



Newsletter



ISSUE 150 | 06TH - 10TH MAY, 2024 | WWW.NYERI.GO.KE | 0721 019 019

17,500 needy students receive Elimu Bursary Funds



economic transformation can be achieved.

Bursaries bring major benefits to students from disadvantaged backgrounds and should be maintained alongside outreach programs.

Education remains a sacred agenda for the County Government of Nyeri. For this reason, CGN shall continue supporting our students from underprivileged homes with bursaries to ensure that they do not miss out on school.

The Governor Kahiga-led administration remains committed to supporting the education of our children, the improvement of academic performance in our county, and ultimately, the lives of our youth.

In this regard, Nyeri Governor H.E. Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga and Nyeri Deputy Governor H.E. David Kinaniri disbursed Kshs. 100 Million Elimu Bursary Fund cheques to beneficiaries from vulnerable backgrounds

Centres, and special schools.

Each ward received over Kshs. 1.9 Million.

Over 17, 500 beneficiaries from the 30 wards received their cheques for the bursary allocation of the 2023/2024 Financial Year.

The Governor, Deputy, and the officers from the Education Department visited all the eight sub-counties they distributed the cheques. The sub-counties include Nyeri Central, Tetu, Othaya, Mukurweini, Kieni East and West, Mathira East, and West.

The County Government of Nyeri is committed to promoting the education sector as it is the only tool that can make a difference in Nyeri and the country at large. The County Government of Nyeri is planning to increase next financial year's bursary allocation from the Kshs. 100 Million to Kshs. 150 Million or even more in the next financial year.

Continued on page 2

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." – Malcolm X. Education is indeed the key to equalizing persons, reducing poverty, and creating a sustainable planet where socio-

in secondary schools, universities, colleges, Vocational Training

Download
NYERI COUNTY
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
www.nyeri.go.ke



The County Government of Nyeri also initiated the Governor’s scholarship program in 2018, to aid students who hail from vulnerable backgrounds to secure their future. A bright boy and a girl with a score of above 350 marks and above are selected from across the 30 wards. So far, over 360 students have benefited from this program.

Education, Training & Devolution CECM Margaret Macharia urged beneficiaries to bring back receipts from schools for documentation and accountability.

The leaders included all the Nyeri County Assembly Members, Kiini MP Hon. Njoroge Wainaina and Mathira MP Hon. Eric Wamumbi appreciated the Governor for this

initiative which will ensure that no student drops out of school due to lack of school fees.

The beneficiaries also lauded the County Government for the funds that will brighten their future.

On the other hand, CGN through Nyeri Diaspora team is also sponsoring 34 needy bright students

who are benefiting with a full scholarship program of secondary education.

The KCB Foundation in partnership with the County Government is also sponsoring 900 students for short courses in various Nyeri technical institutions through KCB 2Ji-ajiri program..



Governor awards 2024 KYISA teams



H.E. Governor Mutahi Kahiga awarded the Kenya Youth Inter-County Sports Association (KYISA) teams who represented Nyeri County during the just concluded 9th edition games held in Malindi, Kilifi County. The Governor congratulated the teams for representing and raising the Nyeri County flag high. Two out

of the four Nyeri County teams took home cash Kshs. 100,000 and medals. Football girls' team emerged in position 2 overall after they won Kshs. 75,000 while Volleyball ladies emerged in position 4 and won Kshs. 25,000. Out of the 57 girls and young men in the team who participated, 17 of them were scouted by the Kenya

Academy of Sports and will be reporting to the academy in August this year. He appreciated the players for the discipline demonstrated during the one-week event in Kilifi County which led to the teams emerging victorious. He also acknowledged technical officers including the coaches, medical officers, drivers, and officers from

the Department who made the event successful. To tap more talents among the Nyeri youth, the County Government of Nyeri is planning for the Nyeri Governor's tournament where recruitment will start from the ward level through the Department of Gender, Youth, Sports & Social Services. The Under23 men and la-

dies from 17 counties were in the coastal county for a week competing on three disciplines which include volleyball, football, and Beach Volleyball. The games nurtured talents among the youth under the theme "Empowering Youth Through Sports Talent Development."

MoU between CGN & Digital Green International organization



H.E. Mutahi Kahiga signed an MoU on behalf of the County Government of Nyeri with Digital Green International organization. This will aid Nyeri County in scaling up the deployment and delivery of digital agricultural technologies. Digital Green is one of the Cohort members that the County Government of Nyeri partnered with under the World Bank funded - Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP), to develop short training videos on

good agricultural practices, in dairy, coffee, bean, and potato value chains. Recently, they also introduced an innovative SMS - based channel, where farmers and technical officers, can query and get instant feedback on their phones, based on expert - verified Agriculture content. The Digital Green team was led by Beryl Agengo and Jackline Wang'ombe.

