

Only through collective effort that Nyeri County as a community can hope to change the circumstances surrounding femicide and GBV

In the Spotlight: Femicide and our Role as a community

In recent times, Kenya has witnessed a disturbing rise in femicide cases across the country.

Each reported incident represents not just a life lost, but the crushed dreams, potential, and future of women who might have contributed to our society in immeasurable ways. As our sisters, mothers, friends, and colleagues, their lives do matter, and their stories should fuel our resolve to enact change.

With the recent launch of the Nyeri County Youth Development Policy 2023 by H.E the Governor Dr. Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga PhD., EGH together with Deputy Governor H.E Kinaniri Waroe at the Moi Nyeri Complex School, Nyeri County has on and the necessary pathway to confront this critical issue head on, through addressing the circumstances and challenges that would seek to foster the kinds of situations that lead to gender based violence.

The pivotal role of the Department on Gender, Youth, Sports and Social Services in the realization of this milestone cannot be denied. According to Esther, "This Policy's transformative agenda seeks to address the needs of Nyeri

County's Youth population by incorporating their issues into all County policies, programmes and plans, thus ensuring that their voices and concerns are adequately addressed."

Under SGD 3 that touches on good health and well-being, that is, ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages, the following issues are addressed:

a)Mental Health:

Initiatives to promote the ho-

listic health of young people and develop youth-oriented healthcare.

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- It shall also address specific health problems faced by young people which inhibit their capacity to participate in society.

b)Drug and Substance Abuse:
- Create awareness and reduce alcohol and substance abuse and pornography among the youth.

c)Sexual and

Reproductive Health Rights:
- Reduce the incidences of teenage and unwanted pregnancies, and the sequel of unsafe abortion.

d) Sexual and Gender Based Violence:
- Enhance Gender-Based Violence (GBV) awareness, and enhance mit-

igation and response mechanisms.
In line with this Nyeri County through the Department of Gender, Youth, Sports & Social Services took its staff through training designed to equip Gender-Based Violence (GBV) stakeholders with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to address critical issues in gender equality, violence prevention, and related

social challenges.
During the session the following key topics were covered:
1. The progress of implementation of the Youth Development Policy, that is, a comprehensive overview on the current state of activities related to the Policy;
2. Triple Threat, that is, GBV, HIV & teenage pregnancies- This session focused on the intersection of GBV, HIV, and

teenage pregnancies as a "triple threat" that disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, especially adolescent girls and young women;
3. Emerging Issues and Trends in Gender, which focused on how the societal dynamics evolve, as well as new challenges in gender and development.
By fostering collaboration, sharing best practices, and enhancing understanding of these interconnected issues, stakeholders will be better equipped to make informed decisions and implement effective solutions for the communities they serve. Not only that, interventions such as these help empower GBV stakeholders to reflect on past achievements, assess ongoing challenges, and proactively adapt to emerging issues in gender-based violence, HIV, and teenage pregnancies.

Therefore, it is pivotal for all parties not only remember the lives lost due to femicide but also renew the commitment to end this scourge. Government, civil society and people as individuals and communities need to come together to build a safer, more equitable society for all, one that does not victimize of cause a section of its citizens to live in fear. It is only through collective effort that Nyeri County as a community can hope to change the circumstances surrounding femicide and GBV.

Fire Officers Undergo Month-Long Training



H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga, PhD, EGH together with Nyeri Deputy Governor H.E. David Kinaniri, officially closed a one - month fire of-

ficers training held at Nyeri Town Fire Station. The training not only equipped the firefighters with skills and knowledge but also

fostered a spirit of teamwork, leadership, and community service. This marks a significant milestone facilitated by the

County Government of Nyeri jointly with the International Centre of Technology - ICT Fire and Rescue - Thika, Kiambu County.

The course entailed fire attack & foam, firefighter survival, fire suppression, vehicle extrication, search & rescue, and Emergency Vehicle Operation (EVOC). Governor Kahiga further acknowledged the commitment of the firemen in enhancing public safety and serving the community. The training will improve service delivery, skills enhancement, knowledge updates, and progression, scenario-based training which leads to certification which is critical in career advancement and progression.

Governor's Bursary Scholarship Beneficiaries Receive Their Cheques



Education is not preparation for life but life itself - John Dewey.

Education broadens the mind, illuminates the world, and accords young people the competence to think intensively and critically, shaping development agendas.

In light of this, H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga Ph.D., EGH presided over the disbursement of bursary cheques to 180 bright but vulnerable students across Nyeri Coun-

ty through the Governor's Bursary Scholarship Program that was initiated in the year 2018 to aid students who hail from humble backgrounds to secure their future. 120 students are already in higher education institutions.

