



Newsletter



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NYERI COUNTY, THE EPITOME OF EARLY LEARNING:

Why Counties Must Prioritize ECDE



Story by Governor's Press Unit | Compiled by Sheila Indusa

A child's first day in school shapes their perspective on education. The image that greets them on their first day of nursery school is permanently etched in their memory, influencing their attitude toward learning for years to come.

Now, picture a child reporting to school for the first

time, only to find themselves in a dilapidated structure serving as a classroom. Such an environment can foster a deep-seated negative perception of school, making learning seem like a burden rather than the exciting journey it should be. Therefore, it is imperative that we provide our young learners with proper facilities that nurture their development and instill a love for education from the outset. Research consistent-

ly highlights that the experiences and skills acquired in the early years form the bedrock of a child's cognitive, emotional, and social development.

As a devolved function, county governments bear the solemn responsibility of ensuring that the Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) sector is adequately resourced. This obligation is not merely an administrative duty but also

a moral imperative to invest in the future of our children and our nation at large.

It goes without saying that Nyeri Governor H.E. Dr. Mutahi Kahiga, PhD., EGH, with the support of the Department of Education, Training and Devolution, and the county leadership, continues to bear the responsibility of ensuring that ECDE is sufficiently funded and well-equipped.

Driven by this realization, the Governor has made ECDE a top priority in Nyeri County. By doing so, we are investing in the future of our county, our country, and the world.

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ECDE benefits children at a personal level by fostering cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development during their formative years. It enhances language and communication skills, laying a strong foundation for literacy and critical thinking. Through structured play and interaction, children develop social skills such as cooperation, empathy, and conflict resolution. ECDE also promotes emotional well-being by building self-confidence, resilience, and independence.

Nyeri County has also implemented a comprehensive step-by-step enrollment flow, including customer needs inquiry, information dissemination, ECDE learning workflow, co-curricular activities, and care for children with special needs.

Additionally, the County has introduced an intensive capacity-building program for ECDE teachers, covering crucial areas such as curriculum development, mental health, financial management, public health education, and team building. By equipping our teachers with the skills and knowledge they need, we ensure that they not only educate but also inspire and nurture the next generation of leaders. Education is the foundation upon which a prosperous society is built.

With devolution in 2013, the County Government of Nyeri absorbed 800 ECDE teachers into permanent and pensionable positions. The county has taken significant strides by providing junior facilities, constructing state-of-the-art classrooms and ablution blocks, funding CBC training for ECDE teachers, and implementing feeding programs in schools.

Annually, Nyeri County collects data from teachers through training needs assessment forms, where they indicate their qualifications both at work and outside work. With this bio-data, the Department of Education, Training, and Devolution conducts competency-based training.

During the last financial



year, the competency-based training focused on CBC training. Retraining is conducted both internally and externally. Internal training is carried out by professionals already employed by the County Government, while external training is outsourced from renowned institutions like Kagumo and Kamwenja Teachers' Training Colleges. The Governor has further enhanced these efforts by implementing feeding programs in schools, with 85% already operational in different wards.

In Othaya, the uji feeding program provides ECDE pupils with a cup of porridge every day. In Tetu, the Food for Education program has partnered with the county CDF to offer meals

to all students in Tetu Ward at an affordable fee of Ksh 15 per child daily, ensuring no child is left out. In Kiini-West, the County Government has partnered with World Vision NGO to provide teaching and learning materials for ECDE under the current CBC curriculum.

Children with special needs have also been included in these programs, aligning with the Kenya National Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) policy, which emphasizes inclusive education. This ensures that children with special needs receive adequate support.

The recommended teacher-to-learner ratio for ECDE learners with special needs

varies based on the type and severity of the disability. For children with autism, the policy recommends a ratio of 1 teacher to 4 learners (1:4). This ratio also applies to learners with severe mental handicaps, cerebral palsy, and severe physical impairments.