Preparations for Mountain to Mountain ultra marathon kicks off



The preparation for the 4th edition of the Mountain to Mountain Ultra Marathon has kicked off. A team from Urban Swara Running Club led by the Chairman who is also the former Mukurwe-ini MP Hon. Anthony Kiai, and officials from the Nyeri Blazers paid a courtesy call to Deputy Governor H.E. David Kinaniri's office ahead of the September ultra marathon. The 80KM marathon seeks to raise awareness on the protection of water towers

to mitigate climate change and promote regular exercise for good health and tourism in Nyeri County. The Deputy Governor expressed the commitment of the County Government of Nyeri to supporting the ultra marathon. He urged the youth interested to register immediately at the Sports Department ahead of the September event. Last year, the event started at Mt Kenya - Naromoru gate to Aberdare Wandare gate. The ultra-marathon

will cover 80 Kilometers from the majestic Mt. Kenya to the beautiful Aberdare ranges. The event was an excellent opportunity to market Nyeri and its entire splendor, from the beautiful scenery to the integration between human settlement and wildlife, cementing the credibility of Nyeri County as a unique tourist destination. Kiai encouraged Nyeri residents to join this year's event to keep away doctors since they will always

be physically fit. This will also reduce the rate of Non-Communicable Diseases in the county. The winner of last year's event Reuben Njoroge encouraged the youth to ensure they participate in the event and avoid drugs and illicit brews. Njoroge is scheduled to travel to South Africa next month for the Comrades Marathon an ultra marathon which will be held on 9th June. He thanked Nyeri Governor H.E. Mutahi Kahiga,

the CECM Ndung'u, and County Government of Nyeri for the sponsorship of the forthcoming marathon and promised to shine during the race and bring home medals. The Comrades Marathon is an ultra marathon of approximately 88 kilometres which is run annually in the Kwa Zulu-Natal province of South Africa between the cities of Durban and Pietermaritzburg. It is the world's largest and oldest ultra marathon race.

