GREAT STRIDES OF PROGRESS
IN TWO AND A HALF YEARS

Counties in Kenya formally came into existence following the elections of March 2013 as planned in the new constitution promulgated on 27th of August, 2010. Those of us who were popularly mandated by the people to help establish and steer the newly minted Nyeri County started with no doubt in our minds that Nyeri County had great potential and would greatly benefit from this new dispensation. Our resolve then (as now) was to do everything in our powers to ensure that the people of Nyeri reap big from this new dispensation that represents a paradigm shift in the governance of our beloved motherland.

Despite the myriad challenges and teething problems that would be expected at the beginning of any new initiative, we are confident that we have now set the ball rolling in the right direction. We started our journey by creating and operationalizing necessary institutions such as the County Assembly, Executive Committee, Public Service Board and others. This is turn led to the creation of formal structures subsequent and staffing of various positions at Ward, Sub County and County Level.

Our county integrated development plan was launched within a few months of assuming office and has continued to be our reference point. We have spent the last 2 years trying to live up to our vision as captured in the CIDP. While we acknowledge that a lot remains to be achieved, we would like to share with our stakeholders some of our achievements we have recorded so far, in the hope that we can celebrate together even as we look for feedback and suggestions and contributions on possible ways of improving our service to the people.

Though each of our departments will give its story, I hereby provide a summary that gives you a good birds-eye view. Our major focus in this first 2 years was on health, agriculture, water, security and welfare for the vulnerable.

In Health we started by studying the healthfulness of our people, quickly establishing that the main cross cutting challenges were...
Gachagua restructures his Government for effective and efficient service delivery

By Jack Kabiru

Three county executives were on 10th December, 2015 sent on a 90-day compulsory leave and replaced in chang-
es by Governor Erustus Gachagua. In the changes, the governor brought into his Cabinet Lucy Wanyitu, represent-
 ing people living with disabilities at the Nyeri County Assembly by nominating her as the Special Programmes, Youth and Sports Executive. Ms Wanyitu, a TNA MCA, replaces Priscillah Wanyiri who is on compulsory leave. Also sent on leave were Elijah Ngoyo who was the Education and Information and Commu-
nication Technology executive, and his Energy counterpart, Joseph Katuru.

Mr Gachagua said the three were sent on a 90-day leave “in accordance with the county human resource regulations for them to recuperate for efficient ser-
vice delivery”.

Mr Ngoyo’s office was taken over by Erastus Murii, while Robert Than, The Agriculture Executive was named as the acting Energy, Lands and Infrastructure executive. The governor named George Kariki as his new political advisor, for-
merly a role played by Mr. Duncan Main-
na. Mr. Jacob Munene was appointed as the acting chief of staff.

At the same time, Public Administra-
tion Chief Officer Alice Wachira will be the acting county secretary, following the mutually agreed resignation of Ms Wam-
bui Kimathi, a former commissioner with the Kenya National Commission on Hu-
man Rights. “Out of these changes, and for the positions that have fallen vacant or have been created, I am requesting the county assembly to fast track the vetting process of the persons we shall nominate so that my team and I can get down to work as soon as possible,” said Gach-
agua.

At the Press conference, Gachagua was accompanied by his deputy, Samuel Wamathai at a press conference where he announced changes in his execu-
tive to ensure that they are working for the people and utilize integrity, accountability and transparency by all state and pub-
lic officials in his administration.

In particular, he emphasized on the accountable implementation of budgets and the procedural and lawful public procurement of goods and services. He urged all public

The two arms of the County Government - The County Assembly and The Executive work closely together for the welfare of the people of Nyeri County.

The county assembly was up and running 3 weeks after the general elec-
tion of 4th March 2013. On March 22nd, the Nyeri Members of County Assembly (MCA’s) were sworn in (including nom-
inated MCA’s) and Hon. David Mugo elected to the position of speaker.

The first bill to be debated and passed was the Nyeri county appropriations act, 2013, and sponsored by Hon. Gitusuka Kiara was passed and gazetted in March 2014.

