



NYERI MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Nyeri Tops in Delivering Devolved Services



The NEPAD/APRM Kenya Secretariat hosted the inaugural County Peer Review Mechanism (CPRM) Sum-

mit at KICC, Nairobi where it presented performance ratings for various counties, assessing 14 devolved func-

tions. County Government of Nyeri Governor H.E. Governor Mutahi Kahiga joined

colleague Governors at the summit, commending the NEPAD/APRM Kenya Secretariat for facilitating the process while conveying a special thanks to the Panel of Eminent Persons for volunteering their services to this noble cause.

The County Government of Nyeri was among the counties that accepted to be reviewed, emerging as the best county in delivering devolved functions services to its citizens with an average score 55%.

The Peer Review process is designed to help counties identify their areas of strength and areas of weakness according to citizens' perceptions. County governments provide evidence of what they have implemented while citizens express their satisfaction or dissatisfaction and give suggestions on how performance could be improved.

Nyeri County has been rated excellent in terms of best practices in the following areas:

- Institutionalization of performance-based management;
- Established and strengthened civic education and

public participation cascaded to downstream institutions;

- Kuza Kazi programme;
- Ihururu Rehabilitation Centre;

- County internship programme;

- Wage bill management strategies;

- The first County to establish a Health Fund through legislation;

- Nyeri County emerged as No. 1 as the best County that paid all pension dues to all the retired staff;

- Recruitment of 800 ECDE caregivers on permanent terms;

- NYEWASCO is rated as the best-performing water service provider in Eastern and Southern Africa.

The County Government of Nyeri continues to make strategic collaborations for development with private as well as National Government agencies to forge appropriate synergies for development. The collaboration with the NEPAD APRM Kenya Secretariat, which is tasked with undertaking governance peer reviews, is crucial.

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

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Governor Unveils Ambitious Empowerment Program for All Wards

Empowering youth is not only a catalyst for individual growth but also a powerful driver of social change and activism. When young people are given the autonomy to make decisions, take ownership of their passions, and develop a sense of purpose, they become a force to be reckoned with. On the other hand, empowering women economically leads to increased productivity, innovation, and economic growth at both local and global levels. It is on this note that Nyeri Governor H.E. Mutahi Kahiga together with Nyeri Deputy Governor H.E. David Kinaniri, Nyeri Members of the County Assembly and officers from the Gender, Youth, Sports and Social Services Department led by CECM Esther Ndung'u launched a vibrant Empowerment Programme which was rolled out in all the 30 wards. Being part of the ward-specific projects, the initiative aims to empower youth and women's groups with business development merchandise to earn their livelihoods. The ward-specific program benefitting local groups expects to boost organized



groups' Generating Activities (IGAS) and transform them into viable economic ventures by supporting the youth, women, and Persons with Disability with equipment, tools & machinery. It anticipates the promotion of the IGAS into formally established businesses. The first empowerment program was held at Kiamuiru Primary School grounds, Gat-

