



Newsletter



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How Nyota bean is transforming lives in Kieni



Story by Governor's Press Unit - Compiled by Barbara Wambui

A widely held aspiration for a typical Nyeri household revolves around being able to start and maintain a successful business venture that will put food on the table and provide for one's family. And it was no different for Ruth Gathare, a farm-

er based in Kieni East sub-county. As she mulled over her options, she happened to attend a training seminar on Nyota bean farming that changed her trajectory in a most positive way. The session, supported by Nyeri County through

the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Department, brought together agricultural extension officers, researchers, nutritionists, school heads, aggregators, buyers, financiers and farmers of all ages. About the Nyota Bean: The Nyota Bean is a high

iron bean developed through the work of research organizations such as Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) Katumani led by Head Researcher Dr. Karanja and Dennis Ong'or representing the Pan African Bean Research Alliance

- (PABRA). It has many declared benefits as compared to the other bean varieties such as:
- It has a short maturity period;
 - It has a lot of protein, zinc, iron, high fibre that protects from constipation;
 - It develops many pods per plant – 25 or more pods per plant with 5 grains per pod;
 - It takes a shorter time to cook;
 - Should it dry up while still at the farm before harvesting the pods do not shed their contents onto the soil but remain intact;
 - It has a pleasing colour that is attractive to both bulk buyers and tradespeople;
 - It does not cause a lot of flatulence;
 - While in storage it takes a while before it is attacked by weevils and other boring pests;
 - It is acid free.

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Ruth Gathare, a farmer based in Kieni East sub-county.

John Maina is the Kieni East sub-county Agricultural Officer and is a central figure in educating and training farmers on Nyota bean farming. “We have been promoting a bean called Nyota bean which is rich in zinc and iron. Because of the prolific nature

of the bean its productivity is very high, so it is also an income generating bean,” he noted.

According to Mr. Maina local farmers within Kieni East, with the support of KALRO, have been engaging in Nyota bean production since 2021. And because of successfully promoting the bean to the level of commercialization farmers now have access to buyers who do value addition. “We are also training farmers on aggregation. This is where after harvesting their beans individual farmers bring together their yield under one roof where buyers, also called off-loaders, go and buy in bulk.”

Schools:

Schools have also not been left behind in incorporating Nyota bean farming into their operations, with around 15 schools within Kieni East having planted it as part of their school feeding programme due to its nutritional value.

Harriet Kinyua is the Head of Gitero School which has an enrollment of about 420 learners from ECDE to Grade 8. A strong advocate of the Nyota bean, she expounds,

“We have been doing a bit of horticultural farming to get vegetables to supplement our feeding program, which is funded by the parents. Last year our area Extension officer made a routine visit to our school and recommended we begin planning the Nyota bean. She also supplied us with 2 packets of seed (4kg) and pesticide for seed coating. Despite the dry season we used irrigation and managed to harvest 101 kgs. We set aside 12kg for the next planting season and the rest was put into the feeding program. It was a reprieve for the parents because normally in one week we consume one 90kg bag of beans. It also opened the door for those parents who has also planted the bean in their farms, for us to be able to buy from them for purposes of school feeding.”

Financing & Market Access:

Financiers such as Equity Foundation work hand in hand with Nyeri County through the Department of

Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries to provide market linkages with buyers, as well as train farmers on how to manage their money and live within their means so as to uplift their living standards. According to The Foundation’s Food & Agriculture Regional Manager Zachary Ndirangu, “In our training we make sure that farmers manage their finances well in all stages from production to distribution to consumption – everyone that is the value chain. We finance and train on entrepreneurship and ensure that at the end of the day they know what they will get out of their enterprise. We also provide the farmers with crop insurance.”