He was accompanied by Nyeri Deputy Governor H.E David Kinaniri.

The students of Cohorts 4, 5, and 6 received a total of Kshs. 5 million from the last financial year.

This program absorbs 60 students annually and facilitates their secondary education through the provision of a four-year full bursary.

This venture aims at creating an adequate and quality pool of human resources that will drive and elevate the economy of the county and the country for these students are tomorrow's leaders.

Governor Kahiga urged the students to maintain discipline both at home and in

school, focus on their studies, set goals, and work towards achieving their dreams.

He also called upon the parents and students to keep their hopes alive and encouraged them not to focus on the hardships encountered while pursuing education. The students should also make use of the opportunity accorded to them as all necessary support will be accorded to them.

This administration remains committed to supporting the

education of our children, the improvement of academic performance in this County, and ultimately, the lives of its youth.

Through the Department of Education, the County Government of Nyeri distributed Kshs. 85 million from the Nyeri Elimu Bursary Funds kitty to over 17,500 beneficiaries from vulnerable backgrounds in secondary schools, universities, colleges, polytechnics, and special schools.

In Support of Agribusiness in the County



Nyeri County in collaboration with the Departments of Agriculture and Transport officially flagged off a fleet of motorcycles for agricultural

extension officers to strengthen their capacity for service delivery in the county.

This will ensure the mobility of extension officers to boost

agricultural productivity. The farmers will benefit from improved access to knowledge on modern farming techniques for crops, fisheries,

and livestock sector.

The eight Suzuki motorbikes add to the fleet of 16 others in the veterinary directorate and six others fisheries direc-

torate.

The extension officers will also be able to monitor the work of 210 agripreneurs extension officers who will soon be hired to boost extension services.

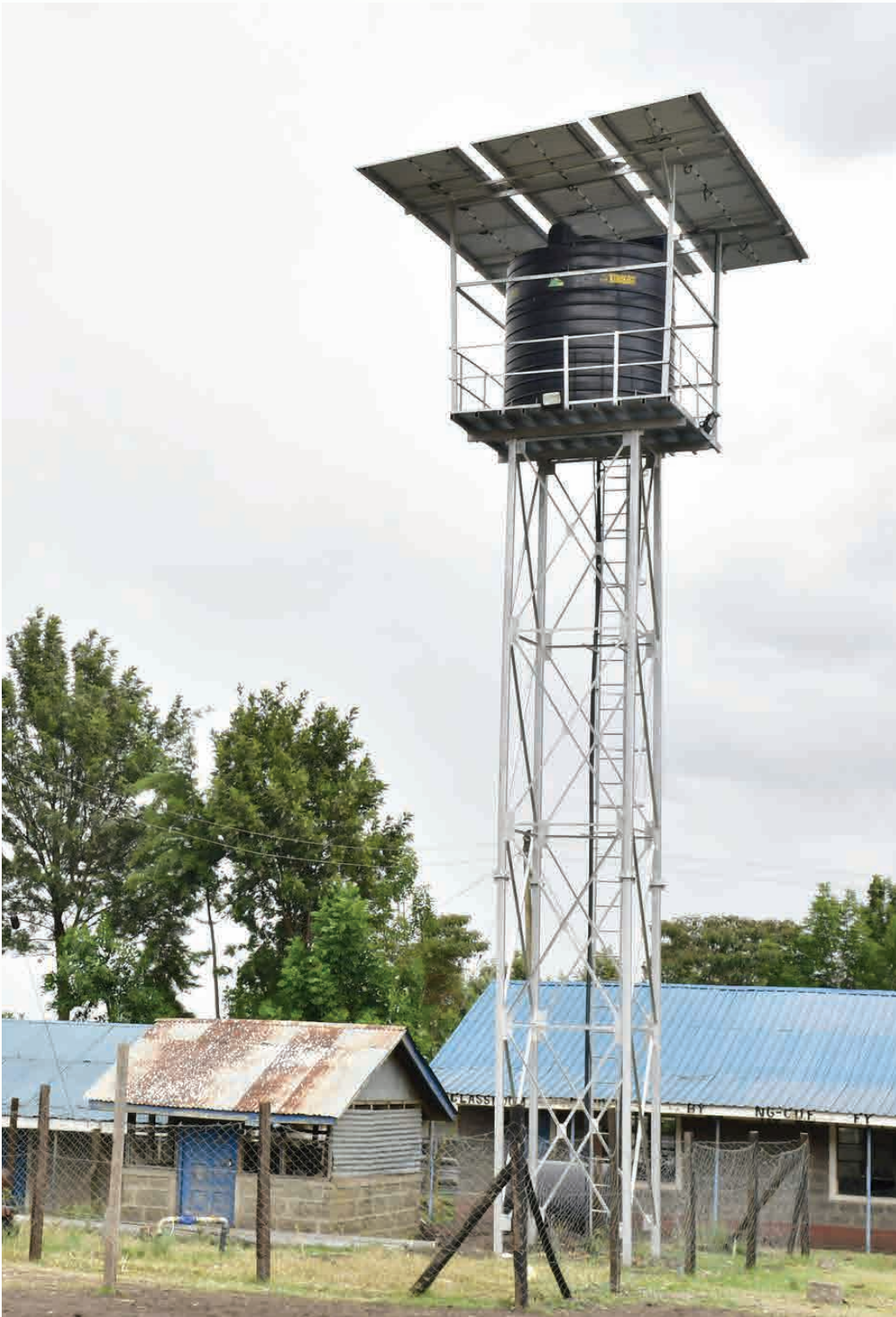
The County recognizes and appreciates the good work done by the 87 extension officers stationed around the eight sub-counties. There are plans to purchase more motorbikes to further improve services in the future. It is also committed to bolstering agricultural outreach, ensuring that extension officers can traverse remote regions effortlessly and enhance agricultural productivity for services to every farmer they reach in every village.

