



Newsletter



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CoG: Governor Kahiga's Rising Star

By Governor's Press Unit (Compiled by Joseph Wambugu & Barbara Wambui)

H.E. Mutahi Kahiga, EGH assumed office as the Governor of Nyeri County on 13th November, 2017. He is currently serving his second term in office.

Due to his decisive, distinct and inspiring leadership

qualities, his steadfast character, his strong work and results-driven ethic, as well as his continuing cordial relationship with his 46 colleague Governors, Governor Kahiga has continually been elected to serve in a number of diverse dockets within the Council of County Governor (CoG). And this week proved no different; as evidenced when he competitively ascended to take up the Vice Chairperson's role at the annual CoG elections - the second highest seat at the Council.

It was also at this Full Council meeting held at Safari Park, Nairobi, that H.E FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi, EGH of Wajir County was elected as CoG Chairperson, while H.E Stephen Sang, EGH of Nandi County was elected as Whip.

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In his remarks, while thanking all present for the appointment, the Governor promised to serve diligently to ensure that devolution thrives for the benefit of all Kenyans.

Past Council positions within which he has served diligently include:

- Vice Chairperson and subsequently, Chairperson of the Human Resource, Labour, and Social Welfare Committee;
- Chairperson of the Education Committee;
- Vice Chairperson of the Agriculture and Livestock Committee;
- Member of the Health Committee.

CoG is a non-partisan organization established under Section 19 of the Intergovernmental Relations Act (IGRA 2012), whose membership comprises the Governors of all 47 counties, and whose elections are held annually.

The CoG's main functions include the promotion of visionary leadership; sharing of best practices; offering a collective voice on policy issues; promoting inter-county consultations; encouraging and initiating information sharing on the performance of County governments on the execution of their functions, and collective matters of interest to the County governments. In this regard, the Council continually endeavours to be an institution that supports Counties to be democratic and prosperous in delivering services to Kenyans. County Planning stands out

as a key role and function of County governments, outlined through individualized, County-specific policies and strategies collectively known as County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs).

It is here that Nyeri County through its five-year Master Plan (CIDP 2023 – 2027), with the support of the CoG, focuses on its economic, social, environmental, legal, and spatial development to meet its service and infrastructural needs and targets, all for the benefit of the local community.

This is in line with its Vision for the next five years, which is, A Wealthy County with Healthy and Secure People for Shared Prosperity; with its Mission being, To Create, Enhance and Sustain an Environment That Unlocks Potential Of The People Of Nyeri To Achieve Progressive Socio-Economic Growth By Running An Open And Inclusive Government.

Critical interventions that the CIDP (2023-2027) seeks to implement in order to fulfill this Vision and Mission include:

- Boosting the economy through increased productivity and income for farmers, through boosting crops, livestock and aquaculture productivity and value chains;
- Upgrading and graveling existing roads, while opening up new access roads to enhance connectivity;
- Improving health services through the construction of additional Level 4 hospitals;
- Promoting arts, culture and tourism through the development of industrial, leisure and business parks;
- Attaining sustainable water supply for domestic and agricultural use through the construction of mega-dams;
- Promoting affordable housing by constructing cost-effective units across the

County;

- Cultivating the usage of renewable energy through the establishment of a state of the art solar park; and last but not least,
- Establishing talent academies to nurture and foster talent among the youth.

Under the stewardship of Governor Kahiga, Nyeri County continues to move onwards and upwards, all the while progressively aligning itself with key CoG strategic priorities that include strengthening performance management at County level while supporting CIDPs; positioning County governments strategically at national, regional and international levels; positioning Counties as investment destinations and linking with potential partners; strengthening on-source revenue generation for County governments; and initiating police and legislative reforms that provide an enabling environment for devolution.

