



Newsletter



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Our Culture. Our Talent. Our Story

The 6th Nyeri Tourism & Cultural Festival Auditions

Story by Governor's Press Unit | Compiled by Priscilla Muthoni

Culture is the soul of a people expressed in how we speak, dance, dress, create, and connect, while talent is the spark that breathes life into this culture, passed down through generations and re-imagined in dynamic new forms.

Together, they shape our identity and give us a voice. By celebrating and showcasing our cultural heritage and talent, we not only preserve our essence but also create pathways for

meaningful connections and economic growth through tourism.

The journey toward the much-anticipated 6th Nyeri Tourism & Cultural Festival began with vibrant auditions held across all eight sub-counties—Nyeri Central, Tetu, Mathira East, Mathira West, Mukurwe-ini, Othaya, Kieni East, and Kieni West.

Nyeri County Citizenry will attest that this was the best entertaining edi-

tion ever held in the County. It also attracted most of the participants and fans not forgetting the unique exhibited talents.

This annual showcase is spearheaded by the Department of Trade, Cooperatives, Culture and Tourism led by CECM Diana Kendi, with the most able support of H.E Governor Dr. Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga, PHD., EGH and his administration.

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Over the past two weeks, hundreds of residents showcased their skills in music, dance, poetry, fashion, drama, visual arts, creative crafts, and film. Each performance is a powerful testament to Nyeri's rich cultural heritage and creative potential.

Every stop unearths fresh, raw talent and a deep sense of community pride. People of all ages - young and old - turned up in large numbers to support the participants and celebrate Nyeri's cultural richness.

The panel of judges had the tough task of selecting the most outstanding acts to represent their regions in the grand celebration.

With the auditions now concluded, the spotlight turns to the upcoming 6th Tourism & Cultural Festival, where the selected finalists will compete for the premier award.



Participants are to attend an eight-day boot camp designed to equip them with knowledge on tourism, leadership, culture, and personal development as they

prepare to represent the County with pride and purpose.

Nyeri County's Cultural Festival adds its presence

to others like it that take place across various counties that take pride in celebrating their unique history, culture, talent and tourism potential; as the Turkana

Cultural Festival, Maulidi Cultural Festival, Rusinga Island Festival, and the Traditional Tharaka Nithi Cultural Festival attest.

On a national scale, we find the Kenya National Drama and Music Festivals, veritable extravaganzas in their own right.

It therefore goes without saying that events such as the upcoming 6th Nyeri Tourism & Cultural Festival hold a very important place in our society, while offering a chance to showcase skills and talents, also serves as an important platform for instilling and disseminating positive values, while addressing pertinent societal concerns.



The highlight of the event will be the crowning of Mr. & Miss Tourism Nyeri County—a fusion of elegance, intellect, and cultural pride.

The fete is set to take place on 30th & 31st May, this year at Dedan Kimathi Kamukunji Grounds in Nyeri town. Notably, high-ranking dignitaries will grace the occasion, opening doors to potential job opportunities, collaborations, and creative gigs for the contestants.

In the lead-up to this Grand Finale, finalists in the pag-



KISIP II Conducts M&E Exercise in five Settlements



Story & Photo - Kenneth Ngatia

The Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Program 2 (KISIP II) through the National Project Coordinating Team (NPCT) conducted a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation exercise in four settlements in Nyeri County. Guided by the Project Manager Joseph Mwangi, the delegation included representatives from

the County Project Coordinating Team (CPCT), Gath Consulting Engineers, Losai Management Ltd., and High Point & Pinnie Agency Limited. During the visit, the NPCT team commended the County Government of Nyeri for their strong partnership and proactive approach in facilitating the project's implementation, which was under KISIP II component 1.2 – Infrastructure upgrading for infrastructure facelifting.

The team assessed ongoing works in Chorong'i and Kiamwathi settlements in Ruring'u Ward, Kiawara settlement in Rware Ward, Mweiga Settlement in Mweiga Ward and Ihwagi in Iriani ward. These settlements were set to benefit from significant infrastructure upgrades under the program, including:

- Construction of tarmac roads with integrated drainage systems
- Installation of street light-

ing, footpaths and high masts

- Improved sewer and water connections
- Installation of a dumpsters, among others.

These improvements aligned with KISIP II's core objective of enhancing access to basic services in informal settlements. The program, jointly funded by the World Bank, the Government of Kenya, and development partners, built upon the successes of KISIP I by

expanding infrastructure development and institutional capacity building for sustainable slum upgrading nationwide. The site visit demonstrated the program's commitment to transparent implementation and quality assurance as it worked to transform living conditions in participating urban informal settlements.

Plan to Expand Revenue Streams in Nyeri kicks off

Story - Barbara Wambui & Photo - Kenneth Ngatia

On behalf of Nyeri's Governor H.E Dr. Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga, the Deputy Governor H.E David Kinaniri officially opened a workshop on Model Tariffs & Pricing Policy and the Draft Finance Bill 2025. Attendees drawn from all County Departments and Commissioners from the Commission in Revenue Allocation (CRA) were to collectively look at tariffs and develop policies that will guide Nyeri County on its revenue projections and



generation. Commissioner Dr. George Midiwo led the CRA team, who pointed out the importance of the exercise in determining the cost of providing services to Nyeri's

citizenry. In addition, the exercise aimed to step down various policies to become more Nyeri-specific. It was expected that by the end of the workshop, Nyeri County would be in a much

better position to strengthen and improve its own-source revenue generation and collection, as well as expand its revenue streams. H.E the Deputy Governor wished the team all the best

during their deliberations and expressed his anticipation on the presentation of policies and documents to be formed as part of the deliverables.

