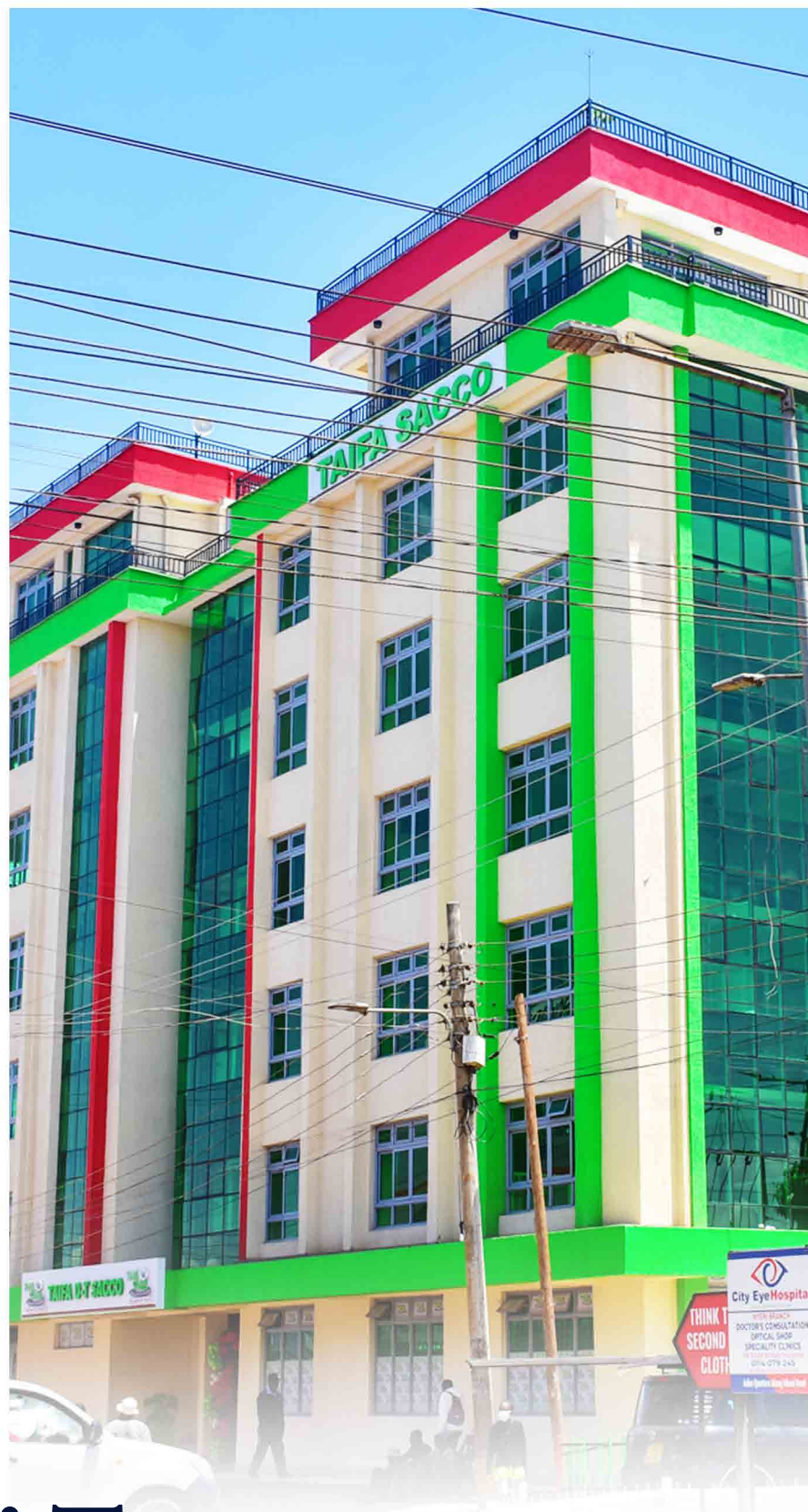




# Newsletter



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## Transforming Nyeri Town

Governor's Press Unit (Compiled by Joseph Wambugu)

Nyeri town residents have of late been witnessing a change of face within the township, what with new buildings being erected at every corner. This has boosted business in town what with more office space becoming available, has created job opportunities and improved the County's economy.