Other disabilities have different recommended ratios; for instance, the ratio for hearing-impaired learners is 1:12, while for visually impaired learners, it is 1:15. These guidelines aim to ensure that each child receives the necessary attention and support tailored to their specific needs. This information is based on a 2023 report by the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) on autism and related develop-

mental disabilities in Kenya.

Despite these policy recommendations, achieving the ideal teacher-to-learner ratios remains a challenge in many regions, including Nyeri County, due to teacher shortages and resource constraints. A study conducted across counties revealed varying ratios, with some counties having a ratio of 1:35, while others ranged from 1:50 to 1:78. These disparities highlight the need for continued efforts to train more teachers.

Investing in ECDE benefits not only our children within the education system but also contributes to overall human capital development. Academic powerhouses like Finland and Germany have set exemplary standards in early childhood education, demonstrating that a strong foundation in the formative years translates into long-term academic and professional success.

If Kenya aspires to compete on the global stage, we must follow suit and prioritize ECDE as a cornerstone of our education system. Nyeri County is determined to address this issue by continually training, promoting, and supporting our ECDE teachers, as evidenced by the 800 already absorbed on permanent and pensionable terms.



The Mega Graduation Ceremony – A first of its kind



**Story - Joseph Wambugu-
Photo - Kennedy Karanja**

Nyeri Governor H.E Dr. Mwalimu Mutahi, PhD., presided over a mega graduation ceremony, a first of its kind in Nyeri County, for the 1,619 graduates from the 26 Vocational Training Centers (VTCs) across the eight sub-counties in Nyeri County. This was a celebration of one of the success stories between the County Government of Nyeri and the support from Public Private Partnership. All the 26 VTCs greatly benefitted from this collaboration with Kenya Commercial Bank Foundation's support through the KCB 2jiajiri Program. Through this program, the VTCs have benefitted from training on technical skills to enable them to start their businesses. This partnership focuses on vocational training centers (VTCs) across Nyeri County. The County Government of Nyeri contributed 50% of the sponsorship fees, and

KCB Foundation contributed the 50 % balance. The program offers full scholarships for technical courses, which include motor vehicle mechanics, electrical installation, hairdressing, and beauty therapy among others. In the graduation held at Dedan Kimathi Kamukunji grounds, Nyeri town, a total of 250 trainees were awarded with start-up toolkits. This joint program has

sponsored 1619 trainees. This includes 728 females and 891 males. The number of the trainees graduating is as follows;

- ICT/Computer Operations - 45
- Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy -394
- Plumbing - 388
- Electrical Wiring - 255
- Fashion and Design - 112
- Building Technology/Masonry - 78
- Motor Vehicle Mechanics

- 88
- Carpentry and Joinery - 21
- Welding and Fabrication - 50
- Food and Beverages Production - 162
- Solar Photovoltaic - 7
- Shoe Making - 19

To support the VTCs, the County Government of Nyeri employed 83 instructors on permanent terms. In addition, this Financial Year 2024/2025, another 20 instructors have been

recruited on contractual terms. In terms of financial support, this current financial year, 2024/2025, the County Government transferred a grant of Ksh. 15 million that was distributed to all the VTCs based on the trainees' enrollment. The graduates should know that graduation is not the end of government support as they enter the labour market. The County, in partnership with the National Employment Authority (NEA), has worked to inform VTC managers about job opportunities both locally and internationally. Governor Kahiga also encouraged all to log in to the NEA website and register in case of any arising opportunities as one can also apply for government tenders to manufacture and supply goods and services through Access to Government Procurement Opportunities. He also wished all the graduates success in all their future endeavors.