Routine inspection of the ongoing KISIP II Main Works



Story & Photo - Kenneth Ngatia

The Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Program 2 (KISIP II) County Project Coordinator, Beatrice Koech led the County Project Coordinating Team (CPCT), Gath Consulting Engineers, Losai Management Ltd., and High Point &

Pinnie Agency Limited for a routine site visit to monitor and evaluate the progress of the KISIP II Main Works. The teams visited Chorong'i and Kiamwathi Settlements in Ruring'u ward, Nyeri Central sub-county, Kiawara in Rware ward, Nyeri Central sub-county and Mweiga settlement in Mweiga ward, Kieni West sub-county.

The settlements were expected to benefit from infrastructure upgrading including but not limited to; construction of tarmac roads with efficient drainage systems, street lights, footpaths, seamless water connections through trunk and consumer connections, solid waste management by installation of dumpsters in-line with the KISIP II

primary development objective of improving access to basic services in informal settlements. KISIP 2 was a development project financed by the World Bank, the Government of Kenya and other development partners whose objective was to systematically scale up the work of KISIP I and reach more settlements and popu-

lation through the provision of basic infrastructure such as high masts, upgrading of access roads, water and sanitation services, footpaths among others in participating urban informal settlements and to strengthen institutional capacity for slum upgrading in Kenya.



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Nyeri Youth Sector Working Group visits Finance CECM



Story - Imelda Kinogu &
Photo - Kenneth Ngatia

Department of Finance, Economic Planning & ICT CECM Robert Thuo accompanied by Chief Officer Dr. Michael Gacheru played host to the Nyeri Youth Sector Working Group. The Group's visit was a follow-up to a previously submitted petition to the Department of Finance, Economic Planning & ICT, focused on the enhancement of youth inclusivity in the budget-making process and public participation of the Nyeri Program Based Budget 2025/26. Facilitated by Joan Wambui, Lerwis Brown Mathenge, and other passionate members, the Nyeri Youth Sector Working Group was established on 3rd April 2025.

The youth-led advocacy initiative operates under the Leadership and Governance thematic area of the Nyeri Youth Development Policy. With a membership of 30 vibrant youths from across the Mount Kenya region, the group has championed the implementation of the Youth Development Policy—placing particular emphasis on civic education, youth engagement in budgeting, and the advancement of youth-serving programs. The meeting sought to amplify that mission by exploring how youth voices can be more meaningfully included in public finance discussions, and how they can exercise their rights and responsibilities within Kenya's budget-making ecosystem.

Key agenda items included:

- The structure and stages of the budget-making process.
- Mechanisms for public participation—including accessibility, transparency, and effectiveness.
- Youth issues as outlined in the Youth Development Policy.
- Strategies for embedding youth priorities into ward-based development projects.

The Department delved into the legal and structural frameworks that shape public finance and development planning in Kenya. The Kenyan Constitution (2010) and the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act of 2012 were cited as cornerstone documents for understanding how public resources are managed across national and county

governments. The PFM Act specifically mandates transparent, accountable, and efficient financial practices—including budgeting, procurement, and reporting. Of equal importance was the Nyeri County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP)—a five-year strategic document that outlined development priorities and formed the basis for annual budgets. The plan was subject to oversight from the Auditor General and the Controller of Budget, ensuring financial discipline and public accountability. Participants were also reminded that budget-making follows strict legal timelines, and that public participation forums—which are essential platforms for community voic-

es—are advertised at least seven days in advance. Notices are typically circulated through the county website, newspapers, church announcements, chiefs, and other administrative channels. To improve turnout and effectiveness, the importance of youth-led mobilization was emphasized—encouraging young people not just to attend, but to rally their peers and communities toward active, informed participation. Public participation, after all, is not only a constitutional right, but a catalyst for inclusive and accountable governance. Citizens were further encouraged to regularly visit the Nyeri County website, where gazetted documents—including audit reports, budget plans, and policy updates—are available for public access. That promotes transparency and allows residents, especially youth advocates, to follow up on the utilization of public funds and track the progress of the youth-centred programs. Finally, the group was urged to explore the possibility of engaging directly with the County Assembly Budget Committee, to advocate for more targeted funding toward youth priorities—particularly in the areas of agribusiness, entrepreneurship, talent development, and job creation.



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI
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Nyeri Posts Outstanding Performance at 10th KYISA Games

Story & Photo - Monica Thumbi & Peter Wangari

The Kenya Youth Inter-County Sports Association's (KYISA) main objective is to promote and develop sports talent among young people, foster national cohesion and peace through competition at the

grassroots level. KYISA also aims to identify and nurture young athletes, providing them with opportunities for growth and recognition, ultimately contributing to a stronger and more unified nation. During the awarding ceremony that also marked the conclusion of the KYISA 10th edition, 2025 competi-

tion in Home Bay County, Nyeri County was proudly recognized as the women's football team received the award for securing 4th place in the hotly contested matches. While speaking during the closing ceremony, the CECM Esther Ndung'u commended the KYISA committee for organising

the games. She also urged Counties to continue upholding the integrity of KYISA by not fielding ineligible players as the main aim was to tap talents from the grassroots, nurture and support them. Throughout the games period the Nyeri team displayed a spirit of dedication, sportsmanship, and camaraderie.

Congratulations to all the participants and winners. We look forward to continuous scouting for players, more engagement and inspiring performances as we endeavour to empower our youth through nurturing and development of talents.