Other bills passed since then include, the Nyeri county Sup-

Pending bills include, The Nyeri County Co-operatives Societies Bill, 2015, Nyeri County Physical Planning Bill, Nyeri County Finance Bill, 2015, Nyeri County Emergency Fund Bill. The county assembly is now well set and is working well with all other stakeholders for the good of the Nyieri.

We hope fulfill our mandate by passing and gazetting all necessary bills, as well as presiding over the executive. Our gazetted offices are at the former offices of the Nyeri county assembly.

Nyeri county assembly is a fine example of how the devolution dispensation will help empower and uplift ordinary Kenyans at the grass roots. MCA’s live with the people and are able to identify their needs and wants, and recommend appropriate legislation while also keeping an eye on the executive to ensure that they are working for the people and utilizing available funds wisely.

Duncan Gitusuka Kiara Majority Leader County Assembly of Nyeri.

Hon. Mwangi Mugo Speaker of the County Assembly of Nyeri.

Mr. George Washington Karuki Political Advisor to the Governor

Mr. Matus Karuki Karonja - nominee for Education and ICT Department as CEC.

Mrs. Lucy Wanyitu - nominee for Special Programmes Youth and Sports as CEC.
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
SCORE CARD FYR 2013 / 2014 & 2014 / 2015

Nyeri Health Sector Strategic Direction

On 3rd of October 2014 the Health sector launched its 1st County Health Strategic Plan FYR 2013/14 -2018 (5yrs). This document was prepared through intensive and extensive consultation with the stakeholders to guide health services in the county. It is the blue print that spells our road map for the next 5 years. The document guides in preparation of annual work plans and budgeting for efficient and equitable utilisation of available resources.

LEVEL 1 HEALTH SERVICES:
The department of health targeted to serve 980,000 population which covers all sub-counties in the county. This has been achieved and 2,510 community health Volunteers (CHVs) recruited. Each community unit is managed by 10 community volunteers. To date the county government have budgeted 57 million in 2015/2016 financial year. During the last one year, the county government increased the tonnage from 14,126 tons last year to 23,611 by June 2015.

The Department undertook to increase efficiency and alignment of health services has improved as seen by tonnage handled. With a fleet of 6 tractors, 5 tipper Lorries and 26 jeeps, we have enhanced the efficiency of the service delivery and the performance of the department where we now have an average efficiency of 84%.

Further the county government is committed to completing stalled project and constructing new facility in order to improve access according to the CDP. The following facility are earmarked for this activity:

1. Mathangini dispensary
2. Thung’uari dispensary
3. Kargi dispensary
4. Gateni dispensary
5. Kihone dispensary
6. Kianjogu Dispensary
7. Kinyati dispensary
8. Gakha Dispensary
9. Kiambo dispensary
10. Mucharage dispensary
11. Thanganyia dispensary

The department received from Her Excellency Mrs. Margaret Uhuru Kenyatta, a state of the art Mobile clinic for the Beyond Zero Campaign in reproductive health. The mobile clinic is deployed in the hard to reach areas of Kieni sub-counties.

The mobile clinic main focus is on maternal health and child health. The major target areas for the beyond zero campaign is aimed towards zero maternal and child mortality due to lack of access to emergency health care.

The mobile clinic comes in handy during medical camps and during world and national events. The following is the number of clients screened during the mobile clinics:

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING SERVICES:
The county government is modernizing and expanding diagnostic Imaging services. During the period under review, Diagnostic Imaging Services were commissioned in Kieni and Nairobi West Health Centres. These are the first of their kind in Kieni East and West.

Diagnostic Imaging services have been done through procurement of Integrated Computerized Radiographic digital attachments for day light processing in 3 hospitals County referral, Karatia and Mukuru-i. Mammography equipment has been commissioned in Karatia Hospital and upgrading of ultrasonic services in all the 5 county hospitals have been accomplished. In order to maintain and enhance these capital investments, there is need to increase the number of staff working in the department and at the same time support those who are import to upgrade their trainings.