A key linkage between the financier and the buyers is found in the partnership between Equity Foundation and Delish and Nutri, a private company that focuses on processing and manufacturing of nutritional products. Michael Njuguna, an officer from Delish and Nutri had this to say: “In relation to this project our core business is to provide a market for Nyota bean farmers. We have been aggregating the Nyota bean for the last 4 years now, and for the last 2 years here in

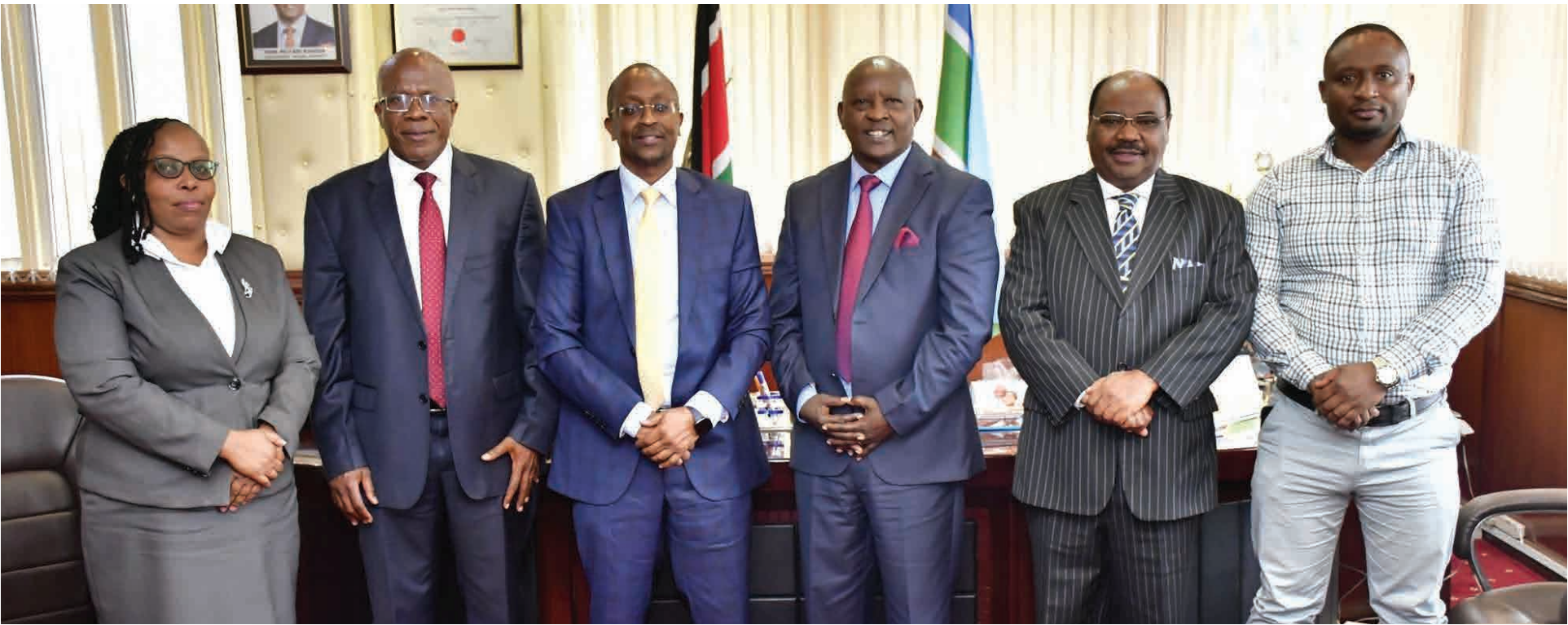
Kieni East providing market to the farmers. We have also partnered with organizations such as HarvestPlus to introduce it into school feeding programs. Not only that, we also target urban centres through supermarkets and retail shops where the uptake is very good due. When marketing the Nyota bean we promote 3 key attributes that is its high iron and zinc content, fast-cooking nature and its low flatulence.

So, despite the periodic challenges that farmers handle in the course of their work such as frost, excessive rainfall and access to finance and markets, the County Government of Nyeri through the Agriculture Department and staff has made easier for small holder farmers and those looking to get into commercial bean farming, with ongoing partnerships with the private and research centers providing much needed cushioning along the bean value chain.

And as for Farmer Ruth, she continues to smile all the way to the bank, confident in the knowledge that her family’s health and socio-economic security is assured.