Significant Community Water Projects Take Off

Over 200 households at the boundary of Endarasha -Mwiyogo ward and Gatarakwa ward in Kieni West Sub County in Nyeri County can now access clean and safe drinking water, thanks to the Treffos Kiburuti Borehole Water Project funded by the Department of Water & Climate Change through Financing Locally-Led Climate Action Program, Kenya-Led Climate Action Program, Kenya (FLLO-CA) Program. With equipping and solarization already complete, the project is bringing reliable water supply to Ndunyu Primary School and other local public institutions, NdunyuGwathi trading centre, and residents of Kabati and Muthu-ini.

The residents can also grow horticultural crops, boosting food security, increasing income and creating employment. Kanyama Borehole Water Project at Kirimukuyu ward in Mathira West Sub County is complete and operational. The project done by the Community and the County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Water, Environment & Climate Change with other partners like World Bank under the Financing Locally-Led Climate Action Program, Kenya (FLLO-CA) was completed last year. The project has started supplying water for both irrigation and domestic use to over 100 households in Kanyama area

and parts of Giagachuiru areas. This will boost food security, increase income and create employment. Kanyiriri Borehole Project at Endarasha Mwiyogo ward in Kieni West is complete and operational. The project done by the County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Water, Environment & Climate Change together with other partners was completed last year. The project has started supplying water for both irrigation and domestic use to over 100 households in Karega, Muthengera, Kanyiriri, Umoja and Mwiyogo areas.



Upgrading of Informal Settlements Continues Through KISIP 2

Did you know that the primary goal of the Kenya Informal Sector Improvement Program II (KISIP 2) is to improve living conditions in the selected settlements in Nyeri County? Well, this is achieved by investing in infrastructure based on plans developed in consultation with the community, by supporting planning, surveying and issuance of land ownership documents to residents of informal settlements, and by strengthening capacity of county administrations to deliver on their mandates. In Nyeri County, settlements that were selected for infrastructure upgrading under Sub-component 1.2 are Kiamwathi and Chorong'i in Ruring'u ward, Nyeri Central sub-county, Kiawara in Rware ward, Nyeri Central sub-county, Mweiga in Mweiga ward, Kieni West sub-county and Ihwagi in Iria-ini ward, Mathira East sub-county are undergo-

ing revamping under the Main Works. As a result, the Department of Lands CO Fredrick Maina led a team from the KISIP II National Project Coordinating Team (NPCT), County Project Coordinating Team (CPCT) and representatives from the Consultant Gath Consulting Engineers and Losai Management Limited in undertaking a site visit to confirm the status of proposed road for upgrading and additional sewer element in Kiawara settlement, Nyeri town sub-county. This was after a team from the World Bank and NPCT conducted an Implementation Support Mission for the infrastructure works. Kiawara settlement is set to have improved access, modern drainage systems, streetlights, installation of two dumpsters, sewer connections and a high mast installation. Main Works are ongoing in the other four settlements.





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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES



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Governor Kahiga: Expect more projects this new year



Nyeri Governor H.E. Dr. Muthahi Kahiga, PhD, E.G.H has assured Nyerians that the county will benefit from more projects this year as some are in the process of

completion while others will be operationalized soon. During his New Year message, the Governor said many ongoing projects are expected to be completed by December 2025.

Such projects include the County Aggregation Integrated

Park in Kieni East Sub County where the County Government of Nyeri will invest a further Kshs. 100 Million and hope that the National Government keeps its promise of paying their Kshs. 250 Million shares.