Pictorial

KAHETI VTC
MUKURWE-INI SUB-COUNTY

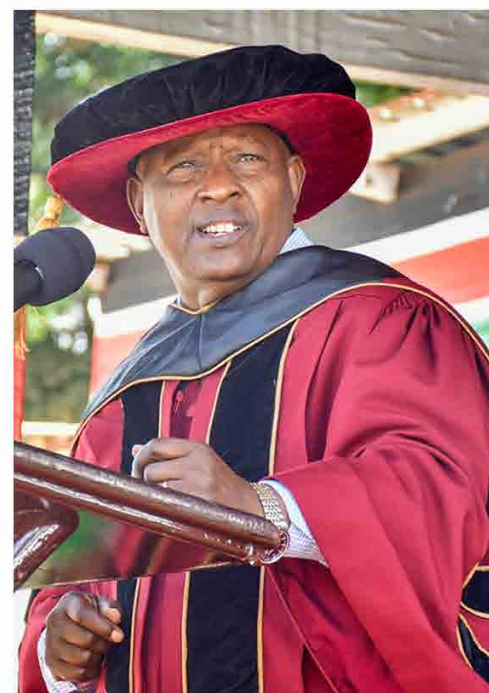
RUKIRA VTC
OTHAYA SUB-COUNTY

NAIRUTIA VTC
KIENI WEST SUB-COUNTY

GICHIRI VTC
TETU SUB-COUNTY

GATHUTHI VTC
TETU SUB-COUNTY

ENDARASHA VTC
KIENI WEST SUB-COUNTY



Ruring’u Stadium fact-finding Mission



Story - Joseph Wambugu
Photo - Kenneth Ngatia

Nyeri Governor H.E. Dr. Mutahi Kahiga joined Sports CS H.E. Salim Mvurya during a fact-finding mission of the stalled Ruring’u Stadium in Nyeri County.

He was pleased to hear the CS promise that the National Government would complete the stadium within the next one year, and that a new contractor, jointly with the Kenya Defence Forces, would take over the construction of the project, which has been incomplete

since it started eight years ago. Governor Kahiga expressed his thanks to the CS for the promise that the prototype stadium will be expanded from a 2,000 - spectator capacity to a 15,000 capacity of international standards. Should this promise be

met, the stadium would boost sports activities in the County and also boost the local economy through the hosting of various sports activities, including athletics, football among other games. Dr. Kahiga’s administration stands ready to support the National Government in

this regard. The area MP, Hon. Duncan Maina, was also present. The County Government of Nyeri had already erected a permanent fence around the stadium a few years ago.

Nyeri Tech 5th Graduation



Story - Joseph Wambugu
Photo - Samwel Gitonga

Nyeri Governor H.E. Dr. Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga was pleased to join Education CS Hon. Julius Migos Ogamba, other leaders, and the Nyeri National Poly-

technic fraternity during the 5th Graduation Ceremony of after successfully finishing their courses. Nyeri National Polytechnic stands as a beacon of technical and vocational education excellence. NNP continues to stand at the forefront of TVET ed-

ucation, fostering a culture of innovation, skill development, and industry readiness. He encouraged the graduates to leverage their newly acquired knowledge to become innovative problem solvers and contribute positively to society.

“Nyeri County is proud of you and looks forward to the positive impact you will make,” he added. Governor Kahiga also announced that preparations were ongoing for a colourful graduation ceremony for 1,000 graduands following a joint partnership between

the County Government of Nyeri and KCB Group following completion of their six months’ training. He ended by urging the graduates to go out there and become employers, not just employees. Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2025!

PPEs for Solid Waste Management Staff



Story - Lynette & Photo - Peter Wangari

The people who perform essential yet often unnoticed jobs in our communities—those who sweep our streets, collect our garbage, and keep our environment clean perform a critical role in maintaining public health and sanitation. Many of them work under difficult conditions,

exposed to health hazards and various environmental risks. These workers need protective equipment to ensure their safety and well-being as they carry out their vital tasks. Peter Macharia Ngatia, the CECM for County Public Service and Solid Waste Management, led the Department in issuing uniforms-personal protective equipment (PPEs) for the Solid Waste Management

staff. The initiative aimed to enhance the well-being and safety of the staff working in the Department by providing them with the necessary protective gear. The distribution of the PPEs covered seven subcounties, including Othaya, Kieni East, Kieni West, Mathira East, Mathira West, Tetu, and Mukurwe-ini. Each of these sub-counties was represented by their respective Public Health Officers, who