G2G Partnership with Consolidated Bank



Story - Barbara Wambui | Photo - Kennedy Karanja

Nyeri County Governor H.E. Dr. Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga together with Deputy Governor David Kinaniri hosted a team from Consolidated Bank led by their CEO Sam Muturi who paid a courtesy call to his office. Discussions focused on revisiting and reviving potential areas of engagement and collaboration, with a focus on education and water & sanitation as a start. Being a fully-owned Government institution, Consolidated Bank offers unique and distinctive Government-to-Government (G2G) partnership opportunities for Nyeri County. Prospective spaces with great projections include co-financing of projects, sponsorship of students including facilitating attachments within both banking and the broader corporate sectors, as well as providing affordable micro-financing for Nyeri County's Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs), specifically looking to boost Nyeri County's traders and vendors. Other areas of collaboration involve engaging with Nyeri's water companies to enhance sanitation services for its citizens. Governor Kahiga's administration recognizes the importance of such initiatives, especially those that also directly support the County's youth; a case in point being through provision of seed capital for their start-ups, and commits its support and contribution to this venture.

Cycling to Save a Life

Story & Photo - Rozina Gathoni

H E Deputy Governor Kinaniri Waroe hosted a cyclist Ben Haggai Onyango who is cycling across the nation's 47 counties to raise funds for 17-month-old Briella Mkala, who is undergoing liver surgery in India. The minor needs Kshs. 5 million of which the family has so far been able to raise Kshs. 3.2 million, leaving a deficit of Kshs 1.8 million. Ben launched his journey on 15th October from Mogori County. And despite harsh weather, tough terrain and mechanical problems, has so far sin-



gle-handedly transversed 20 counties. He is not related to Mkala. It was after hearing of her unfortunate case from a friend that he was touched and decided to contribute to this worthy cause by travelling across the counties to raise funds. He has launched an appeal to all Kenyans of good will to support this medical funds drive. Let's contribute generously to Baby Briella's Medical Appeal, every bit counts. M-Pesa Paybill: 625625 Account: 12646798

Kagumo TTC 40th Graduation Ceremony:

Story - Barbara Wambui | Photo - Kennedy Karanja



Tetu sub-county’s Kagumo Teachers Training College recently held its 40th graduation ceremony in a colourful event graced by Nyeri County Governor H E Dr.

Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga. While recognizing their stature as a coveted resource in our republic, the Governor urged the young men and women to embrace

their responsibility with humility and enthusiasm. “The best teachers are those who do not stop learning, and good teachers do not teach from books but from

the heart,” he added. A total of 344 graduands comprising the 2021/2024 cohort were awarded their diplomas. While taking note of the

various challenges facing the iconic institution touching on staffing shortage and inadequate funding, the Governor reiterated his administration’s firm support for Kagumo TTC in ensuring its continuity and legacy.

Also worthy of note is the fact that this particular cohort would be the last to graduate under the 844 curriculum, with the first intake of September 2024 under the CBC curriculum already well on course with their training.

"As you graduate from students to educators, from learners to leaders, go forth equipped to shape the minds of future generations," Governor Dr. Mwalimu Mutahi added.

Kagumo TTC’s current enrolment stands at over 1,100 students, releasing an average of 300 teachers each year into the job market.

1st Central Kenya Indigenous Seed and Food Culture Harvest

Story - Barbara Wambui | Photo - Kennedy Karanja



Nyeri Deputy Governor H.E. Kinaniri Waroe received a delegation from

the National Museums of Kenya and Biodiversity and Biosafety Association Ken-

ya (BIBA) who were hosting the First Central Kenya Indigenous Seed and Food

Culture Harvest Festival in Nyeri County, from 11th to 12th November 2024 at

Whispers Park, Nyeri. Led by Dr. Peris Kariuki and accompanied by Agriculture CECM James Wachihi the team came to officially present its 2-day itinerary.

The event was formally flagged off from Town Hall after which there was a procession that led to Whispers Park for the opening ceremony.