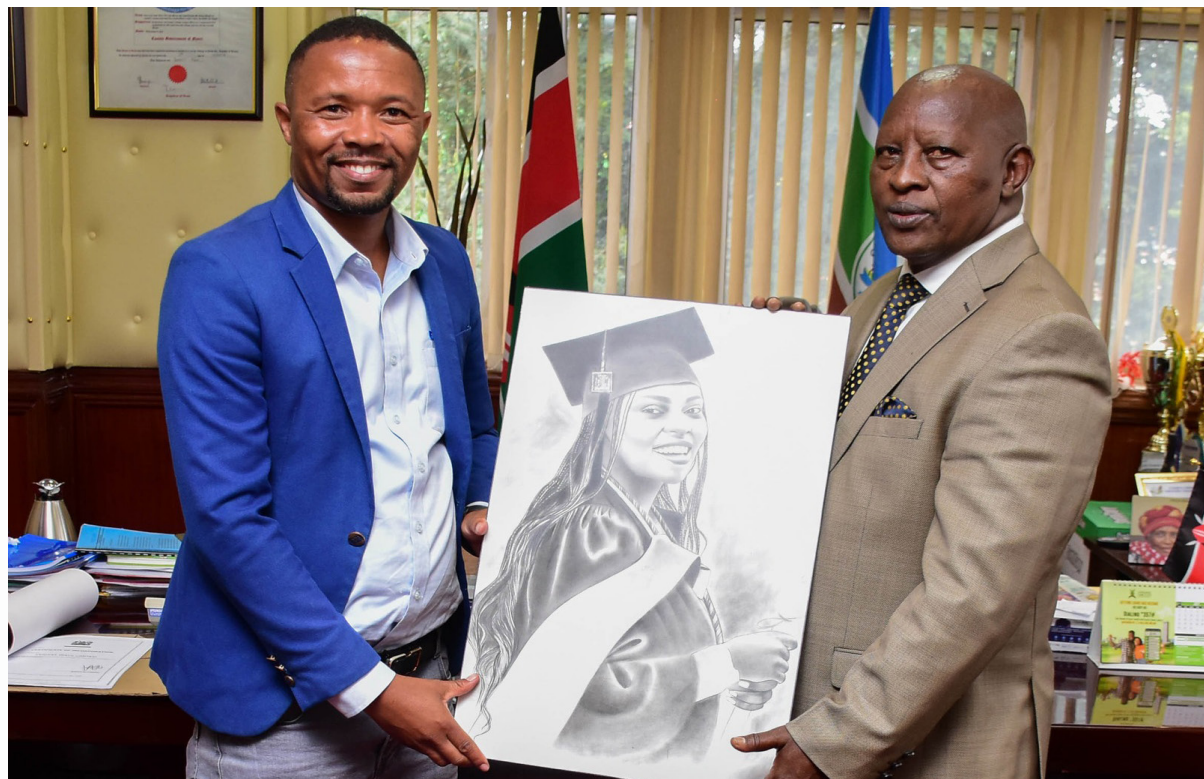
itu – Muruguru ward, Nyeri Central Sub-County. So far, over 10 wards have already received the merchandise. They include Kabaru, Iria-ini Mathira, Magutu, Ruguru, Thegu River, Aguthi – Gaaki, Gatitu – Muruguru, Gatarakwa and Mugunda. Governor Kahiga has lauded this noble program, pledging the County Government of Nyeri's full support towards

empowering other groups in all 30 wards. He further urged the beneficiaries to exercise prudence in the utilization of the merchandise. Some of the machinery, tools, and equipment include tents and chairs, public address systems, chaff cutters, posho mills, welding machines, tanks, generators, car wash machines, and sports equipment such as balls, dart

boards, and volleyball nets. Other items include concrete mixers, parasols, blow driers, chaffing dishes, sports kits, and shaving machines, all of which were procured by the Department. The group members were also prevailed upon by CECM Gender Esther Ndung'u to keep signed records for future reference and documentation.

Meet Artist Kapenso from Mathira

Many of us know him as Kapenso. A prolific artist, gospel musician, professional graphic designer and MC in his spare time, Fredrick Kaman-ga Maina alias "Kapenso" hails from Mathira and has been immortalizing memories with his pencil art for almost 25 years. Starting his artistic journey at the age of 5, Kapenso has had opportunity to etch the countenances of past and sitting presidents, deputy presidents, governors and various other dignitaries for which he has often been recognized and awarded. During his recent visit to the office of Nyeri Governor H.E.



Mutahi Kahiga to showcase more of his work, Governor Kahiga saw it fit to note that the challenge that faces artists to date was the lack of appreciation for their art. Despite a long journey to have his talent recognized and showcased Kapenso has not lost hope; infact he remains a steadfast supporter and encourager of budding youth artists, using his MCing avenues to reach out to the youth through his words, his art and his music. Yes, Kapenso is also a musician having released that famous song Muhaturi which is readily available on his YouTube page. (Fred K Official).