Others elected to chair their respective Technical Committee dockets include:

- Blue Economy - H.E Dr. Paul Otuoma, EGH – Busia County
- Education - H.E Dr. Erick Mutai, EGH – Kericho County
- Arid and Semi-Arid Lands and Disaster Risk Management Committee - Nathif J. Adam, EGH – Garissa County
- Gender, Youth, Sports, Culture and Social Services - Simon Kachapin, EGH – West Pokot County
- Legal, Constitutional Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Committee -

Dr. Ochilo Ayacko, EGH – Migori County
Land, Housing and Urban Development

H.E Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o EGH – Kisumu County
Information, Technology and Communication (ICT) and Knowledge Management

H.E Wisley Rotich – Elgeyo Marakwet County
Health

H.E Muthomi Njuki, EGH – Tharaka Nithi County
Finance, Planning and Economic Affairs

H.E FCPA Fernandes Barasa, OGW – Kakamega County
Agriculture and Livestock

H.E Ken Lusaka, EGH – Bungoma County
Environment, Forestry and Climate Change - H.E Wilber Ottichilo, EGH – Vihiga County

Trade and Cooperatives - H.E Wavinya Ndeti, EGH – Machakos County
Security and Foreign Affairs Committee -

H.E Benjamin Cheboi, EGH – Baringo County
Tourism and Wildlife - H.E Patrick Ole Ntutu, EGH – Narok County -

Transport, Infrastructure and Energy - H.E Mohamed Ali, EGH – Marsabit County
Water and Natural Resource Management -

H.E Joshua Irungu, EGH – Laikipia County
Human Resources, Labor and Social Welfare

H.E Sakaja Arthur Johnson, EGH – Nairobi County
Resource Mobilization and Partnerships

H.E Simba Arati – Kisii County



UK trains Nyeri Fire & Rescue Team



Gender, Youth, Sports & Social Services CECM Esther Ndung'u joined the Nyeri fire and rescue team for a training workshop hosted in Tharaka Nithi County. The event was conducted in partnership with volunteer trainers from Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue, Birmingham Fire and Rescue and South Central Ambulance Service in the United Kingdom. The two-week comprehensive training aimed to equip firefighters with the knowledge and skills necessary to address emerging issues in modern society thus ensuring effective community

safety and rescue. Participants from Nyeri, Tharaka Nithi, Wajir, Marsabit, Embu, Meru University, Tharaka University, and Chuka University benefited from this UK Government-supported program. In her speech, the CECM acknowledged the role of H.E. Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga EGH in facilitating the collaboration with Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue. This partnership has led to capacity building for firefighters and will soon see the County Government of Nyeri receive more support. The CECM also congratulated the participants for

their monumental achievements, emphasizing the resilience and dedication they demonstrated during the training. She noted that their commitment exemplified an unwavering commitment to excellence, a desire to protect, and a readiness to respond in a timely and effective manner. The training sessions included rigorous drills such as rope and rescue, lifting aloft, ladder techniques in both open and confined spaces, community sensitization on fire prevention and preparedness, command and coordination, real fire management, para-

medic skills, and other essential techniques - all in the relentless pursuit of ensuring that Nyeri County has the best first responders possible. "Your courage and dedication do not go unnoticed. Every day, you put your lives on the line to protect our communities, often facing unimaginable challenges. Your strength, enthusiasm, passion, and sacrifice are truly inspiring. Remember that your hard work makes a difference in countless lives, bringing hope and safety when it is needed most," noted the CECM.

The County Government of Nyeri is committed to providing seamless fire and rescue services, community safety and prevention, and disaster preparedness for households, schools, and institutions.

Emergency hotline numbers:
Nyeri Fire Station:
061-203 2961
Karatina Fire Station:
0721 367 998
Kiawara Fire Station:
0741 428 413



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CoG Consultative meeting on Health



H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga joined colleague Governors, Medical Services PS Kachuwai Kimtai, Controller of Budget Dr. Margaret Nyakang'o, Deputy Auditor General Edwin Kamar, and other stakeholders and partners for a consultative meeting to address pertinent issues on health, financing, budget and revenue allocation organized by Council of Governors (CoG) Health Committee. Areas of contention discussed included: opportunities and challenges in the implementation of the UHC Act including management of transition from NHIF to SHIF, and how to address them; inter-governmental responsibility of Parliament

in the realization of devolution; emerging health policy, legislative, and financial matters and decisions made by Parliament and MoH that negatively affect County governments; the status of implementation of the Return to Work Formula (RTWF) between the Council of Governors (CoG) and Health Workers Unions; and, transition and sustainability of projects and human resource for Health by County governments. Universal Health Coverage (UHC) means that all people have access to the full range of quality health services when and where they need them, without catastrophic expenditure.