Kenya Copyright Board workshop on creativity

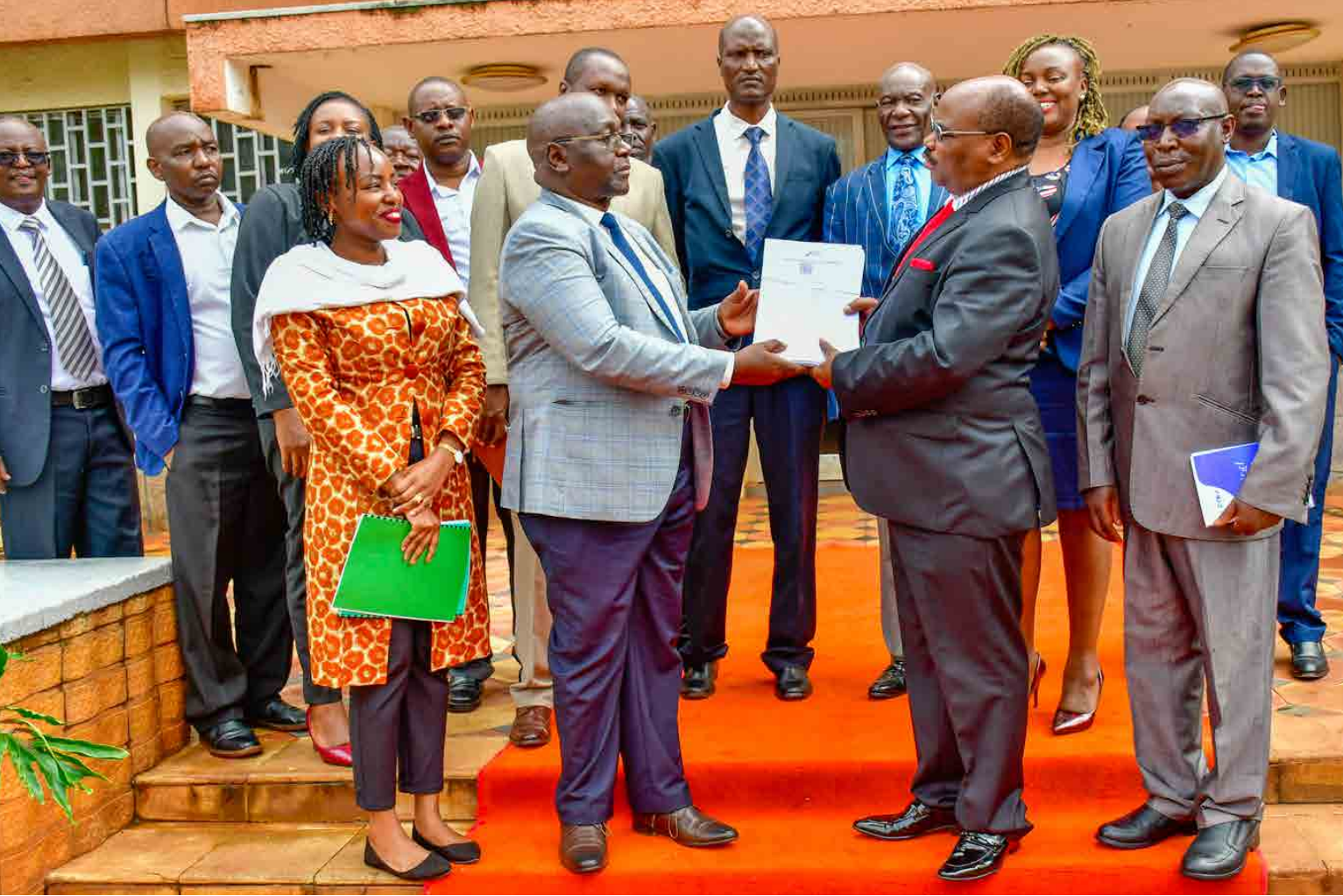


The Department of Trade, Cooperatives, Culture, and Tourism, in partnership

with the Kenya Copyright Board, organized a capacity building and awareness creation event focused on copyright and related rights within the creative sector. This one-day training program took place at the White Rhino Hotel, drawing in creativity from diverse sectors such as musicians, photographers, filmmakers, visual artists, writers, performers, sculptors, and more. The event proved to be a resounding success with over 150 participants in attendance. The highlight of the session was the presence of intellectual property lawyers from the Kenya Copyright Board, who generously offered one-on-one legal advice to creative and facilitated the

free registration of copyright. This personalized assistance provided attendees with valuable insights and resources to protect their intellectual property rights effectively. The collaborative efforts of the Department of Trade, Cooperatives, Culture, and Tourism, and the Kenya Copyright Board underscore their commitment to empowering and supporting Kenya's creative community. Through initiatives like these, they continue to champion the growth and sustainability of the creative sector, ensuring that artists are equipped with the knowledge and tools necessary to thrive in the current dynamic landscape.

Handing over assets and documents to CGN



to support devolution. During the handing-over exercise, the County valuation reports were signed and handed over to the DG. They included copies of ownership documents from NTSA and a copy of the county asset register for plant and equipment from IGRTC. NTSA will also guide on follow-up processes. IGRTC Technical Committee member Dr. Perminus Nyaga called upon the County Government to undertake the establishment of an asset disposal committee in line with the Public Procurement and Disposal Act to fast-track in disposing of some of the obsolete assets held in various yards and parking lots. The phased approach exercise entails the preliminary engagement and briefing with the County secretary and team on the exercise, physical visit and inspection of some of the listed assets, addressing any gaps in the asset register and report, and ensuring all the relevant stakeholders have been involved and invited for the handing over meeting.

Nyeri Deputy Governor H.E. David Kinaniri received motor vehicle assets, valuation reports, and ownership documents from a multi-agency team. The assets are those relating to the defunct local authorities and devolved functions which will now fully belong to the County Government of Nyeri. The handing over exercise was held outside the

Governor's office where a multi-agency team composed of the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC), the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA), the State Department for Devolution, the Mechanical and Transport Division handed over the documents to the Deputy Governor. The team also involved the County Secretary Ben

Gachichio, the County Transport department, the County Executive, and Senior DCC Joseph Mwangi representing the County Commissioner. A multi-agency team will continue supporting the county in the implementation of the next steps which will involve transfers, re-registration, de-registration, and disposal of obsolete assets. This is in line

with the National Government's digitization agenda where NTSA has embarked on automation of all services relating to motor vehicle registration and licensing. This activity goes a long way in actualizing the summit directive and finalization of the asset valuation and transfer exercise and ensuring county assets are transferred, secured, and utilized