Just recently, Taifa DT Sacco, Nyaatha Sacco and Biashara DT Sacco have this year erected magnificent buildings that show off the new face of Nyeri town. A most welcome sign of long-term investment.

Through the Public- Private Partnership, the County Government of Nyeri continues to reciprocate by re-

maining committed to supporting new investors.

The County Government of Nyeri under the stewardship of Governor H.E. Dr. Mutahi Kahiga EGH, has also made every effort to create a conducive environment for conducting business in the county.

While opening the new

iconic head office of Taifa Sacco, the Governor noted, "The unveiling of your state-of-the-art headquarters marks a significant step forward.

This structure stands as a testament to your growth, resilience, and commitment to delivering exceptional service to your members."

"The construction of this

new head office marks the beginning of a new era. This building will serve as a hub of operations and innovation for the Cooperative, reinforcing your mission to provide quality service and support to your members."

*Continued on page 2*

During the opening of the seven-storey Nyaatha Plaza building the Governor remarked, “As we celebrate the opening of this building in Nyeri town, my administration will continue to create an enabling environment for the investors in the County. This includes improvement of infrastructure like roads, water, and street lights for security, and favourable incentives among others,”

On both occasions H.E Dr. Mutahi Kahiga has been accompanied by Deputy Governor H.E. David Kinaniri.

The County Government of Nyeri remains committed to fostering an environment where cooperatives can thrive, and will continue to allocate resources to ensure the growth and sustainability of this vital sector.

Through the Nyeri Municipality jointly with World Bank programmes, more roads are being upgraded and more streetlights have been erected at the suburbs of Nyeri town and in the informal settlements.

Other towns within which have witnessed massive growth include Karatina, Chaka, Othaya, Mweiga, Narumoru towns among others.

This has in return created jobs and opened business opportunities for the investors. So far, there are other business opportunities for urban centres which are yet to be fully exploited which includes:

## Manufacturing:

Nyeri is home to most agribusiness manufacturing plants. Nonetheless, it is a perfect investment location for the establishment of agro-chemical plants given the fact that most of its neighbouring Counties are also agriculture-based. There is also room for other unexplored manufacturing plants including agrochemicals, building equipment and spices processing.

## Health:

With the rising cases of Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and prevalence of cancer the health sector creates a huge investment opportunity through:



- Gyms and Wellness Centres Wellness Centres provide fitness, meditation and spa experience services. With a growing middle class, the Centres are becoming profitable business opportunities for investors.

- Medical Laboratory / Imaging / Medical Apparatus and Consumables

There is an increased need for modern diagnostic labs and a supply of medical apparatus and equipment.

- Private Hospitals & Funeral Homes

The opportunities for private hospitals that offer specialized medical services, world class funeral homes and end of life care services is unexplored. Investors are invited to invest particularly in a Cancer Hospital through Public Private Partnership (PPP) which would serve the Central region at large.

The County also has investment opportunities in the following subsectors:

- Amusement parks & leisure

gardens to provide areas for team building, and family events.

- Conference and convention centres for meetings, incentive conferences, teleconferencing, congresses, expositions, conventions and exhibitions.

- Sports clubs with indoor and outdoor games, heated swimming pools, spa, saunas & jacuzzi and a clubhouse with entertainment where members can unwind.

- Curios and Handicraft Shops which offer the following services:- information centre, refreshment joints, and stop overs for souvenirs and gift shops.

- Art galleries which would include a talent academy where locals would be trained on dances such as ballerina, salsa, drama, elocutions and film making. Other opportunities include a recording studio, an art gallery, music school, museums, libraries and music academies.

## ICT:

With the world rapidly evolving from traditional to digital mainstreams, there's a need to infuse technology in our organizations. Nyeri County, being an up-and-coming town has an unexploited market for investors interested in this venture. Investors should consider exploiting the market development and hosting of websites, web development and design related services and products for up-coming and existing organizations within the region.

## Transport and Logistics:

Warehouses can be used by manufacturers, importers, exporters, wholesalers, transport businesses and customs, and Nyeri County's strategic position makes it an ideal location for establishment of warehouses.