HIV/ Aids Activities

The charges for these services have been greatly subsidized a patient will only pay 5.000 shillings per consultation and those with NHIF cards 3,000. Civil servants and their families who have a comprehensive NHIF cover will receive the service free of charge. It is hoped the new NHIF package will cover this service in total.

Although the current staffing of one doctor who is in charge of the unit, 5 senior nursing officers and two nutritionists were given OJT and mentorship at the Kenyatta National Hospital, there is need to invest in the current staffing and consider increasing the number of trained health workers in this field for optimal utilisation of the unit.

RENAI DIALYSIS SERVICES:
In an effort to combat the rising trend of non communicable diseases and associated medical complications, the department of health commissioned the first renal dialysis unit at the county referral hospital on 17th March 2015.

The unit has 10 dialysis machines with a capacity to perform 72 dialysis per week. The total cost of the installation of the Dialysis machines and water treatment system has cost the county Government Ksh 38 million. This initiative will go a long way in alleviating the suffering of our patients who were previously referred to Nairobi and private hospitals around for such service.

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live births, while in 2014-2015, this indicator worsened to 13 per 1000 live births.

**PARTICIPATORY APPROACH IN MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES**

In order to enhance our social accountability and promote community involvement in delivery of health services, the department has established governance structures through popular election of community members in the Hospitals and Health Facility Management committees. This is aimed at providing environment for dialogue on how health services should be managed for the common good of the general public in a transparent and accountable manner.

The department has in place 95 Health Facility management committees to serve in the 25 health centers and 70 dispensaries. Each of these governance structures comprises 9 members, 6 of which are elected by the community.

The Department of Health Services has a good staff mix of various cadres with adequate skills to handle a wide range of health challenges, including preventive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative services. To date total staff establishment stands at over 1750.

This number does not include casual workers and those during temporary services such as security services. During FYR 2013/14 Ksh. 1.1 Billion was used for staff compensation and emoluments. In the FYR 2014/2015 nearly Ksh. 1.3 Billion was used for the same.

This amount is nearly 33% of the Total Health Budget. It is worth noting that health workforce comprises of highly specialized officers hence this scenario.

To address the staff shortage especially in the lower levels of service delivery, the county government has absorbed all the 179 health staff previously employed under the Economic Stimulus Program (ESP). The department employed 5 Radiographers, 2 Anesthetist, 16 ambulance drivers.

**COUNTY HEALTH POLICY.**

The department has developed its first county health policy 2015-2030 which will guide for the next 15 years aligned to the national goal of attaining the highest attainable standards of health for every citizen.

The guiding principles in this policy includes Equity in the distribution of health services and interventions, People-centered approach to health and health interventions, Participatory approach to delivery of interventions, multi-sectoral approach to realizing health goals being directed approach to health and health interventions.

**MESSAGE FROM CEC HEALTH**

Dr. Githinji CEC Health (at the center) explains to Governor Gachagua how the new MRI machine installed at the Nyeri level five Hospital (PGH) works.

**A Health in all Policies’ approach which will be applied in attaining the objectives of this policy.

The health impacts desired by the end groups within the society at risk of or affected by communicable conditions.

- Enhance comprehensive prevention, control and management of communicable conditions by designing and applying an integrated approach and Control of vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Promote good hygiene and sanitation to control food and water borne diseases.
- Advocate for healthy nutrition and improved food safety throughout the food life cycle.
- Prevent, control and manage vector and insect-borne diseases and NTDs.
- Promote rational prescription, dispensing and use of antimicrobials and other drugs.
- Strengthen disease surveillance and early detection of major diseases.
- Strengthen health information systems for timely and accurate reporting of communicable diseases incidences.
- Advocate for increased access to improved safe water and sanitation.
- Support non-communicable disease interventions and high impact health interventions and progressively integrate them into the community health strategy.