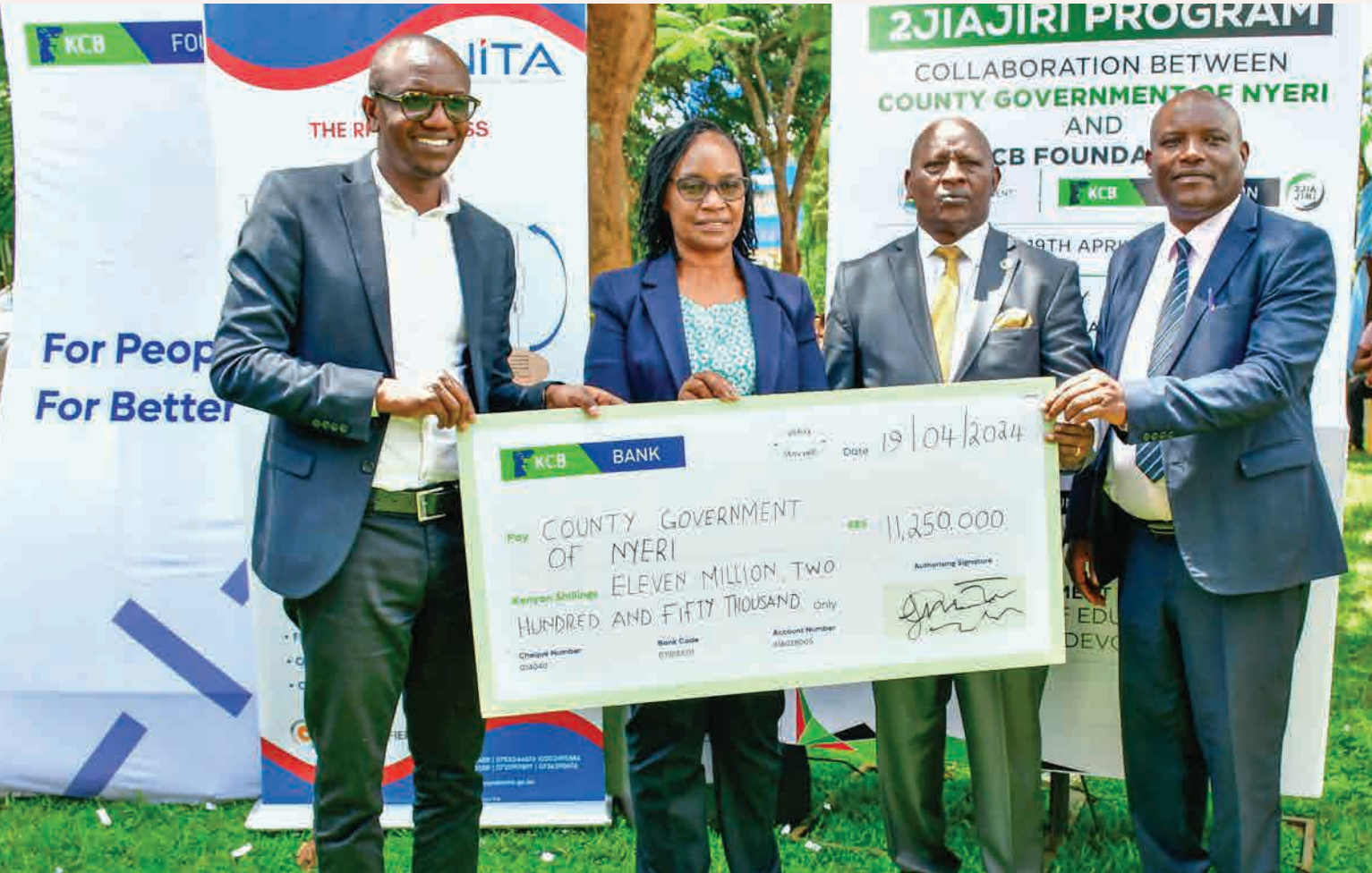
Download

NYERI COUNTY
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

www.nyeri.go.ke



KCB Foundation 2Jiajiri program kicks off



H.E. Mutahi Kahiga attended the commissioning of the KCB Foundation 2Jiajiri program in Nyeri County. Together with the County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Education, Training and Devolution, CGN is committed to transforming lives by impacting the young students with skills and shaping their future. Through this partnership

between KCB Bank through the 2Jiajiri and the County Government of Nyeri, 900 youth from all the 30 wards in Nyeri County will benefit from this program. Out of the 1,346 applicants, 900 were shortlisted and out of this, so far 696 have reported; 353 males (50.7%) and 343 are females (49.2%). People living with disabilities (PLWD) have also been included.

Jointly, KCB Bank and CGN conducted the recruitment and interviews and will also conduct the inductions together. This is a 50/50 partnership with KCB contributing Kshs. 11.2 Million and the County Government of Nyeri also contributing Kshs 11.2 Million. He thanked the County Assembly of Nyeri for their support toward this end.