The Nyeri County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP) is coming up in Thegu River Ward. Once complete, the Park will integrate with the existing aggregation units in the various value chains to ensure we can add more value to our products.

As Nyeri implements the third-generation County-Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), the County Government of Nyeri is building on the productivity gains achieved so far to enhance the marketing and commercialization of our value chains.

He added, “To further increase value ad-

dition and youth employment, my Government will equip a common user facility at Wambugu ATC with small equipment for Avocado oil extraction, macadamia cracking and roasting, and honey processing this financial year. Once ready, the facility will be available for our young people who will have undergone training and incubation to do business.”

“As we start the new year 2025, let us be hopeful that this year will ultimately be a year of blessings. I plead with the people of Nyeri to continue putting in the hard work for which they are known. No matter our calling, let us put all hands on deck as we build our county. Let us troop to our farms and till them for produce, both for consumption and for sale; Let the traders in all our markets work twice as much as they did this year, and let the boda boda rider, make double the trips he made last year as everyone does their part,” he appealed.

Already, the Nyeri citizenry has witnessed the completion of the Karatina Level 4 Hospital Emergency block, the Mukurwe-ini outpatient block, the upgrading of our roads destroyed by recent rains, and the lighting up of our trading centers amongst many other projects.

“We hope to finally roll out our valuation roll which has gone through all relevant stages and look forward to a reduction of rates through the lowering of the rating percentage to help boost our Own Source Revenue (OSR),” he added.

Some of the major achievements for the last one year:

In the past one year, the County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Transport, Public Works, Infrastructure and Energy upgraded 93.615 kilometers of earth road, to gravel/

murram standards; 0.8km of new roads were opened to improve mobility. These roads improved connectivity and marketing of agricultural goods and services that benefited the farmers in reduction of the post-harvest losses and the costs of doing business and maintenance of the vehicles within the County.

Four box culverts and one Footbridge were also constructed and improved connectivity between communities and the neighboring counties.

“During the last financial year, the Health Fund collected Ksh. 740 Million from a target of Ksh. 573. Million. With this trend, we are optimistic that, the hospital facilities will be able to provide real-time healthcare services and hence improved service delivery to all healthcare customers.

We have created centers of excellence in various hospitals, by expanding and refurbishing wards and theatres as well as working towards modernizing the Nyeri County Referral Hospital.” Said the Governor.

Through this initiative, the state-of-the-art Nyeri Town Mother & Child Department continues to offer maternal support to many women, the expansion of medical wards at the Nyeri County Referral Hospital, the installation of bulk liquid oxygen tanks in all 6 County hospitals, the completion of the emergency Unit at Karatina Level 4 Hospital.

The County Government of Nyeri continues to develop and maintain water and irrigation infrastructure to ensure the County is food secure. We have constructed water intakes, dams, and pans, installed water delivery pipelines, water storage masonry tanks as well as boreholes drilling, equipping, and rehabilitation. We have also continued on a sustainable

basis to support the water service providers to ensure uninterrupted water supply for consumption.

In realization of the construction of mass affordable housing units across the County, the Department of Lands, Physical Planning & Urban Development in collaboration with the National Government launched an affordable housing project in Blue Valley Estate endeavoring to establish 1,200 housing units.

Additionally, the Department has engaged the National Government to foster partnerships for the development and densification of six existing county estates to provide an additional 3,000 affordable housing units.

The Valuation Roll 2029 was completed and adopted by the cabinet and is now with the County Assembly of Nyeri. The County is looking forward to lowering land rates considerably for all land and plot owners within Nyeri Municipality.

The Department of Education, Devolution & Training has taken a lead in improving ECDE education in the County. In the last financial year, 34 new ECDE classrooms were constructed, the construction of 10 new toilet blocks was undertaken and the renovation of 13 ECDE classrooms and fencing of one ECDE center have been completed.

In collaboration with the Department of Environment and Water, to mitigate climate change, energy-saving jikos in ECDEs and VTCs were installed.

In the year under review, the Government installed 368 street lights and rehabilitated 5 flood lights. The directorate of energy also undertook a 0.7 km streetlight installation, 8 biogas plants serving 40 households, and 4 transformers during FY 23/24.

The CGN has continued to promote business and investments across the County through the Enterprise Development Fund. The Nyeri County Enterprise Development Fund continues to be a leading fund in lending credit to Small and Medium Enterprises to create informal employment. We have provided credit to promote investment and create job opportunities. The EDF currently has a portfolio of Kshs 76 Million.

Over 232 Small and Micro Enterprises borrowers have successfully accessed credit at a low interest rate of 5% on reducing balance per annum.



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



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