The Rebirth of Volleyball in Nyeri



H.E. Governor Mutahi Kahiga graced the closing ceremony of the Nyeri Mega National Volleyball Tournament after a two-day event at Dedan Kimathi Kamukunji grounds, Nyeri town. He appreciated the Kenya Volleyball Federation, the County Government of Nyeri's administration led

by the Department of Gender, Youth, Sports, and Social Services and other partners for supporting this initiative and making the day successful. 46 teams participated in the event where over 20 teams were drawn from Nyeri County. This reignited the passion for volleyball among

various categories such as Senior Men, Women, and Self-Supporting Men, under the theme 'Bringing Back the Glory of Volleyball in Nyeri.' Counties that participated in the event included Nairobi, Meru, Nyandarua, Kirinyaga, Nairobi, Meru, Murang'a, Nakuru, Laikipia, among others.

The event promotes sports as a viable career option and taps talents. The tournament had attracted significant participation, with a total of about 60 teams (or 46?) composing of both men's and ladies' teams. This large turnout highlighted the growing interest in volleyball within the county

and the effectiveness of initiatives aimed at reviving and promoting sporting activities in Nyeri, especially among the youth. This has also boosted business in the county mostly in the hospitality industry. Governor Kahiga also acknowledged the teams for making the tournament a memorable experience. He hinted that his administration is planning for another major and bigger event in October at the same venue. The winners took home cash prizes with Ksh. 50,000 for the champions, Ksh. 30,000 for the first runners-up, and Ksh. 20,000 for the second runners-up. Earlier, the Governor hosted the Kenya Volleyball Federation Nyeri Branch Chairman Jacob Munene who paid a courtesy call ahead of the Nyeri Mega National Volleyball tournament.

DG Hosts Traders in Nyeri Town



Nyeri Deputy Governor H.E. David Kinaniri hosted the officials of Below Batian Traders, Nyeri Town who paid a courtesy call to his office. The team was led by their Chair-

man, Stephen Wachira. The traders acknowledged the DG's role as a mediator through his initiating the process of holding elections in the trade sector, that had thus far

helped iron out internal misunderstandings while facilitating the smooth administration of the sector. They also listed some of the challenges they anticipated

would be addressed by the County Government through the Department of Trade, Tourism, Culture, and Cooperatives. The County Government re-

iterates its committed to improving the trading environment for all traders. Thank you so much Below Batian Traders for your unity.

500 Bags of High Quality Fish Feeds Distributed to Farmers



Aquaculture plays a vital role in our local economy, and the County Government of Nyeri, through the Department of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries is committed to supporting fish farmers in their growth and sustainability efforts. The County Government of Nyeri acknowl-

edges that access to high-quality and affordable fish feeds is a significant challenge for our fish farmers. The industry's success hinges on the availability of high-quality fish feeds, which are crucial for the growth and development of fish. As a result, in collaboration with the Aqua-

culture Business Development Programme (ABDP), the County Government of Nyeri has distributed 500 bags of high-quality fish feeds to Nyeri local fish farmers across all eight Sub Counties. These fish feeds have been specially formulated to meet the nutritional needs of fish at

various growth stages, ensuring maximum growth and productivity. The fish feeds were flagged off by the Department's Chief Officer Wilson Maringa. Also present was ABDP County Program Coordinator Maureen Gathigia among others.

FLLoCA Programme Boosts Water Harvesting in Kieni

The Department of Water, Environment, and Climate Change, in partnership with the Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) Programme and National Water, Harvesting and Storage Authority (NWHSA), has been on a transformative course to enhance sustainability and climate resilience through impactful water projects.

With a vision of "transforming our community with one drop at a time," these initiatives aim to secure a reliable water supply that meets both residential and agricultural needs.

Among the successful projects undertaken are the rehabilitation of the Kiamucheru Borehole and the Warazo Lusoi Borehole in Kieni East, the Rongai Borehole at Thegu River Ward, the Ndimma-ini Borehole in Mathira East, and the Mahiga and Karera Boreholes in Endarasha Mwiwogo Ward.

