on the importance of training the new subordinate staff on how operations are carried out within the hospitals.

“This will go a long way in ensuring that when patients visit the facilities they experience quality service from all corners,” added governor Kahiga.

The County Government of Nyeri is working hard towards having an impeccable hospital management system within all its health facilities to ensure that Nyerians have access to better and improved healthcare services.

Nyeri Health Services Fund: the game changer



Nyeri County Health Services Fund board members led by Chairman Anthony Mithanga (seated third left) and H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga (centre seated). On the extreme right is Health Assembly Committee Chairman Hon. Joseph Nderitu and Health Chief Officer Newton Wambugu. BELOW: H.E Mutahi Kahiga and Health director Dr. Nelson Muriu receiving drugs from KEMSA.

Under the Big 4 Agenda, the national government has remained focused on improving access to quality healthcare services for all citizens. The government has put in place measures geared towards ensuring its citizens never lack health services including primary healthcare, emergency & preventive care, maternal/child healthcare, access to drugs among others.

However, a need arose especially with the availability of drugs due to the delayed disbursement of monies to the devolved governments from the national government. Subsequently, the effects of drug shortages have had a far-reaching effect on patients' wellbeing and hospital's operations.

To mitigate this issue, the County Government of Nyeri under the leadership of H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga has implemented the Nyeri County Health Services Fund which will address various challenges in the health sector.

The Fund, which is administered in accordance with Section 116 of the Public Finance Management Act 2012, is facilitated through monies received as user fees payable or insurance payments collectable under this Act; Any income generated by a health facility from any project initiated by the health facility; or any other monies received from a lawful source.

The main objectives and purposes of the Fund are:

- To improve the quality of health care services- the fund guarantees that health facilities have better access to financial resources ensuring uninterrupted service delivery to Nyeri

residents.

- Better response to emergencies- the Fund will ensure hospitals are more responsive to medical and public health emergencies because part of the funding will finance running of county ambulances and emergency services.

- Availability of drugs- it will ensure availability of basic medical drugs in all facilities at all times.

- 100% reinvesting- monies collected will be reinvested back to the health facilities. Twenty per cent of the monies are set aside for disbursement and are equitably allocated to primary health services.

The Nyeri County Health Services Fund is managed by a board which was recently inaugurated by governor Kahiga comprising of all chairmen from Level 4 hospitals, representatives from the County Government of Nyeri,

a representative of rural facilities and the fund administrator. The Board members are Richard Kimani, Dr. Francis Kimani, Jesse Kamau, Newton Wambugu (Health Chief Officer), Dr. Nelson Muriu (Health Director), John Ngugi (Finance Chief Officer) and is chaired by Anthony Mithanga.

The board provides oversight of the administration of the monies drawn from the Fund and mobilizes resources for the Fund. It further provides guidance to the hospital management boards on; proposals on user fees where the Hospital Board seeks to propose new user fees or changes to the old fees structure and approval of primary health services expenditure plans. Lastly, it receives reports from the Hospital management boards for its consideration and adoption.

During their first official presser, the

board led by the chair Anthony Mithanga noted that the fund will be a game-changer for the health sector in Nyeri County. He added that they have already approved Kshs. 53 million towards the purchase of pharmaceuticals and non-pharmaceuticals following their first meeting. Mr. Mithanga added that the Board will be in close engagement with hospital management units to fulfill its audit and supervision function. The board called upon the Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA) to disburse medical supplies which the counties have already ordered so as to curb the shortages of some drugs being experienced in the hospitals.

Other efforts by the County Government towards improving the health care system are:

- Construction of a level 4 hospital in Naromoru which will heavily decongest the Nyeri Referral Hospital as it will provide services to a huge unserved population.
- Installation of oxygen plants in Karatina and Mt. Kenya Level 4 Hospitals.
- Construction of an isolation ward at Mt. Kenya Level 4 Hospital.
- Establishment of a community health system with 2,510 CHVs.
- Recruitment of 198 health workers to strengthen the existing workforce.

Nyeri is the third county to implement this policy after Nakuru and Machakos. Indeed the Governor-Kahiga led administration is committed to promoting a wealthy county with happy, healthy and secure people.



Sub-county bar & restaurants' owners meeting

H. E Governor Mutahi Kahiga held a two-day consultative meeting with entertainment and hospitality industry stakeholders in all the sub-counties.

The meetings were geared towards understanding how the industry has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and ways to revive the industry amidst this persistent pandemic.

Bar and restaurant owners across the county lauded the County Government of Nyeri for the measures that it has put in place to ensure that their businesses thrive and expand.

The governor assured the business owners that the county government is committed towards supporting the industry to ensure that their businesses have a conducive working environment to operate in. He noted that for this financial year, his government has suspended inspection of bars and will only apply for new businesses.

The stakeholders were also urged to continue adhering to Covid-19 protocols as they operate their businesses and to go for vaccination jabs in their nearest vaccination sites.



Ongoing projects...



A new milk cooler has been installed at New Ruguru Dairy Collection Centre in Ruguru ward, Mathira West sub county. The department of Agriculture also rehabilitated and completed the dairy centre which is situated at Kiamariga trading centre. This has greatly increased the milk quantity and quality.



The recently renovated Mweiga slaughterhouse in Mweiga ward, Kieni West sub county. A new changing room was also constructed and drainage improved. This has greatly improved the working environment for those involved in slaughtering of animals like goat, sheep and cows.



Queens Hostel at Karatina Vocational Training Centre in Karatina town, Mathira East sub county has been completed. The hostel had initially stalled due to lack of funds.

The Department of Education & Sports completed the hostel for the girls' students.