It covers the full continuum of essential health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care. To realize Universal Health Coverage in Kenya, the Government enacted four Acts that provide the legal framework for the roll-out and implementation of UHC, which include:

- Primary Health Care Act that provides a framework for the delivery, access, and management of primary healthcare.
- The Social Health Insurance Act extends health insurance to all Kenyans based on registration, contributions, and through government-subsidized

coverage for the poor

- Digital Health Act, a legislative framework aimed at establishing and regulating digital health services in Kenya.
- Facility Improvement Financing Act that provides for public health facility improvement financing, management, and administration. In addition, it aims to ring-fence money generated within health facilities, thus ensuring a predictable, regular, and steady source of funding for its recurrent internal operations.

"It is worth noting that Primary Health Care remains the backbone of our health system, with community health volunteers and primary healthcare facilities

playing a critical role. With the passing of the new health laws to support UHC, relevant stakeholders have developed attendant regulations that will ensure the smooth implementation of the agenda," noted Governor Kahiga. "As the Governor of this great County of Nyeri, I commit to continue providing strategic leadership, guidance, and good governance towards realizing UHC and the health sector objectives for our County and the country at large," he added.

Nyeri County Health Services Board end-term review meeting

H.E. Governor Mutahi Kahiga presided over the Nyeri Health Services Fund Board's end-term meeting. He was joined by Health Services CECM Dr. J.M. Kiragu and Health Services Fund Board Chair Mr. Anthony Maina Mithanga. The two-day meeting sought to not only celebrate the achievements of the Nyeri Health Fund Board

but also offer a platform to reflect on lessons learned, by both the health facilities as well as the Board, in transforming the County's health sector. Established under the Health Services Fund Act 2021, the Board has played a vital role in improving healthcare delivery across Nyeri County. The Act provides strate-

gic oversight for managing funds, mobilizing resources, and guiding Hospital Management Boards on user fee proposals. Health facilities authorized to collect user fees retain a portion, with a share allocated to support services at dispensaries and health centers. Governor Kahiga reaffirmed the County's com-

mitment to strengthening health systems through infrastructure, human resources, and medical equipment procurement. He also emphasized the importance of continued collaboration with the Health Services Fund Board. "I commend the Health Services Fund Board and Hospital Management Board for their dedication to man-

aging resources effectively. As we begin the next cycle of the Fund, my administration remains committed to achieving the Ksh 1 billion target as outlined in the County Integrated Development Plan," he said.

Kieni Water Projects to benefit from Last Mile Programme

Nyeri Deputy Governor H.E. David Kinaniri chaired the Steering Group meeting of the Nyeri County Famine Relief Coordination Committee held at IFAD hall, Nyeri town.

The meeting approved the proposal for the completion of the Kinyaiti - Kendaki Water Project and Mugunda Dispensary Water Project in Kieni West Sub County through the connection to the power supply through the Last Mile Power Connection Programme.

The boreholes can supply enough water to thousands of households for domestic and irrigation use.

Nyeri County National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) Coordi-



nator Lordman Lekalkuli noted that once operational, using irrigation water in the areas will boost food production in Kieni West,

which is considered Nyeri County's food basket. The County Government of Nyeri is committed to ensuring that there is suf-

ficient water supply to all households in the county. According to the seasonal weather forecast, the projected short rains are

expected to last until the month of November, boosting food security.

Stakeholders' Engagement Forum on Wetlands and Riparian Policy



In a move towards promoting wetlands conservation, the Department of Water, Environment, and Climate Change held a stakeholder engagement for the draft Wetlands and Riparian Land Policy. The policy, developed in collaboration with RODI – Kenya and the Upper Tana Nairobi Water Fund, aims to lay the groundwork for the conservation of wetland ecosys-

tems in the County. Wetlands are vital in replenishing and filtering water, providing food and nutritional support to locals, serving as tourism hubs through the promotion of recreational services, and improving the livelihoods of communities. In his remarks, Water, Environment, and Climate Change CECM Fredrick Kinyua emphasized the

need to conserve wetland ecosystems as they replenish water resources, act as natural buffers against floods and droughts, and help mitigate the impacts of climate change. He noted that the degradation of wetlands due to encroachment, pollution, and unsustainable agricultural practices, poses a significant threat to water security and biodiversity in Nyeri