Taxi services are always in high demand hence, a perfect business opportunity for potential investors.

## Real Estate and Infrastructure:

With the rapid growth of income earners and students, there remains a huge unexploited market within the real estate sector for investment. Nyeri County is also in need of both low cost housing and gated communities, for students, executives and senior managers in town to meet the demands of a growing workforce from both Government as well as the Private sector.

## Multi-storey Car Park:

This investment opportunity will help decongest the central business district within the County while at the same time generating profits for investors.

Other Business Opportunities include: Motor vehicle service centres, manufacture of bamboo products and wood seasoning.



# DG hosts SHOFCO team



Story - Barbara Wambui | Photo - Peter Wangari

Nyeri Deputy Governor H.E. David Kinaniri held a consultative meeting with a delegation from Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO) to deliberate on the particulars of a collaborative partnership with Nyeri County.

Leading the visiting team was SHOFCO Urban Network Head Catherine Gathura, with proposed sectors for co-

operation under discussion comprising but not limited to Youth Affairs, Education and Vocational Training, Gender Affairs including working with adolescent and post-teen mothers, as well as Civic Engagement in communities.

Following the preliminary exchange, parties will now proceed to the next phase which involves conceptual-

izing specific areas of collaboration by way of respective departmental technical teams.

The County Government of Nyeri recognises the importance of fostering mutually beneficial relationships with organisations such as SHOFCO for the benefit of its citizens.

# Governor attends IGTRC

Story & - Kennedy Karanja

H.E. Dr. Governor Mutahi Kahiga joined colleague Governors for a meeting with the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGTRC) to discuss intergovernmental issues and the convening of county structures at the CoG Headquarters, Delta House, Nairobi.

Among the issues discussed were the unbundling of devolved functions, harmonizing the working relationship between CoG and IGTRC, and ensuring the timely disbursement of the equitable share of revenue to counties.

This is essential to enable the execution of the devolution mandate and ensure effective service delivery to the people.





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# Fire drill for learning institutions



The Department of Gender, Youth, Sports and Social Services together with St John's Ambulance and Red Cross conducted an important mock fire drill at St John De-La-Salle Kiandu Secondary to sensitize students and teachers of Kiandu Secondary, Kiandu Primary and Kiandu Baptist Academy on enhancing safety awareness among students and staff. The exercise aimed to familiarize everyone with emergency procedures and ensure a swift, orderly response in case of a fire. The drill began with a simulation of the arrival of the fire engine where the fire alarm was activated, prompting a simulated evacuation. Students and staff efficiently exited the buildings, following designated escape routes to predetermined assembly points. The drill was conducted in an orderly manner, emphasizing silence to facilitate

head counts and communication. After they held an informative session led by the school administration, local fire safety officials, and representatives from St. John Ambulance and the Red Cross. Participants learned about the importance of fire safety, potential fire hazards, and the steps to take during an emergency. Key topics included identifying exits, using fire extinguishers, and the importance of remaining calm. Post-mock drill evaluations highlighted the smooth execution of the exercise, with participants expressing increased confidence in their ability to respond to fire emergencies. Feedback from the fire safety officials, St. John Ambulance, and Red Cross representatives underscored the importance of regular drills and ongoing education in fostering a culture of safety within the school commu-

nity. Recommendations made for other institutions include:

- Installation of Fire Equipment: Ensure that adequate fire extinguishers and other fire-fighting equipment are available and easily accessible throughout the school.
- Emergency Exit Signage: Clearly mark all emergency exits to facilitate quick and safe evacuation during an emergency.
- Regular Fire Drills: Conduct fire drills regularly to keep the community prepared and familiar with emergency procedures.
- Implementation of Electrical System Measures: Regularly inspect and maintain electrical systems to prevent potential fire hazards.
- Installation of Fire Alarm Systems: Ensure that a reliable fire alarm system is installed and functioning properly to alert everyone in case of an emergency.
- Reduce Congestion: Develop strategies to minimize

congestion during evacuations, such as clear exit routes and designated assembly areas.