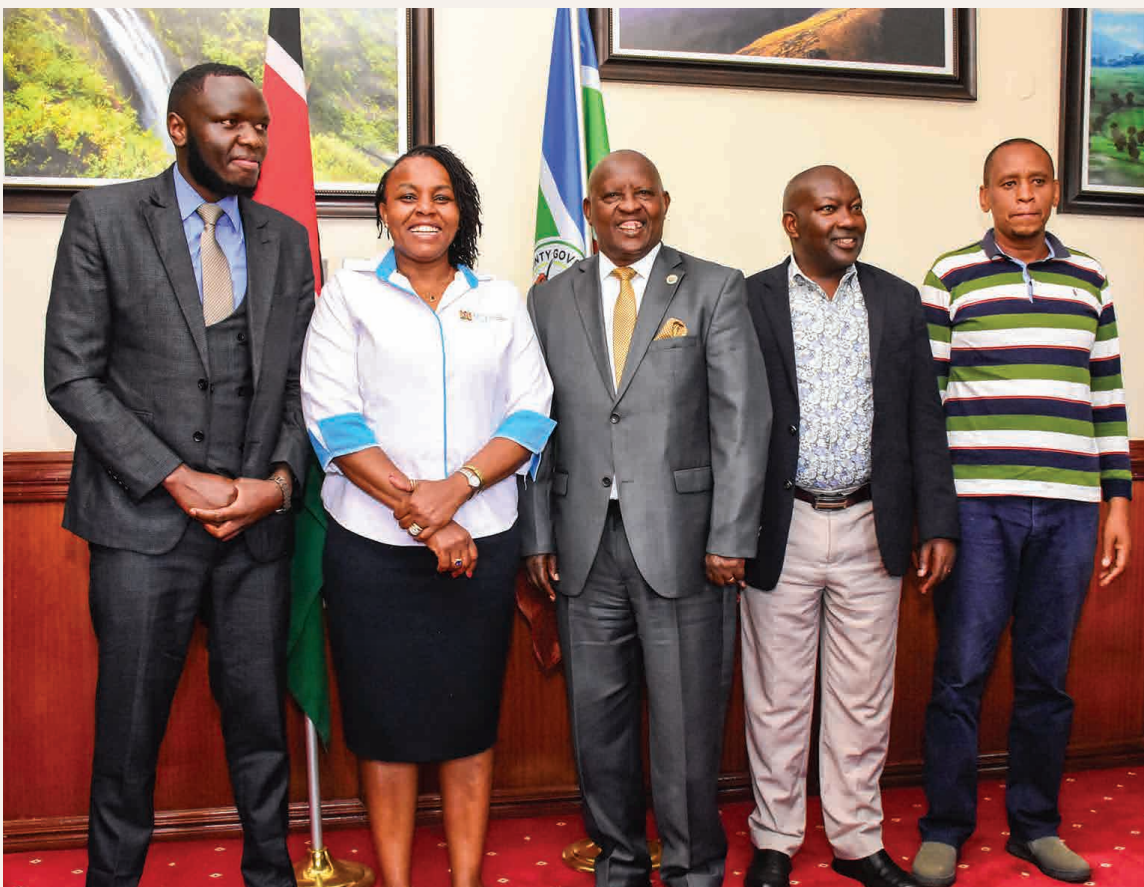
After the three-month intensive course, the students will be examined in all the courses by the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA). The diverse courses that the students will undertake range from fashion and design to hospitality, from beauty therapy to automotive engineering, electrical installation, carpentry and joinery among others.

The impact of this program strives to empower the youth to become job creators rather than job seekers. It stimulates economic activity, drives innovation and strengthens the social fabric of our communities. It is a catalyst for sustainable development and inclusive growth. The Vocational Training Centers where the students will be trained include; Gichira, Kinunga, Karatina, Othaya, Rukira, Gitero, Kiaguthu, Kihuyo, Nairutia, Mungaria, Amboni, Mbaaini, Karundu, Kiamathaga, Gachuku, Kaheti, Watuka, Giathugu, and Thangathi, a total of 19 VTCs across Nyeri County. He expressed his utmost gratitude to KCB Bank for this solid partnership and for their unwavering commitment to empowering our youth and investing in their future. Head of Programs KCB Foundation Joblin Omari, KCB Branch Manager Nyeri Ronald Mwamba and 2jiajiri Program Manager KCB Foundation Clarissa Akuma reiterated their commitment to the sustainability of this program.

Governor hosts Office of the Data Protection team

H.E. Mutahi Kahiga hosted Commissioner Immaculate Kassait – Office of the Data Protection Commissioner and her team who had paid a courtesy call to his office. Kassait is Kenya's first Data Commissioner. The team was in Nyeri to open an office in this region and this was the fifth office that ODPC have opened countrywide. They also held a road show to create awareness on data protection in Nyeri. The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) is established under the Data Protection Act, 2019, which was consented in November 2019. The office is tasked with oversee-

ing the implementation of and being responsible for the enforcement of the Data Protection Act. The County Government of Nyeri is looking forward to enhancing our collaboration with the ODPC. As a government, CGN is the custodians of a lot of data especially in regard to records and it is in this light that the County Government of Nyeri is keen on working with ODPC to ensure there is adherence and compliance. It is important for awareness to be created to the public as well regarding data protection and will work with ODPC to bring this to fruition.