County. The engagement brought together various stakeholders including Water Resources Users Associations (WRUAs), legal officers, RODI Kenya, the Water Resources Authority (WRA), Upper Tana Trust Water Fund, and County officers. The participants discussed strategies for sustainable wetlands management, with a focus on enforcing regula-

tions to curb encroachment and illegal activities in riparian zones. They also advocated for community-based management approaches that engage the community in conservation efforts and sustainable utilization of these ecosystems. The draft policy also focuses on raising awareness among residents about the ecological and economic benefits of wetlands. Participants highlighted the need for public education campaigns and continuous community sensitization to ensure the policy's success. Capacity-building initiatives for the residents were also seen as essential to effectively implementing conservation measures. Through the policy, the County Government of Nyeri aims to protect these delicate ecosystems while enhancing livelihoods and promoting eco-friendly tourism, which could drive economic growth in the County.

1st Leg KVF National Women's and Men's League - Nyeri Volleyball Tournament

The Nyeri County Volleyball Association under the leadership of Chairman Jacob Munene, convened a significant meeting with Gender, Youth, Sports, and Social Services CECM Esther Ndung'u, to discuss the forthcoming 1st Leg KVF National Women's and Men's League - Nyeri County Volleyball Tournament. This highly anticipated event is scheduled to take place from October 31 to November 3, 2024, at the Nyeri Kamukunji Grounds, Nyeri town.

The meeting focused on the tournament's key objectives, primarily aimed at promoting and nurturing youth talent in volleyball across Nyeri County. By providing a dynamic platform, the tournament will allow young athletes to showcase their skills and passion for the sport, facilitating their development and potential representation at international levels.



Munene emphasized the comprehensive support offered to volleyball teams, recognizing the crucial role of sports in the holistic development of youth. This commitment underscores the Association's dedication to fostering talent and encouraging young people to pursue their athletic ambitions. CECM Ndung'u highlighted the importance of collaboration in maximizing the benefits to the community, encouraging a spirit of teamwork that enhances both participation and engagement. More than just a competitive event, this tournament will serve as a celebration of dedication, talent, and sportsmanship among young athletes. It aims to foster community spirit and unity, inspiring the next generation while showcasing the exceptional capabilities of Nyeri County on a national stage.

Malezi Bora stakeholders planning meeting

The Department of Health Services in partnership with Helen Keller International, held a stakeholders' meeting to discuss the upcoming Vitamin A Supplementation and Deworming Exercise for eligible children aged 6 to 59 months. Vitamin A supplementation plays a crucial role in the growth and development of children, helping to prevent night blindness, enhancing vision, and boosting immunity against common childhood illnesses such as colds and diarrhoea. This important initiative runs from 14th to 18th October 2024 across all eight sub-counties and will target all Early Childhood Development Centers (ECDs) and Day-care centers, where Health Care Providers will visit and do supplementation. For children aged three



years and below and currently not within ECDE or day-care centres, supplementation will take place at the nearest health facility. Notably, children aged 6 - 59 months will receive Vitamin A supplements, while children aged 12 - 59 months will be given de-wormers. All parents and guardians have been urged to take part in this vital activity and ensure that their children receive this essential supplementation and deworming treatment, whether at their ECDs or at the nearest health facilities. Together, let us safeguard their health and wellbeing.

AMREF Health Africa Courtesy Call to the CECM Health

Health CECM Dr. J.M. Kiragu had the privilege of hosting a delegation from AMREF Health Africa, led by Project Manager Solomon Mwaniki.

The team visited to discuss the ongoing collaboration between AMREF and Nyeri County under the Project THRIVE initiative.

The visit focused on reviewing the progress and strengthening the partnership, with a shared commitment to enhancing Primary Health Care services in Nyeri County. Key areas of discussion included strategic engagement and collaboration to further actualize Primary Health Care, ensuring that essential health services are accessible to all residents as well as the sustainability plan.