- Collaboration with Emergency Response Teams such as St. John Ambulance, and the Red Cross: Work closely with local fire safety officials, St. John Ambulance, and Red Cross representatives to enhance safety protocols and receive ongoing training.
- Address Poor Building Design: Evaluate and address any risks associated with poor building design that may hinder safe evacuation during emergencies and can hinder accessibility.
- PWD Mainstreaming: Should assist people with disabilities during evacuations.

**For fire and disaster management preparedness, kindly contact:**

- \*Kiawara Fire Station\*- 0741 428 413
- \*Nyeri Fire Station\* 061 203 2961
- \*Karatina Fire Station\*-

0721 367 998

- \*St John Ambulance -0725 285225
- \*Red Cross\*-0722 774693

Overall, the fire drill was a success, reinforcing St. John De la Salle Kiandu Secondary School's commitment to the safety and well-being of its students and staff. Future drills will continue to build on this foundation, ensuring preparedness and awareness in the face of potential emergencies. St John De-La- Salle Kiandu Secondary School Principal George Njoroge thanks the County Government of Nyeri, St John Ambulance and Kenya Red Cross Society for actualizing the request to hold a fire drill in the school. Special thanks to the team leaders for ensuring a successful sensitization and coordinating the event.

## Boost for Giathugu VTC

The County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Education has acquired two motorbikes and one motor vehicle to enhance the Giathugu VTC Driving School. These new additions will

enhance our training programs, providing students with hand - on experience and essential driving skills.

This is a big boost to empower the learners and the community through Education and Training.

# Routine Visit and Inspection of the ongoing Kisip II Main Works

Story & Photo - Kenneth Ngatia



the KISIP II Main Works. The teams visited Chorong'i and Kiamwathi Settlements in Ruring'u ward, Nyeri Central sub-county, Kiawara in the Rware ward, Nyeri Central Sub-County and Mweiga settlement in Mweiga ward, Kieni West Sub-County. The primary goal of KISIP 2 is to improve living conditions in informal settlements in selected towns in Kenya. Other works are ongoing at Chorong'i, Ihwagi, Kiamwathi, Kiawara, and Mweiga informal settlements in Nyeri County.

Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Program 2 (KISIP II) County Project Coordinator Beatrice Koeched the County Project Coordinating Team (CPCT) and Gath Consulting Engineers & Losai Management Ltd under the Resident Engineer Eng. Peter Gakobo for a routine site visit to monitor and evaluate the progress of

# Nyeri County Assembly sensitization workshop on primary care

Story & Photo - Catherine Muthoni

The Department of Health Services, in collaboration with AMREF Health Africa, held a crucial meeting with the County Assembly Health Committee Members who include the MCAs to raise awareness on Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and SHA. Primary Health Care (PHC) aims to provide essential health services that are accessible and affordable for all, empowering individuals through their full participation. This aligns with our goal of achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). A Primary Care Network (PCN) is an administrative health region comprising a primary health care referral facility and several other primary care facilities established to deliver access to primary healthcare services for patients. The meeting focused on educating Committee members about PCN models and securing their support for the strategic objectives and interventions of Primary Health Care. These



members play a vital role in advocating for health budgets and shaping policies. Additionally, the meeting provided an overview of the Social Health Authority (SHA). The authority will deliver its mandate through three funds namely:

- Primary Health Care Fund (PHC): Services under this fund are available for FREE in level 2 and 3 facilities for registered individuals regardless of the payment status.
- The Social Health Insur-

ance Fund (SHIF): This fund will function similarly to NHIF, by pooling resources to cover all Kenyans with enhanced services from level 4 to level 6 Hospitals, i.e Outpatient, Inpatient, Maternal, Renal, Medical Imaging, Surgery among others.

- The Emergency, Chronic and Critical Illness Fund (ECCIF): This fund will provide free emergency cover for all Kenyans. It will also help avoid financial hardship for households

with patients with chronic conditions like cancer, and kidney diseases among others. The County Government of Nyeri is committed to enhancing primary healthcare services by establishing and strengthening Primary Health Care Networks, starting at the community level and linking dispensaries and health centers to hospitals. The Department requested the Committee members to be SHA ambassadors for

increased enrolment at the community level which is currently very low. The Department has developed an ambitious roadmap, the Nyeri Primary Care Network Strategy 2024-2027, to implement and operationalize these networks. The vision is to shift the focus from hospital-based care to community-based care, empowering families to take control of their health.