The exhibition seeks to revive and re-popularize the nation's local seed varieties amongst Nyeri's smallholder farmers, with an estimated 30 counties expected to attend and display various seeds and produce.

The 2-day event also featured an exhibition, talks, panel discussions, wrapping up with a competition and awards ceremony.

16 Days of Activism Against GBV Stakeholders' Planning Meeting

Story by Rozina Gathoni & Cyprian Muriithi

The County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services plans to join the rest of the world during the 16 days of activism against GBV.

In respect the department had a planning meeting with key partners to pull resources.

The department intends to empower 100 girls and 50 boys per sub county. The sensitization shall be on:

- 1. Mental Health and Drugs & Substance Abuse
- 2. Tripple Threat – GBV, Teenage Pregnancies & HIV/AIDS
- 3. Male Inclusion and Engagement
- 4. Ending Femicide

The department intends to hold the activities from 25th November 2024 to 10th December 2024.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based violence is an annual international campaign that commences on 25th November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), until 10th Decem-



ber, Human Rights Day. According to the UN Women it was initiated by activists at the first Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991 and this year marks its 30th anniversary. It continues to be coordinated each year by the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) and is an organizing strategy by individuals, institutions and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence

against women and girls. To mark the 16 Days the department is collaborating with other stakeholders, with this year's theme focusing on "Ending Violence against Women and Girls in the Context of Climate Change." The County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Gender, Youth, Sports, and Social Services, will actively participate in this campaign, joining the world wide call to eliminate violence

against women and girls. The campaign aims to raise awareness and engage communities in addressing the intersection of GBV and the climate crisis. The proposed activities will include community mobilization, sensitization workshops, and direct engagement with survivors of GBV, especially in vulnerable areas. Special attention will be given to boys, including the creation of safe spaces for them to report GBV, and the inclusion

of individuals with disabilities in all activities. In addition to the core GBV focus, the campaign will also emphasize the link between climate change and gender violence, promoting hygiene practices, the safe disposal of sanitary products, and environmental initiatives such as tree planting. The sensitization will target households without proper sanitation facilities, with referrals for support from relevant agencies. The campaign will also include discussions on femicide, highlighting its impact and prevention strategies. The department will collaborate with community health promoters, child protection volunteers, and other partners on a volunteer basis to ensure effective outreach. The campaign's logistical aspects include providing essential items such as sanitary pads and panties for girls, with the goal of ensuring maximum impact despite limited resources.

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Celebrating 100 Years of Tea in Kenya



Story - Barbara Wambui | Photo - Kennedy Karanja

Although a few private farmers had managed to establish small tea gardens in Limuru and Kericho, commercial tea cultivation in Kenya truly began in 1924, remaining an exclusive pre-occupation of the colonial-ists until 1956 when African growers were allowed to start tea planting. On behalf of H.E. Governor Dr. Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga, Deputy Governor Kinaniri Waroe joined the Chairman Tea Board of Kenya Jacob Kahiu in celebrating 100 years of tea in Kenya. “It is now a century since Tea was established in Kenya in 1924,” he added. The event was held at Karatina University in Mathira East sub-county. The function of the Tea Board of Kenya is to identify market needs and advise on issues related to national and international trade, monitor and enforce compliance tea standards as well as the Tea Act, advise on levies, fees, import and export duties on agriculture cess and fees, and undertake capacity building and technology transfer to the counties.

Big Catch-Up Training (BCU)

Story & Photo - Catherine Muthoni

The Department of Health Services, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MOH) - National Vaccines and Immunization Program (NVIP) and UNICEF through UNOPS, launched training sessions for Sub-County Health Managers to prepare for the upcoming Big Catch-Up (BCU) Campaign. The Big Catch-Up is a nationwide initiative in Kenya aimed at addressing barriers to vaccination. It leverages partnerships, innovative strategies, and community engagement to restore and strengthen routine immunization using a life-course approach. The primary goal of BCU is to reach and vaccinate all unvaccinated or under-immunized children up to five years of age with essential childhood vaccines, adolescent girls aged 10-14 with



HPV vaccines, pregnant women eligible for the Tetanus Toxoid vaccine, and individuals aged 12 to 17 and adults with COVID-19 vaccines. The two-day training focused on enhancing health-care workers' knowledge and skills in immunization service delivery, planning, and implementing BCU strategies, as well as promoting peer-to-peer engagement to share best practices and experiences. Following this, cascade training sessions will be held for all immunization facilities within the county.