In addition, the Treffos-Kiburuti Borehole which is currently under Equipping operations in Gatarakwa Ward, Kieni West Sub County is on the verge of beginning operations in a bid to further bolster water access.

This infrastructure development will offer numerous benefits, including a consistent and reliable water supply, which is crucial for both residential and agricultural purposes, particularly in areas of Nyeri County that experience intermittent rainfall.

These underground water projects will significantly improve public health by providing clean water, thus reducing cases of waterborne diseases.

By ensuring a steady water supply, we anticipate fostering economic growth, supporting agricultural activities, and saving valuable time and energy that would otherwise be spent collecting water from distant sources.

Moreover, these initiatives will contribute to environmental sustainability by recharging surface water bodies, ensuring not only a cost-effective solution but also a long-term approach to water accessibility.

Together, Nyerians are making every drop count so that they may continually adapt and be resilient to the growing effects of Climate Change.

Nyeri Youth Development Policy Launch Consultative Meeting

The Department of Gender, Youth, Sports and Social Services in collaboration with World Vision and other stakeholders held a consultative meeting on the launch of the Nyeri County Youth Development Policy. The meeting was meant to exchange ideas and getting to plan the launch of the policy. The policy was approved by the Nyeri County Assembly

in December last year. The policy, developed by the Department of Gender, Youth, Sports, and Social Services in collaboration with stakeholders and inputs from youth, focuses on several key areas:

- Health and well-being;
- Labour and employment;
- Education, training, and skills development;
- Leadership and governance;
- Social inclusion and social

justice;

- Arts, sports, culture, and talent development;
- Agriculture and agribusiness;
- Environmental sustainability for climate action;
- ICT and innovation;
- Patriotism and volunteerism;
- Radicalization and prevention of violent extremism;
- Entrepreneurship develop-

ment.

Gender CECM Esther Ndung'u emphasized that the policy aims to address youth issues in Nyeri by providing comprehensive objectives and strategies to help them realize their full potential. Nominated MCA Hon. Fidelis Kanene in-charge of youth, discussed how the policy framework would guide all programs and poli-

cies to address youth issues, including mechanisms for accountability.

Hon. Kareithi Wambui, the Vice Chair County Assembly Committee on Youth and Sports stressed the importance of youth unity and the legal framework in place, which would support the holistic growth of young people and create a brighter future for Nyeri County.

EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Pictorial



Thegu River Ward receives Breeding Stock Chicks

Nyeri Deputy Governor H.E. David Kinaniri oversaw the distribution of breeding stock chicks to poultry farmers' groups within Thegu River ward, Kieni East Sub County. Farmers were drawn from local self-help groups in Karundas and Karicheni areas. Through this initiative, Governor Kahiga 's administration in partnership with area MCA Hon. Patrick Kanyi continues to empower the area residents, youth, women and PWD groups with enterprises they can easily manage. Also at the function was CECM Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries James Wachihi who expressed optimism regarding the project's potential to improve food security and act as a key income-generating activity for the marginalized groups and their households.



So far, farmers in three wards namely Gatitu - Muruguru, Dedan Kimathi and Ruring'u wards have benefited from this project which is funded through the specific Ward Development Funds. According to KALRO Officer Anthony Njuguna, the poultry breed dubbed 'KALRO Improved Kienyeji' reaches maturity after just four months, and is suitable for both meat and egg production. Also present were officers from the Directorate of Veterinary Services who pledged their support and services to the beneficiaries through scheduled vaccinations and training.