RODI - Kenya courtesy call



On behalf of Nyeri Governor H.E. Mutahi Kahiga, Nyeri Deputy Governor H.E. David Kinaniri hosted a team from Resource - Oriented Development Initiative (RODI – Kenya) who paid a courtesy call to his office, led by Esther Bett. The organization is mandated to promote natural resource management practices that are in harmony

with nature. In Nyeri County, RODI - Kenya has planted over 226,000 trees in Nyeri Hill, Dedan Kimathi University, Kabiru-ini ASK show-ground. Nyeri County has three times the nationally recommended 10% forest cover and a tree cover of 45.17 %. The County Government of Nyeri in partnership with

the organization and other partners has developed a policy on wetlands and riparian reserve conservation. RODI - Kenya is encouraging the rehabilitation and conservative of wetlands through planting of trees, bee keeping, fish farming and discouraging of growing Eucalyptus trees.

Meanwhile, the County Government of Nyeri, through the Department of Water, Environment and Climate Change hosted a team from the RODI to review the Nyeri County Zero Draft Wetlands and Riparian Policy that was drafted by the Department in collaboration with The Upper Tana Nairobi Water Fund and the Counties Advisory

Committee (CAC). This policy aims to address some of the challenges affecting the people and the environment within the County for sustainable resource utilization which will guarantee sustainability of the ecosystem that shall be bequeathed to future generation post devolution. The RODI team gave its assurance and commitment in collaborating with the County Government so as to promote the conservation of our resources, which Nyeri proudly boasts of, especially through policy development, community initiatives and capacity building of stakeholders to ensure that they take ownership of these resources and understand the importance of conservation and management. The CECM, Water, Environment and Climate Change Fredrick Kinyua, who graced the working session, reiterated on the County Government's commitment to support communities and promote sustainable development in efforts to achieve intergenerational equity in access to resources.

KDSP II workshop to guide on implementation



The World Bank and Kenya Government have approved the Kenya Devolution Support Program 2 (KDSP II) which has been developed largely on the recommendations of the achievements and lessons learned from the KDSP1, which all the 47 counties participated in

albeit with varying achievements. Together with Nyeri Deputy Governor H.E. David Kinaniri, H.E. Mutahi Kahiga officially opened the workshop involving officers from all the departments which will prepare fully for the implementation of

KDSP II. Nyeri County scooped Position one award in KDSP1 alongside three other counties after obtaining 95% as assessed through World Bank standard metrics. As a county we celebrated that achievement and CGN must sustain that position

and improve to a 100% and this will be possible with determination and teamwork. The County benefitted immensely through capacity building extended through equipment and investment of Naromoru Level IV 175 - bed -hospital among other support.

If the County puts more effort, this time round in KDSP II, the County can benefit more through Level 2 program investment to achieve maximum results in all activities prescribed in KDSP II. Key outputs were achieved namely; budget and expenditure data; prepared program work plans, cash plans, and budgets consistent with the agreed methodology and standards. Documents will be ready for submission to the County Steering Committee for validation and approval. The team will be ready to train the County Program Steering Committee and County Program Coordinating Committee.

Nyeri marks International Firefighters Day



The Department of Gender, Youth, Sports and Social Services in collaboration with St. John's Ambulance and the directorate of Energy held the International Fire Fighters Day celebra-