Gender Department at Widows' Sacco Workshop

Story by Rozina Gathoni, Cyprian Muriithi



The Department of Gender, Youth, Sports, and Social Services joined Muhoya Widows at a one-day workshop at Muhoya Chief's Camp. Agenda items discussed include:

1. Loss, grief and the grieving process;
2. Widows Sacco launched by the County Government

of Nyeri. The Sacco Secretary and Treasurer discussed in depth on the how to join and become a member. Group formation was also emphasized as this way members would benefit more and better from merchandise available through the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) programme as well as many other prospects from both county and national governments, in a continued effort to promote quality of life for the marginalized. The residents expressed gratitude to the County Government of Nyeri for its continued support.

Climate Impact Workshop

H.E Deputy Governor David Waroe delivered a key note address on behalf of H.E Governor Dr. Mutahi Kahiga at a climate impact workshop themed: Applying the Water - Energy- Food Nexus to Promote Eco-System Based Adaptation in the Ewaso Nyiro North River Catchment Area (ENNCA).

ENNCA covers 5 areas that are deemed highly vulnerable to impacts of climate change, specifically within the County Governments of Nyeri, Laikipia, Samburu, Isiolo and Meru.

The workshop was organized by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) in partnership with the Centre for Training and Integrated Research in ASALs Development (CETRAD) and Merti Integrated Development Program (MIDP), working in tandem with Nyeri County's departments of Agriculture, Water, and Infrastructure.

Nyeri County has continued to undertake and implement critical climate change mitigation strategies such as construction of green-houses and facilitating both availability and access to technologies such as energy- saving jikos and bio-gas harvesters for household use. This administration appreciates the relevance of critical discussions such as this that work towards actionable strategies and programmes that will secure a sustainable future for its communities.

In their remarks Agriculture CECM James Wachih and Water CECM Fredrick Kinyua noted that in view of the current climate challenges plus a growing impression of increasing scarcity of nature's commodities such as water and tree cover, a herculean task lies ahead for all stakeholders concerned.

According to statistics presented at the forum, Nyeri County would require a dry land forest landmass of at least three thousand hectares to sustain its current energy demand which in most cases is in the form of charcoal, in addition to other impact challenges including but not limited to decreasing rain precipitation levels, increase in temperatures, water demand and consumption, and population growth explosion.

But despite these challenges, Nyeri County and the country at large has at its disposal key development policies and strategies such as the County Integrated Development Policy (CIDP), the Vision 2030, the National Climate Change Policy Framework and the National Adaptation Plan, which guide decision-making and implementation of climate change actionables. These in turn promote resilience and address challenges for the overall benefit of millions of people, livestock and eco-systems.



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Applications should be hand delivered and dropped in the application box located at OMWASCO PLC head office in Othaya Town or sent via courier or the above indicated Post Office box address to be received not later than **4.30pm on Thursday the 28th of November 2024.**

NOTE

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Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and canvassing will lead to automatic disqualification.



Capacity Building Workshop for Nyeri Worker Cooperatives

Story & Photo - Stepahmie Wanjiru

The County Government of Nyeri, in partnership with Global Communities under the Worker Co-operative Incubator Program, successfully hosted a 5-day capacity-building workshop aimed at strengthening worker cooperative societies in the region. The training brought together participants from worker cooperatives across Nyeri and Nairobi counties, providing them with invaluable tools and strategies to enhance their operational and economic capabilities. Key partners like the Democracy at Work Institute (DAWI) and the Co-oper-



ative University of Kenya joined in to share their expertise, fostering rich discussions and exchange of best practices. On the final day, Trade CECM Diana Kendi com-

mended the dedication of all participants and stressed the pivotal role that cooperatives play in local economic development. She encouraged them to leverage the knowledge gained

during the workshop to drive productivity, improve livelihoods, and build sustainable, resilient communities. The trainees were also issued certificates for their resilience throughout

the training. This workshop marks a significant milestone in the ongoing journey to empower cooperatives and ensure a brighter, more prosperous future for all.