Nyeri County Primary Care Networks (PCN) Strategy Validation

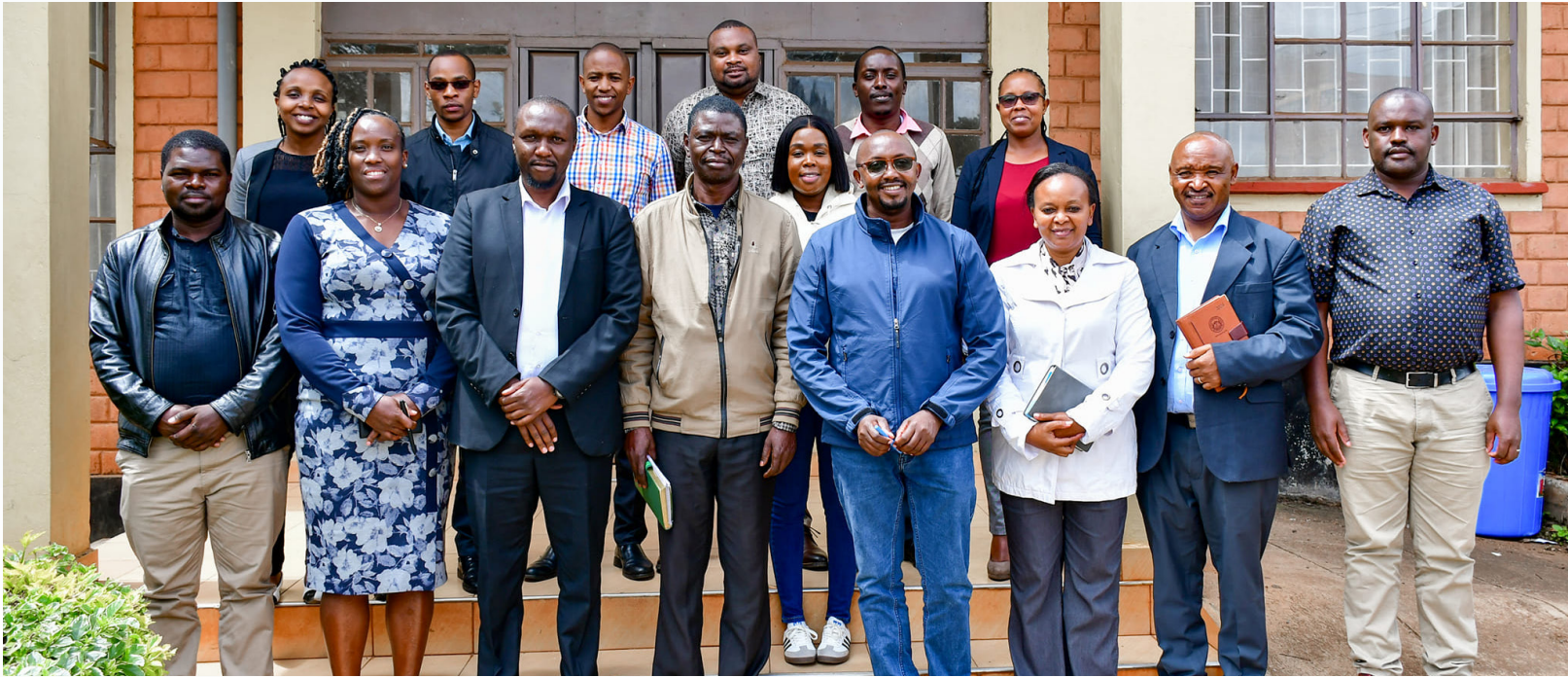
The County Government of Nyeri, through the Department of Health Services, continues to make significant progress in advancing the Primary Care Networks (PCN) Model of Health Care. This initiative is a crucial step in fulfilling the Ministry of Health's mandate for Universal Health Care (UHC). A Primary Care Network (PCN) is an administrative health region that consists of a primary healthcare referral facility (the hub) and several other primary healthcare facilities (the spokes). Together, these facilities work to ensure patients have access to essential primary health care services while coordinating with other hospitals to enhance the overall efficiency of the network. The Department has achieved several milestones in implementing the PCN model. These include sensitization of the County Health Man-