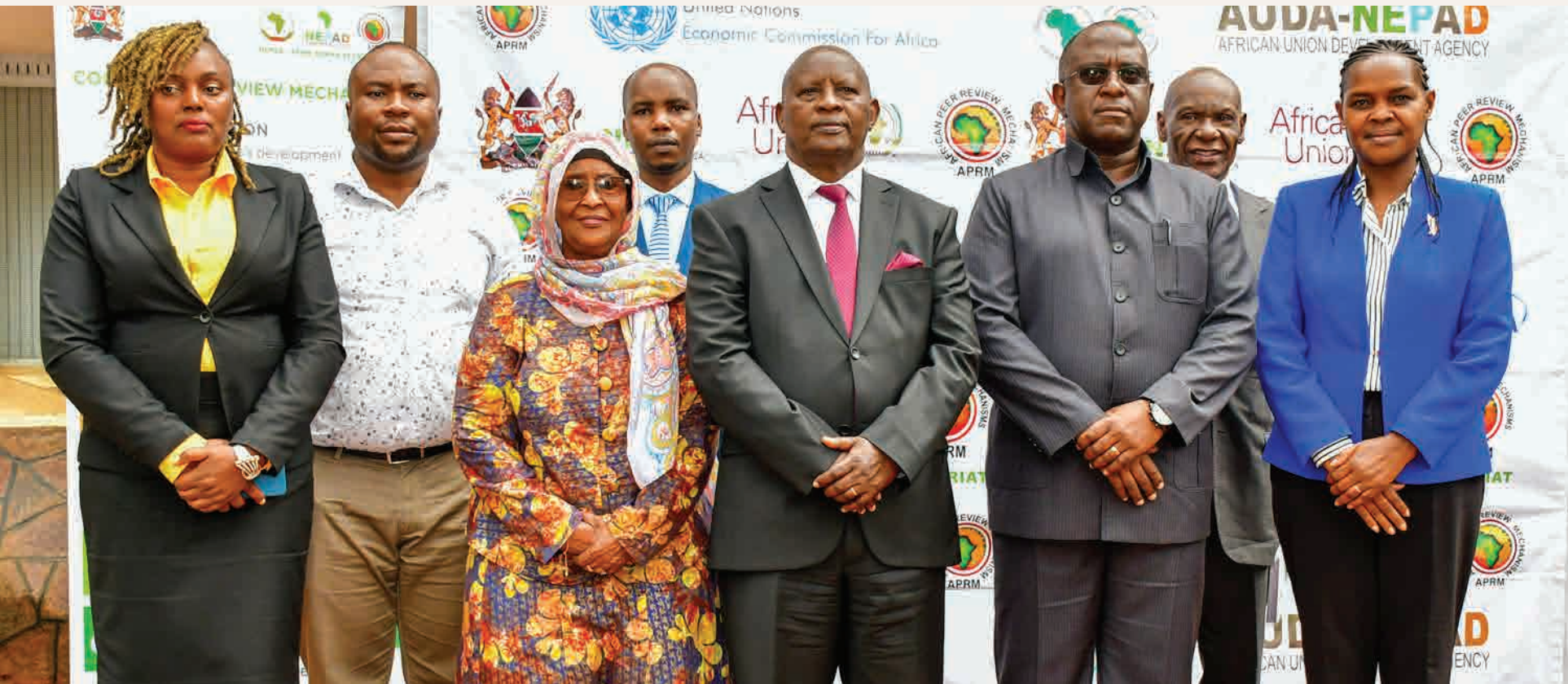
tions at Othaya town. International Firefighters Day is celebrated annually to recognise and honour and Sacrifices the firefighters make to protect lives and property.

Othaya Sub County has experienced numerous fire incidents. The community was sensitized on fire and other disasters prevention associated with floods and collapsed

buildings, where the fire unit also held mock drills to demonstrate firefighting procedures. A moment of silence was observed to pay tribute to the brave firefighters who

have tragically lost their lives while on the line of duty. The CECM Esther Ndung'u appreciated the noble job of the Nyeri fire / emergency unit in their role in safeguarding lives and property. She highlighted the importance of prompt reporting of incidents by the community to ensure swift response. Furthermore, she reaffirmed the County Government's commitment under H.E. Mutahi Kahiga, to continually invest in the emergency unit. Plans are underway to decentralize fire stations in other Sub Counties to enhance service delivery to the residents of Nyeri. Nyeri Fire Station: 061-2032961 Karatina Fire Station: 0721 367 998

NEPAD / APRM Validation Team courtesy call



H.E. Mutahi Kahiga hosted a team from NEPAD / APRM who were visiting Nyeri County conducting validation, and meeting citizens. The County Government of Nyeri has partnered with the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Kenya to promote good governance through participating

in the County Peer Review Mechanism. Nyeri County prepared a self-assessment report indicating the performance, achievements, and county operations of the county since the start of devolution. The NEPAD team later conducted Focus Group Discussions in all 30 wards. The data collected was

shared with KNBS for analysis. Key findings were incorporated in the self-assessment report. In the process of preparing the final report, APRM Kenya visited the county to validate the findings. The team is preparing a County Plan of Action and link it with the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP)

to ensure it is budgeted for. The team also undertook the validation of the County Self-Assessment Reports in 12 counties; Mombasa, Siaya, Machakos, Nyeri, Kakamega, Elgeyo - Marakwet, TransNzoia, Bungoma, Vihiga, Makueni, Nandi and Busia. The Governor thanked the team for recognizing my ad-

ministration's work for the last six years. The County Government of Nyeri will continue to work in partnership with the national government to ensure the transformation of lives in the county.

Inception meeting on formulation of the Nyeri Land Policy

The Sessional Paper No. 3 of 2009 on Land Policy was prepared to guide our nation on matters relating to land use. It is currently under review to streamline it with The New Constitution of 2010 as well as emerging trends.

However, this particular policy has a wide scope and as such cannot address the various issues facing Nyeri County as far as land use is concerned.

In light of this, the Department of Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) under the Digital Land Governance Pro-



gramme held workshop with a view of establishing a positional paper on Land policy.