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE & ENERGY

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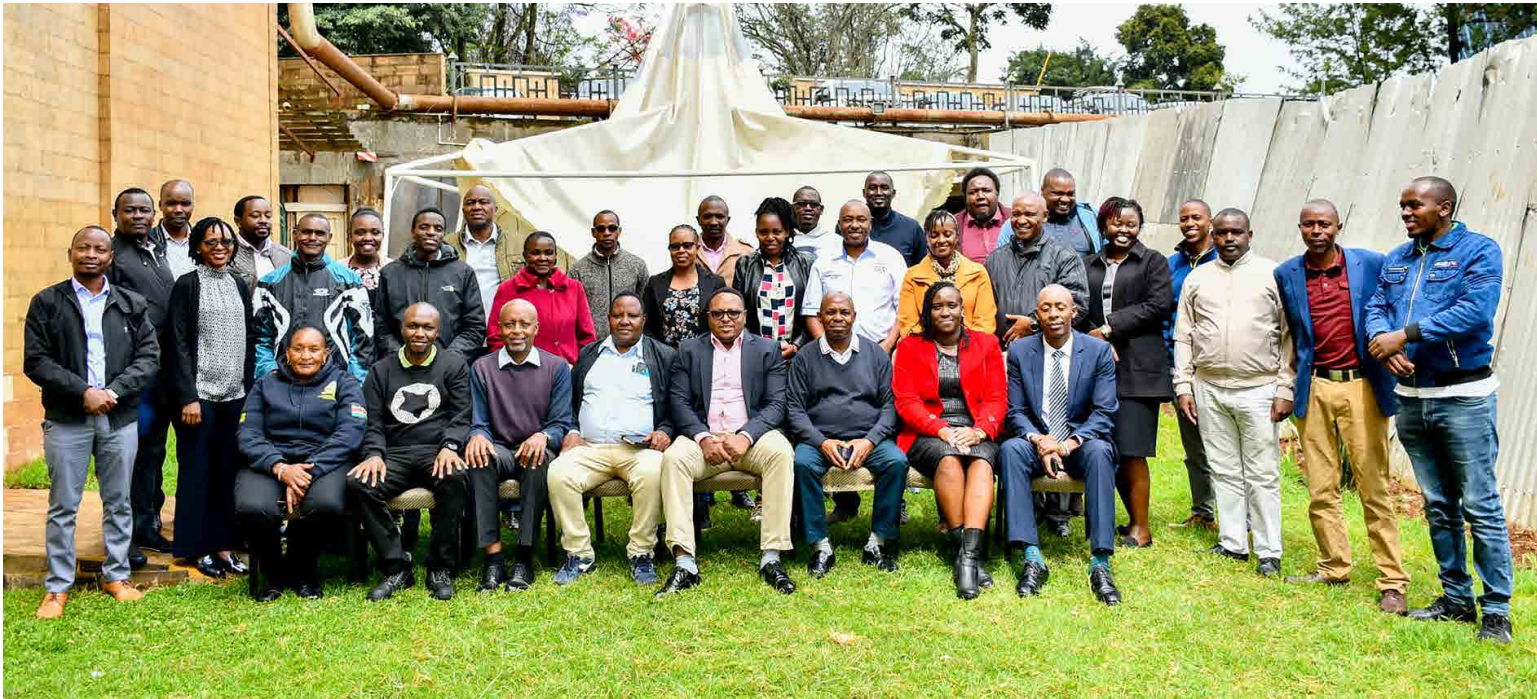
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Nyeri County Situation Analysis Report Validation Meeting