agement Team (CHMT), Sub-County Health Management Teams (SCHMT), and stakeholders, conducting a baseline survey across all eight sub-counties and disseminating its findings, training Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs), and the recent development of the Nyeri County PCN Work Strategy. The Nyeri County Primary Health Care Networks Strategy 2024-2029 is designed to guide the Department, stakeholders, and implementing partners in strengthening Primary Health Care Services across the County. The strategy comprises eight major chapters: Background, Health Situation Analysis, PCN Strategic Objectives, Implementation Framework, Coordination Framework, Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning, M&E Framework, and Resource Requirements. Solomon Mwaniki, Program Manager at AMREF Health Africa, commended the team for their swift and contextual development of the PCN strategy, noting its alignment with the Project Thrive thematic areas. "We at AMREF Health Africa are proud to partner with Nyeri County,

and we will continue to offer the necessary support whenever called upon," he added. Deborah Kioko, Nyeri County AMREF-Project Thrive Coordinator, remarked, "Nyeri County is known for its excellence, and I am confident that with this strong start in the PCN journey, we will set a benchmark for other counties in implementing the PCN Health Care Model." Patrick Mbugua the County Primary Health Care Coordinator, esteemed the partners, stakeholders and the County Health Managers for being part of the incredible journey. He also highlighted that the Department is looking forward to sensitization of the County Executives, Appointment of County Steering Committees, and gazettelement of the PCNs. The County extends its sincere gratitude to all the key players in the health sector who have contributed to this effort.

Plans to issue Title Deeds kicks off at Gitunduti & Ndumanu Settlements



CECM Lands, Physical Planning, and Urban Development Ndirangu Gachunia, Nyeri County KISIP II Coordinator Beatrice Koech and other members of the Nyeri County Project Coordination Team (CPCT) hosted the KISIP II National Project

Coordinating Team (NPCT). The delegation led by Stella Gitimu visited Gitunduti and Ndumanu informal settlements in Magutu ward, Mathira East Sub-County to establish necessary community organs, such as the Settlement Executive Commit-

tees (SECs) and Grievance Redress Committees (GRCs) which are crucial for the project's success and sustainability.

This was after a successful settlement verification exercise done by the NPCT in conjunction with the CPCT

in the ongoing implementation of project activities under Component 1.1 - Tenure Regularization.

The team focused on mobilizing and sensitizing the communities, guiding them through the election process for members of the two

committees. This initiative follows the procurement of consultancies to undertake physical planning, cadastral surveys, and detailed topographical surveys of the two informal settlements.

The team briefed the newly formed committees on their roles. The main roles of the SEC will be: community mobilization, awareness creation and ensuring community participation in all activities including stakeholder mapping and socio-economic mapping while the GRC will be a pivotal entity in streamlining grievance redress processes at the community level, and as a result, they will effectively receive, document, resolve, and escalate grievances, fostering a transparent and responsive project environment.

Nyeri County Youth Excel Project Launched

to conduct quality research (IR) and strengthening local systems through intergenerational dialogue for collaborative learning, advocacy, and partnerships with diverse

In her opening remarks CECM Gender and Youth Esther Ndung'u emphasized the importance of youth involvement in governmental processes that directly impact their lives. She

businesses and projects; Employment: Internships and attachments.

The CECM also encouraged the youth to register their businesses and groups to better access and benefit from government initiatives aimed at their empowerment. She reiterated the County government's commitment to fostering an inclusive environment where young people can thrive and actively contribute to community development.

Nyeri nominated MCA Hon. Kareithi Wambui emphasized that the County Assembly remains committed to the youth agenda.

He encouraged the youth to be vibrant in the uptake of the various available opportunities while urging the need to remain committed to securing one's future, through engaging so that they can move forward. The Kenya Red Cross led by Head of Central Region Ms. Esther Chege appreciated the partnership with the Nyeri County Government and the youth-focused leadership.



The Red Cross Youth Excel Project Launch in Nyeri County is a USAID project geared towards the promotion of inclusive engagement at the local level on various issues. Its objective is to understand the impact of meaningful youth engagement and participation in Kenya Red Cross Society humanitarian work

through Implementation Research.

USAID - Youth Excel in collaboration with Red Cross is a five-year \$30 million global project that commenced in August 2020.