Project THRIVE, funded by the Moderna Charitable Foundation through AM-



REF, aims to strengthen primary healthcare by building the capacity of Health Care Providers and Community Health Promoters (CHPs), conducting integrated community health services such as outreaches and home visits, and bringing critical health services closer to the people who

need them most. The project is currently being implemented in Othaya, Mukurwe-ini, and Nyeri Central sub-counties.

Mwaniki praised the County Health Management Team for their strong leadership and unwavering support, which have been crucial to the successful im-

plementation of the project. Dr. Kiragu expressed his appreciation for AMREF Health Africa's continued partnership, noting the significant, tangible impact the collaboration has had on the community. He assured the team of the department's ongoing support and accountability as the

project progressed. The team later proceeded to Othaya Sub-County for a technical support meeting with the Sub - County Health Management Team and the facility In-charges to review the implementation and progress of Project THRIVE.

CECM routine visit at Ihururu Treatment and Rehabilitation Hospital



Health Services CECM Dr. Joseph Kiragu visited Ihururu Treatment and Rehabilitation Hospital for a routine visit. While there, he inspected the ongoing development projects including the extension of the Outpatient Department, Pharmacy and Cash-Point. He also visited the proposed site for the renovation of a female rehabilitation wing.

Dr. Kiragu also held a discussion with the hospital management on ways to enhance service delivery. Impromptu visits underscore the Health Department's commitment to supporting health facilities. Ihururu Treatment and Rehabilitation Hospital is a County Government hospital serving clients from all over the country

under the rehabilitation unit which has a 90-bed capacity. Under the stewardship of H.E. Governor Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga, the Department is keen on progressive improvement to address any gaps with practical solutions for optimal outcomes, with emphasis on internal control measures.



Replenishment of medical supplies continue

The Department of Health Services continued with the distribution of essential drugs to Nyeri Public hospitals, made possible by the County Government of Nyeri. This initiative aims

to provide reliable and timely access to medications for all, ensuring no one is left behind when it comes to healthcare. Supplies have already been received at The Nyeri County Referral Hospital,

Karatina, Othaya, Mukurwe-ini, Naro-moru and Mt. Kenya Sub-County hospitals. Together, CGN continues to build a healthier community.

Equity Bank's Partnership with CGN



On behalf of Nyeri Governor H.E Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga, County Secretary Ben Gachichio held a meeting with representatives from Equity Group led by Mt Kenya & Upper Eastern Regional Manager Stephen Mwaniki, to explore exciting partnership opportunities aimed at driving economic growth and fostering finan-

cial empowerment across our County. The discussions centered on collaborative initiatives for sector-specific support cutting across the ten County departments, for collaboration in providing accessible financial resources while promoting entrepreneurship and psycho-social support. The County Secretary further reiterated that the Governor's administration and Equity Bank are poised to create avenues for prosperity and financial stability for all Nyeri citizenry.

Forum for the youth on GBV held



In the continuous effort to address gender issues in society, the Department of Gender, Youth, Sports and Social Services in collaboration with Advocates of Social Changes in Kenya (ADSOCK) and Ruciu Rweya Community Based Organization (C.B.O) held two-day sessions that brought together young men and women to discuss social norms and promote changes in attitudes. The focus was on encouraging young girls and boys to play a positive role in supporting positive socio-norms and mitigate gender-based violence in society. The following are the recommendations raised to address GBV

issues: Education and Awareness Campaigns: Implement community education programs to raise awareness about GBV, its impact, and available resources; Strengthening Legal Frameworks: Advocate for stricter laws and enforcement against GBV, ensuring survivors have access to justice; Support Services for Survivors: Establish and promote accessible support services, including counseling, legal aid, and shelters for survivors of GBV; Engaging Youth: Involve youth in prevention efforts, emphasizing positive masculinities and their role in challenging harmful behav-

iors; Community Involvement: Foster community-led initiatives to challenge and change harmful cultural norms and practices that perpetuate GBV; Mental Health Support5: Ensure mental health resources are available for survivors to help them heal and rebuild their lives.

Nyeri CECMs trained on how to handle environmental matters

The Nyeri County Environment Committee (CEC) has concluded a capacity-strengthening workshop organized by CIFOR-ICRAF. The workshop focused on enhancing the CECM's understanding of their critical role in environmental coordination and management. Participants were equipped with valuable tools and knowledge to better address the pressing environmental challenges facing the county. Expert facilitators from CIFOR-ICRAF guided discussions on best practices in environmental governance, policy implementation, and sustainable resource management. This initiative marked a significant step towards improving Nyeri County's commitment to sustainable environmental stewardship. The strengthened CEC will ensure the county is now better prepared to tackle issues such as climate change, deforestation, and biodiversity conservation.