Story & Photo - Stephanie Wanjiru

The County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Development in collaboration with the South Consulting Africa Limited Consultant team held a validation meeting for the situational analysis report meant for the development of the Nyeri County Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategies. The Consultant was tasked to prepare Nyeri County Specific Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategies under the Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Program II (KISIP II)-Component III which seeks to support institutional and policy development at national and county levels. During the meeting, the Consultant spearheaded by Dr. Mbathi Musyimi tabled the findings to the County Project Coordination Team (CPCT) led by the CECM Lands Ndirangu Gachunia, representatives from informal settlements and State Department of Housing among other stakeholders and thereafter had a plenary



session on intervention for upgrading and slum prevention. The report analyses the situational context of informal settlements and slums in Nyeri County which will in turn inform development of the Nyeri County Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategy. The objectives of the report was to:

1. Analyse the policy and legal framework for slum upgrading and prevention (National and County) and implications for development of the Nyeri County Slum Upgrading and Pre-

- vention Strategy.
2. Assess the state of basic services and the challenges that residents face in accessing basic services in the slums and informal settlements the county
3. Review the interests of various stakeholders and identify the means of improving ownership, local adaptability, and buy-in to effectively implement the strategy.
4. Identify the relevant resources, guidelines, and capacity-building measures to support implementation.

Informal settlements and slums in Nyeri have histori-

cal origins that date back to the colonial period. Some of the settlements were established as colonial villages for settlements but the owners had no titles deeds resulting to insecure land rights. The numbers of settlements and inhabitants continued to grow over time with increased urbanization, poverty and population growth making the planning for basic services challenging thus the need to develop strategies for slum upgrading and prevention for the county. There are 162 number of settlements across the eight

sub-counties including colonial villages generally characterized as informal settlements and slums. The proposed strategy seeks to improve the state in the informal settlements while fostering sustainable growth. The situational analysis presented the context in these areas in order to improve understanding of the social-economic, demographic and infrastructure context on which the strategy will be based.

CoG Roundtable on Devolution

The Council of Governors (CoG) led by Chair H.E. FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi, convened a critical roundtable discussion with the Liaison Committee and Heads of Development Cooperation to redefine Devolution and address barriers to effective service delivery. The meeting resolved to strengthen collaboration between the CoG and development partners in designing and implementing programs that impact County Governments. Development partners reaffirmed their support for Devolution, pledging to champion its success in enhancing service delivery.



It was agreed that mapping of donor programs at the County level will be undertaken to ensure alignment

with County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs). Furthermore, joint discussions involving the Council

of Governors, development partners, civil society, and the National Government will be organized to address

challenges facing Devolution. To avoid duplication of efforts, development partners committed to supporting Counties in providing sectoral leadership. Additionally, Counties will receive support to enhance financial accountability and citizen participation, ensuring greater efficiency in service delivery. The Council of Governors extends its gratitude to all partners for their invaluable contributions and reaffirms its commitment to regular engagements on emerging issues.



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI
DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, YOUTH, SPORTS & SOCIAL SERVICES



NYERI COUNTY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT POLICY *Launch*

THEME:
**LINKING NYERI YOUTH TO SUSTAINABLE
GROWTH THROUGH INNOVATION**



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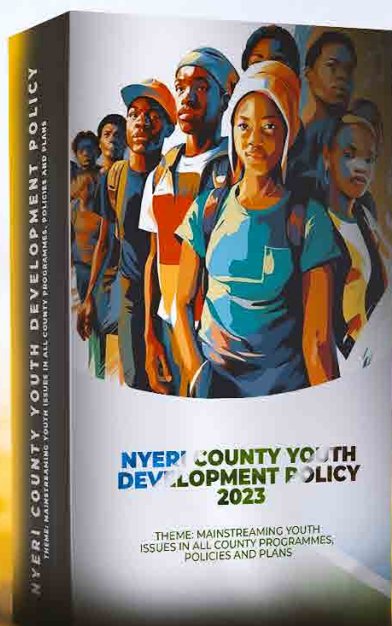


DATE:
29TH NOVEMBER, 2024



TIME:
FROM 8AM - 5PM

CHIEF GUEST:
**H.E Dr. MWALIMU
MUTAH KAHIGA, (PhD), E.G.H**



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