attended the event to ensure that their staff would be well-equipped for their duties. The event also saw the presence of other key officials, reinforcing the importance of the initiative. The provision of uniforms and PPEs is seen as a significant step in improving the working conditions and ensuring the safety of the waste management staff across the region. Guided by H.E. Dr. Gover-

nor Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga, Nyeri County strives to be at the forefront of sustainable waste management, ensuring a clean and healthy environment for the well-being of both current and future generations. The provision of uniforms and PPEs is a step toward creating a safer, cleaner environment while recognizing the dedication of the workers who make it possible.



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Community Outreaches at Karia Health Centre & Njokini Dispensary



Story & Photo - Catherine Muthoni

The Department of Medical Services and Public Health successfully conducted community health outreaches at Karia Health

Centre (Nyeri Central Sub-County) and Njokini Dispensary (Mukurwe-ini Sub-County) in partnership with Amref Health Africa – Project THRIVE. As part of these initiatives, they also commemorated

World TB Day by offering free TB screening, emphasizing the importance of early detection, prevention, and treatment in the fight against Tuberculosis. Key Services Provided:

- Health Education
- TB Awareness & Prevention
- Free TB Screening
- Random Blood Sugar (RBS) & Hypertension Screening
- General Medical consultations, Dental

checkups, Eye screenings, Dermatology Reviews

- HIV Testing & Screening
- Social Health Authority (SHA) Registration & Awareness

Community members were encouraged to enroll in SHA coverage and pay their monthly premiums, ensuring better access to essential healthcare services for themselves and their dependents. The Department appreciates the Sub-County Health Management Teams (SCHMTs) and Project THRIVE Coordinators Deborah Kioko and Anthony Msongo for their dedication and support in making these outreaches impactful. Together, we continue to prioritize community health.

Sensitization Workshop for WCCPC Secretaries



Story & Photo - Joseph Wambugu

The Department of Water, Environment, and Climate Change, which is implementing the Financing Locally led Climate Action program (FLLoCA), organized a two-day sensitization workshop for the Ward Climate Change Planning

Committee (WCCPC) Secretaries. Water, Environment and Climate Change CECM Fredrick Kinyua while officially opening the workshop noted that this was aimed to strengthen the capacity of the WCCPC Secretaries, who play a critical role in coordinating climate action activities at the ward level.

Some of the topics covered included:

- Basics of Climate Change, Causes, Impacts, and Responses in Kenya
- Overview of the FLLoCA
- Program and its Implementation in Nyeri County
- Role of WCCPC Secretaries in Climate Governance & in FLLoCA
- Climate Finance and Funding Opportunities in

- the counties
- Gender and Social Inclusion in Climate Action
- Project Proposal Writing and Adaptation Projects Identification
- Grievance Redress Mechanisms
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Climate Change projects
- Community Engagement and Public Participation

Environment Director Yvonne Mathenge noted that this is aimed at enhancing their effectiveness in the documentation of the programmes. The secretaries in attendance were drawn from all 30 wards in Nyeri County.

Water capacity building forum held in Kieni East



Story - Sheila Indusa
Photo - Rosebelle Wambui

The Nyeri County Civ-

il Societies Organisation Network (NCCSON), (VSO) Voluntary Services Oversees and FLLoCA held another advocacy and

communication capacity-building forum in Kimahuri, Thegu River ward in Kieni - East Sub-County.

The engagement aimed to enhance public participation and capacity-building support to ensure the Gatagati and Mitero Water

Project is running smoothly and benefiting the people of the Kimahuri area. The Gatagati-Mitero borehole is amongst the FLLoCA projects, which is complete and already benefiting the institutions and local residents in Kimahuri areas. The initiative is a rehabilitation of the already existing 2018-2019 flagship borehole project of the County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Water jointly with FLLoCA, Courtesy of the National Harvesting and Storage Authority and Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Co-operation (REREC) who supported the project by drilling and installation of the solar panels.