The workshop was officially opened by Lands CECM,

Ndirangu Gachunia. The workshop organised and held to address the issues facing land use in Nyeri County, various issues were raised and addressed by

four panels constituting of the various professionals who attended the workshop.

The professionals were from diverse fields, includ-

ing but not limited to Planning, Survey, Cartography, Water and Climate Change, Housing, Agriculture, Solid Waste Management and the National Land Commission. At the end of the workshop, the issues were presented by the teams and solutions proposed and discussed.

This marks an important step towards a permanent and lasting solution to the issues that plague land use in Nyeri County, and ensuring the County Government of Nyeri delivers over and above what is mandated.

NYP motivates Karatina children



The Department of Gender Youth Sports and Social Services in partnership with Nyeri Young Professionals (NYP) held Empowerment and motivation session at Karatina Children's Home.

Nyeri Youth Professionals (NYP) is network of professionals drawn from different fields being united by one purpose to Empower, Network, Mentor and Partner with organization for a common goal objective.

Isaac Wanyaga (Social Welfare Officer- Mathira Sub-County) chal-

lenged the children to handle live as fragile as it is and with seriousness it deserves, take advantage of the chance that have been provided by the government, always ensure you wake up each day to achieve the set goals.

Fred Kiiru speaking during the session praised emphasised on dreams which are the key that motivate people to kick blankets early in the morning, chasing dreams involves a lot challenges. But in order for the dream to come true, a lot of Preparation, Determination and

Persistence is needed.

The pupils were taken through the following areas that are likely to affect their lives. Topics covered included among others.

- Proper use of social media and internet
- Drugs and substance abuse
- HIV and AIDS
- Career choice and time management
- Self awareness, Critical and creative things.

The County Government is committed to providing adequate care and protection for children who are in need of care and protection.

Celebrating Youth Empowerment Day

The Department of Gender, Youth, Sports, and Social Services joined the Nyeri Hospice Hospital for Youth Empowerment Day focused on palliative care.

Nyeri Hospice provides care to the terminally ill cancer patients focusing on improving quality of life, thereby turning the end of life into an important time of living.

The event aimed at support young individuals facing various challenges, including having sick parents, substance abuse, and behavioral issues.

Mary Mwangi, Social Welfare Officer Tetu Sub County, engaged the youth in seizing empowerment opportunities, highlighting initiatives like AGPO. AGPO aims to empower youth, women, and persons with disabilities by providing them with more opportunities to engage in business with the government.

As well as such initiatives that are important where organisations embrace the need of being social entrepreneurs that empower and nurture the potential of the youth.



Tree planting at Gitathi-ini primary school



In what would be described as giving back to nature, Gitathi-ini Primary School hosted a vibrant tree planting event to mark Labour Day amidst the relentless downpour blanketing the nation. Over 600 assorted seedlings found their roots in the school's grounds, courtesy of the Department of Water, Irrigation, Environment & Climate

Change - Nyeri who continuously champion for environmental conservation and sustainability. With the ongoing heavy rainfall blessing the land, the residents recognized a chance to plant the seeds of change and elevate Nyeri County's tree cover to unprecedented heights – beyond the current 45.03%, to be exact. The event was organised

by Justice Peace Recreation and Creation JPRC groups hailing from PCEA Ruring'u, Nyamachaki, and Gitero churches. NGAO and the surrounding community also joined in the aqueous adventure, proving that when it comes to environmental stewardship, collaboration is key.

Avocado distribution exercise in Mathira

The CECM Water, Environment & Climate Change Fredrick Kinyua and CECM Agriculture James Wachihi in partnership with Upper Tana Nairobi Water Fund rolled out an Avocado tree seedlings disbursement programme to farmers in Ruguru ward, Mathira West Sub County. This project aims to help farmers achieve food security for all the while contributing to climate change mitigation through carbon

sequestration and also contributing to the Country's goal on achieving the national target of 50 Billion trees. The farmers were urged to ensure that they protect and grow the trees for more benefit and to also partner amongst themselves and for self help groups that will help in avocado fruit distribution marketing. Over 30,000 seedlings were distributed.



Efforts to conserve ecosystem along riverbanks



The Department of Water, Environment and Climate Change, in collaboration with various stakeholders, embarked on a remarkable journey to restore the riparian zones at Ithenguri Dam.

This initiative aims to conserve the vital ecosystems along the riverbanks. Over 400 assorted tree seedlings were passionately planted around the dam, symbolizing the citizenry's

commitment to environmental conservation. Among the stakeholders present were the Department of Education - Nyeri County, Diaspora Team Nyeri Chapter, Kenya Forest

Service, Kenyatta University, Kagumo Water Resource Users Association (WRUA), and NGAO. This exercise signified a crucial step towards safeguarding our precious water

resources which are diminishing due to environmental degradation and Climate Change.