# Trade Department's Workshop for Worker Cooperative Societies



The County Government of Nyeri, through the Department of Trade, Cooperatives, Culture, and Tourism, successfully concluded a two-day capacity-building workshop aimed at strengthening worker cooperative societies. The training, held in collaboration with Global Communities under the Work-

er Co-operative Incubator Program, provided participants with valuable insights and tools to enhance their cooperatives' operational and economic capacities. The workshop's final day saw continued participation from key partners, including the Democracy at Work Institute (DAWI) and the Co-operative University of

Kenya. Participants from worker cooperatives across Nyeri and Nairobi Counties engaged in comprehensive discussions, sharing experiences, and learning best practices to foster sustainable growth. This workshop begins an impactful journey to strengthen cooperative so-

cieties in Nyeri, ensuring they thrive and contribute to sustainable economic development. Trade Chief Officer George Mwangi highlighted the importance of empowering cooperative societies, emphasizing their pivotal role in driving local economic development. He commended the partic-

ipants for their dedication and encouraged them to apply the knowledge gained to boost productivity and improve livelihoods within their communities. The workshop marked a significant step forward for cooperative societies in the region, as they work towards a more resilient and empowered future.

## Governor hosts Tea Board of Kenya team



Story - Barbara Wambui | Photo - Peter Wangari

H.E. Dr Mutahi Kahiga hosted a team from the Tea Board of Kenya who paid a courtesy to his office. The consultative meeting focused on the Board's upcoming Centenary Celebra-

tions slated for November 2024, to be held at Karatina University, Mathira. According to the TBK team led by Team Leader James Marete, the week-long fete will feature a Tea Science

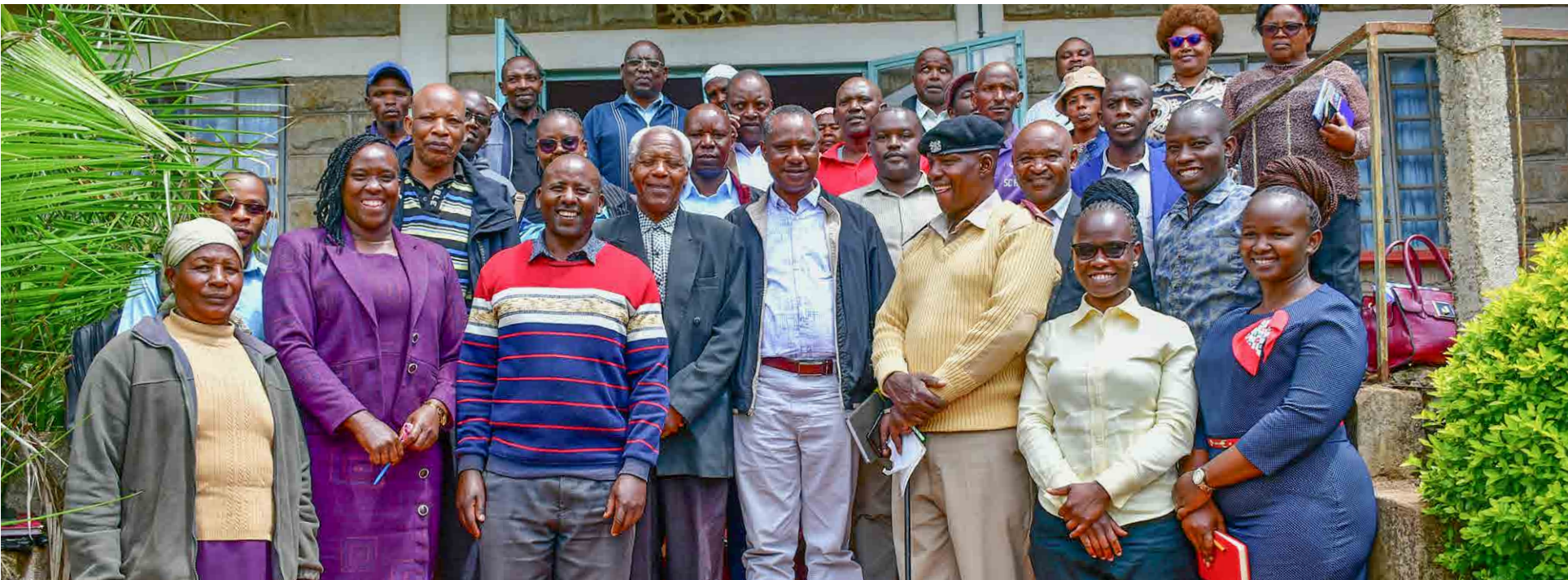
series showcasing various presentations and innovations, an exhibition, a visit to Ragati Tea Factory for a commemorative tree planting session followed by interactive sessions with pi-