**COUNTY HEALTH ACT.**

The county department through the county assembly of Nyeri has seen the enactment of the Nyeri county Health Act 2015 which has already been signed into law. The implementation of this Act will legalize the current devolved functions of the policy implementation include:

- Life Expectancy at birth (years) from the current average of 65.7-79 years at policy end, Reduce Neonatal Mortality Rate from 22.9 per 100,000 population, Infant Mortality Rate from 44.4 per 100,000, Under 5 Mortality Rate from 46-15, Reduces Maternal Mortality Rate 110-25 respectively.

The strategies for attaining the desired goal will include provision and progressive realization of universal access to the preventive and promotive services addressing major causes of the disease burden due to communicable conditions.

Put in place interventions directly addressing the marginalized and the special of vaccine-preventable diseases.

**COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI**

**COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI**

**Chief Officer Department of Health NYERI COUNTY**

**MESSAGE FROM CEC HEALTH**

**A health county will eventually become a wealthy and happy county.**

We started our mandate by studying our status in relation to the World Health Organization benchmarks on health provision, as well as the presence (and causes) of endemic diseases within the county.

The WHO benchmark requires that all human beings be able to access medical attention within 4Kms. In order to achieve this, we rehabilitated 18 dispensaries and built some to bring the total number of dispensaries to 251, an average of one per ward. We further recruited 10 volunteer health workers (10 per ward) to ensure that all our people have access to quick first line medical attention in the form of frequent information dissemination and testing for diabetes, blood pressure etc.

In addition to the 5 ambulances at the Nyeri level 5 hospital, and ambulances from private hospitals, we purchased eight ambulances to be stationed at the sub county headquarters Nyeri Town, Winamanga (Tena Othaya), Karia (Mutha West), Kaimuai (Mukurweini) Naromoru (Kieni West) and Chaka (Mutha East).

Our plan is to ensure that each sub county has fully equipped level 5 hospital with such facilities as X-ray, EEG, ECG, theatre, maternity wing and adequate bed capacity, so as to ensure that only the most serious cases go on to the level four hospitals.

At the level 5 hospital, we have recently operationalized a full renal unit that has helped in timely diagnosis of kidney elements and the reduction of dialysis costs from the prone private beds.

In addition to other expenses of travelling to Narok to a level of Kshs. 3,000 (+NHF) at Nyeri. By the end of the year we will have acquired an MRI unit that will similIarly cost the county a fortune.

We also envisage a full oncology research and treatment centre in the next financial year, to try and reduce and/or treat early, the alarmingly increasing incidences of cancer.

A great deal of effort will also be put to train community health workers as well as health workers at ward level, world to level on prevention through dietary improvement, physical fitness and early diagnosis through regular testing for vulnerable populations.

With clean air, clean water and little industrial pollution, the right diet and regular testing should ensure that our people lead long, productive and happy lives.

To help ensure that vulnerable groups are not kept away from timely medical care, we have to date distributed 3000 fully charged and active NHIF cards and have set up committees to establish the number of people in need of this intervention based on an age limit of 60 years and below.

It is an integrated approach to child health care, both in the well being of the whole child. IMCI aims to reduce death, illness and disability, and to promote healthy growth and development among children under five years of age. IMCI includes both preventive and curative elements that are implemented by families and communities as well as by health facilities.

In health facilities, the IMCI strategy is an approach that is working well and is scaling up investment in IMCI strategy to reduce child welfare and child mortality in the County.
in the 2013/14 financial year, Nyeri County Government established a youth polytechnic taskforce whose terms of reference was to review the Nyeri youth polytechnic sub-sector and examine its performance, current governance, regulatory and funding arrangements and mechanisms for industry engagement in training. The taskforce was also to develop a coherent, comprehensive set of recommendations consistent with the government’s policies and agenda on education, industrialisation and employment, the constitution of Kenya and the framework of Vision 2030. Key among the objectives of the assignment were to establish ways to create appropriate governance structures for the youth polytechnics, re-form the current training pathways in youth polytechnics and enhance enrolment and completion rates and improve public perception of thepolytechnics.