It seeks to strengthen youth-led local development by building capacities of youth-led and youth-serving groups

stakeholders.

Youth Excel works with local youth-led and youth-serving organizations to enhance their program outcomes, learning cultures, networks, and leadership for positive youth development through "research-to-change" in Kenya.

highlighted several county initiatives designed to empower the youth including:

Gender Policy: Ensuring gender inclusivity in development programs;

Youth Development Fund: Providing financial support and resources for youth-led

Harnessing Nyeri's Potential as a Global Scouting Metropolis

The ongoing partnership between the County Government of Nyeri under the stewardship of H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga and the Scouting Movement in Kenya continues to bear significant fruit not only within the county but regionally and internationally as well. Under his patronage, the effective hosting of scout events has gone a long way in enhancing the image of Nyeri County as a safe and friendly destination for family and youth activities and other organizations, while marketing Nyeri as the scouting capital of the world. Two organizations spearhead scouting operations in Kenya namely the Kenya Scouts Association (KSA) and the World Scout Parliamentary Union (WSPU). According to KSA Communication Manager Risper Omala, the Scouting Movement has signed an MoU with WSPU aimed at supporting growth nationally through legislation, resource mobilization, and networking.

WSPU is an international organization that connects Scout-oriented parliamentarians worldwide with the World Scout Movement. Its goal is to strengthen national scout organizations and world scouting through the influence of parliamentarians including MPs, Senators, and MCAs who believe in scouting as an effective, non-formal educational method. WSPU Nyeri is represented by Governor Mutahi Kahiga as a Board member, Deputy Governor H.E Kinaniri Waroe as Chairman of the Nyeri Chapter, and Chief Officer in charge of the Department of Trade, Cooperatives, Culture and Tourism George Mwangi as Secretary. The Governor is also the Patron of the Kenya Scouts Association, Nyeri County. Recently, he launched the first ever Kenya WSPU Magazine in Nyeri entitled "Scouting Connect: Exploring the World with Purpose" which is meant to present the remarkable stories, initiatives, and the spirit of camaraderie that defines the WSPU-Kenya. Scout tourism continues to both promise and deliver significant returns on investment both for Nyeri County and its stakeholders.

A prime example was evident during the 10th World Scout Parliamentary Union General Assembly hosted by Nyeri County in 2023, the first ever in Africa, with revenue flowing through the immediate expenditure on accommodation, food, transport and visiting places such as the Aberdare National Park, Mount Kenya, Dedan Kimathi Kahiga-ini, Baden Powell memorial garden, Italian war memorial church, the MauMau caves among others by the scouts and their families. Other cascading effects included job creation, cultural exposure, and volunteer activities. According to WSPU Executive Director Poppins Misoi, WSPU lawmakers will soon come together to work on a piece of legislation dubbed the Nyeri Scout City of the World Bill, a paper that aims to position not only the county but Kenya too as the World Capital City and major tourist attraction. Since its inception, the Scouting Movement has had at its core virtues that cultivate sound educational and moral values that can be applied to the rest of society. From the Cub Scouts to Scouts and Guides, all the way to Rangers and Rovers, the youth come to-

gether to learn about patriotism, self-sacrifice, personal hygiene, self-reliance, and service to fellow man. With Nyeri County already celebrated as a top-notch tourist destination the proposed addition of entities such as The Baden Powell Center of Excellence, and the Zaina Falls Eco-Lodge as well as collaborations with the local leather industry to produce and export articles such as woggles the potential for economic, social and infrastructural growth and branding cannot be contested. Locally the KSA – WSPU collaboration through its "One Scout One Uniform" initiative provides uniforms and accessories in over 15 counties such as Nyamira, Makueni, Kitui, Nairobi, Machakos, and Kilifi to mention but a few. Scouts from other areas of Kenya or other international areas also bring in different cultural practices which enhance the cultural diversity of Nyeri County and help in the understanding of the people. Additionally, scouts engage in social activities like environmental conservation, cleaning exercises, and planting of trees which are useful to the community infrastructure and welfare.