oneer managers in the tea sector, and culminating in a Youth Festival and Awards Ceremony. The team also discussed a beneficial proposal to create a Tea Fund that seeks to fur-

ther supplement this sector not only financially but also through facilitating timely, pivotal tea research for the benefit of Nyeri County's small-scale tea farmers. Together with Nyeri Deputy Governor H.E. Kinaniri Waroe, the County Government of Nyeri appreciates the Tea Board of Kenya for choosing Nyeri County to host this singular celebration, and pledge our support and presence. The choice of Karatina University deserves special mention due to its Tea Institute Centre, which was established in 2012 with the aim of training, conducting research, creating innovations and conducting community outreach on tea along the entire value chain.

# Plans to prepare title deeds for Gitunduti and Ndumanu settlements kick off

Story & Photo - Kenneth Ngatia



Following the successful establishment of necessary community organ such as the Settlement Executive Committees (SECs) and Grievance Redress Committees (GRCs) in Gitunduti and Ndumanu informal settlements in Magutu ward, Mathira East Sub-County which are crucial for the project's success and sus-

tainability, the Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement II (KISIP 2) Nyeri County Project Coordinator Beatrice Koech led the National Project Coordinating Team (NCPT) and County Project Coordinating Team (CPCT) for handing over the settlements to the Consultant. While presiding over the ex-

ercise, the County Project Coordinator emphasized the need for all parties involved to work in sync and handle grievances that may arise cooperatively so as to ensure all the title deeds will be ready before the end of the current financial year. The Consultant, ie. Geosurv Systems Limited led by Director Charles Gathogo will

oversee the process culminating in the issuance of title deeds to the two settlements. The team will also develop a list of relevant stakeholders and prepare information tools for engagement with different stakeholders including the County Government of Nyeri, and informal settlements residents among others.

Further, they are mandated to hold stakeholder workshops and facilitate an evaluation of alternative approaches for land tenure regularization in Gitunduti and Ndumanu settlements through stakeholders' debate and discussion.

## Cleft surgical camp at Nyeri Referral Hospital



Story & Photo - Catherine Muthoni

The Department of Health Services, in collaboration with Smile Train, is organizing a Cleft Surgical Camp from 11th to 15th November 2024 at the Nyeri County Referral Hospital. Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate are conditions that can be corrected through sur-

gery, giving children and adults a chance to smile confidently and improve their quality of life. This surgery helps close the openings in the mouth and lips, with minimal scarring, and additional care such as speech therapy and dental work supports better

communication when needed. Don't miss this opportunity. Spread the word and help us bring smiles to those who need it most. Registration is ongoing! Visit the Nyeri County Referral Hospital to register.



## Infection Prevention & Control Week marked in Nyeri

Story & Photo - Catherine Muthoni

Nyeri County wrapped up International Infection Prevention and Control Week with a vibrant symposium at Mwai Kibaki Hospital, Othaya. Representatives from all nine major health facilities came together, with

committee members actively participating in insightful discussions. This year's theme, "Moving the Needle," centered on Breaking the Infections Cycle, sparking meaningful conversations and strategies to enhance health safety

across the region. The Department extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone who took part during the event. Your dedication to infection prevention is truly making a difference in the communities.



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI  
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