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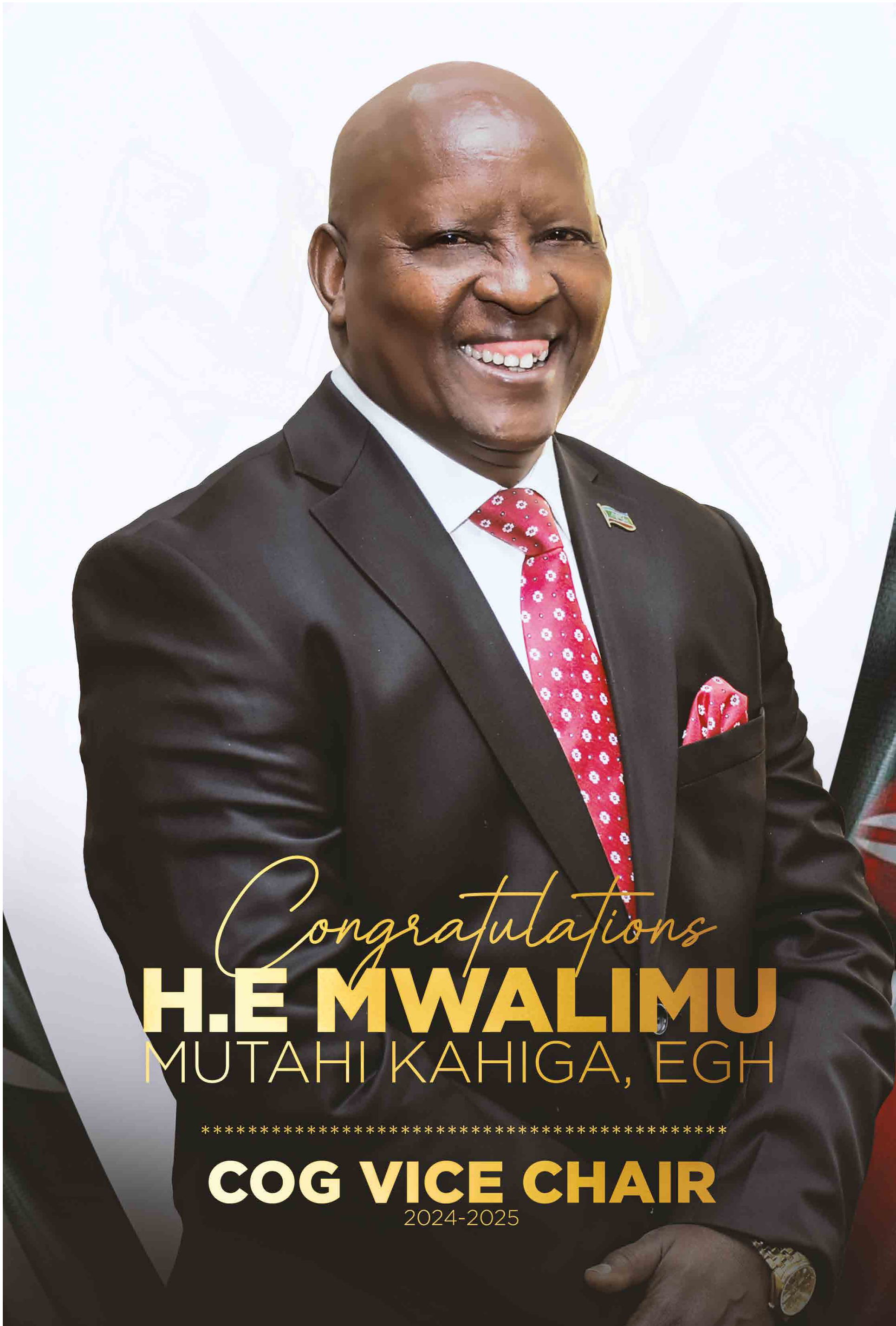
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