Emergency Response to Ngangarithi Neighbourhood Fire Incident



Story - Rozina Nderi
Photo - Jim Stephen

In the wake of a devastating fire that ravaged the Ngangarithi area of Nyeri Town Constituency recently, which left numerous families displaced and suffering

significant property loss, the Department of Gender, Youth, Sports, and Social Services acted with immediate urgency. To alleviate the immediate suffering of the affected residents, the Department deployed essential emergency relief. This includ-

ed the distribution of iron sheets to facilitate the rapid construction of temporary shelters and the provision of blankets to offer warmth and comfort, with a focus on prioritizing vulnerable individuals, such as children and the elderly. Furthermore, the Depart-

ment addressed the critical nutritional needs of the displaced families by distributing food packages containing staple items. SWO Mary Muchiri of Nyeri Central, representing the Department of Gender, Youth, Sports, and Social Services, and with lo-

cal leadership coordinated these relief efforts. The Department of Gender, Youth, Sports, and Social Services remains committed to supporting the affected community and ensuring their long-term recovery.

Kenya Sign Language Training: Collaborative Efforts in the Promotion of a Barrier - Free Society for Persons with Disabilities



Story - Rozina Nderi
Photo - Jim Stephen

The Department of Gender, Youth, Sports and Social Services has marked a remarkable achievement towards inclusivity and access to communication as a cohort of 36 sign language trainees drawn from the County Government and various National Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies completed the training. The ability to communicate is fundamental to every individual, and by fostering understanding and skills in sign language, we are empowering people and promoting a more inclusive environment for all. Sign language serves as a bridge for many individuals in our communities, enabling them to express themselves and engage fully in society. It is an essential tool for enhancing commu-

nication and creating opportunities for everyone. The five-month training program, which is taking place between January to May 2025, sponsored by the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) in collaboration with KISE (Kenya Institute of Special Education) is aimed at equipping civil servants with KSL skills. 36 trainees benefited from this incredible initiative among them were 14 Nyeri County staff employees. The trainees are through with the theory sessions and they will proceed for the attachment in bid to acquire more Sign language skills. The main objectives of this training on Basic Kenya Sign Language include:

- Enhancing Inclusivity and Accessibility
- Improving Service delivery
- Promoting awareness and sensitization

- Strengthening social integration and equal opportunities

During the closing ceremony, CECM Gender, Youth, Sports and Social Services Esther Ndung'u, emphasized that the promotion of the use of sign language across various spaces—such as schools, workplaces, and public services enhances inclusion for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. Quoting SDG 10: on Reduced Inequalities; Specifically, Target 10.2 that aims to empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, regardless of age, gender, disability, racial or ethnic group, migrant status, or other status; she underscored the importance of availing equal access to opportunities, which is crucial for creating a fair and inclusive society. "To our graduates, congratulations! Your hard work,

dedication, and commitment to learning sign language will have a profound impact on the lives of many. As you step into this new chapter, remember that you are not just interpreters; you are advocates for equality, understanding, and access" she advised. The CECM also expressed appreciation to NCPWD through the NCPWD - Nyeri Office for their commitment to sign language capacity-building for County staff, KISE for facilitating the training, the trainers for their dedication, trainees for their hard work and Nyeri National Polytechnic for providing the training venue. The CECM also highlighted that the County Government has made significant strides in promoting inclusivity by offering waivers for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). This initiative ensures that individuals

with disabilities have equal access to opportunities, especially in government procurement processes. Furthermore, the CECM emphasized the importance of the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) sensitization training. Through this training, the County Government ensures that PWDs are aware of and can actively participate in government procurement opportunities, fostering economic empowerment and inclusion within the community, departments, public services and institutions to embrace inclusivity. "It is essential that we ensure our communication strategies are inclusive and accessible to everyone. Let us work together towards fostering a culture of inclusion, where every voice is heard, and every individual is celebrated", CECM Esther Ndung'u Concluded.

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How Nyota bean is transforming lives in Kieni

(PUBRA). 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...