The raft of recommendations by the task force touched on the need for the County Government to develop a different management strategy for the youth polytechnics in the County. The key strategic directions were identified as follows:

i. Leadership and Governance

The County Government will establish structures that promote cohesion, nurture accountability and provide visionary leadership necessary to create conducive learning environment. On this, the County Government is applying the following strategies:

a) Strengthen the supervisory role of the Directorate of youth polytechnics
b) Establish Boards of Management as body corporate for each youth polytechnic
c) Appoint Boards of Management in line with set regulations
d) Build capacity in corporate leadership and governance for Boards of Management members and Managers
e) Mandate youth polytechnics to develop and implement strategic plans

ii. Human Resource Management

It is recognised that the public image concerns of youth polytechnics are manageable by addressing gaps between competencies and the responsibilities of those mandated to conduct and manage training. The County Government is building human resource capacities to enhance the competencies of youth polytechnics staff.

The following strategies are being applied:

a) Recruiting adequately qualified youth polytechnics instructors
b) Collaborating with stakeholders and partners in human resource development
c) Implementing performance management system
d) Building capacity of staff

iii. Training Programmes

The County Government is striving to provide training programmes that take into consideration the educational, cultural and social economic background of the people, the technical and professional skills, knowledge and levels of qualification needed in the various sectors of the economy as well as the technological and structural changes to be expected, and the trends towards integration of information and communication technologies to multiply access and improve training capacity, enhance enrolment and completion rates and improve public perception of thepolytechnics.

The County Government will:

a) Develop a Collaboration Framework with stakeholders to enable continuous and substantive investment in ICT in youth polytechnics
b) Integrate ICT education and training into youth polytechnics programmes
c) Promote the proper use of ICT as a tool for effective management, information, communication, research and development
d) Established use of ICT for innovation and entrepreneurship development

iv. Infrastructure, Tools and Equipment

 Adequate infrastructure, tools and equipment are essential for quality training and conducive learning environment. The provision of these facilities and equipment in YPs has remained a persistent challenge.

The County Government will do the following:

a) Ensure quality training is offered in the youth polytechnics
b) Enhancing quality of training programmes, collaborate with industry and other stakeholders, and develop industrial and Business Experiencing Attachment (BEA)
c) Ensuring timely response to YPs on quality assurance needs
d) Ensuring the set standards of material and equipment are met and followed by youth polytechnics
e) Develop internal systems to ensure the maintenance of standards, quality and relevance of training programmes

v. Infrastructure, Tools and Equipment

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The County Government will do the following:

a) Ensure quality training is offered in the youth polytechnics
b) Providing adequate infrastructure, tools and equipment for youth polytechnics

c) Work in partnership with stakeholders in the provision of adequate infrastructure, tools and equipment
d) Develop and implement equipment maintenance and replacement programme so as to be responsive to technological change

vi. Resource Mobilisation

The financing of education and training at basic level is a responsibility of the government in accordance with Article 53 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010. The role of the County Government shall include the provision of funds required for the development of the necessary infrastructure for training and in accordance with Section 26 of the Basic Education Act 2013. For the sector to grow, the County Government shall ensure to provide adequate financing, cost recovery and reduction strategies, capacity enhancement, active community participation and embracing public-private partnerships.

To achieve this, the County is:

a) Providing budgetary support
b) Promoting public-private partnership in the sector
c) Identifying and establishing relations with organisations that fund youth initiatives
d) Promoting income generating activities.

vii. Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Integration of information and communication technology in service delivery is the foundation on which Kenya seeks to acquire the status of a middle income and industrialised economy as envisaged in Vision 2030. The County Government shall ensure that there is efficient sharing and flow of information in the management and coordination of training.

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d) Established use of ICT for innovation and entrepreneurship development

e) Encouraging professional volunteers

viii. Building Partnerships

There is weak collaboration between YPs, stakeholders and industry. This negatively affects the transfer of knowledge through training, attachment, mentorship, instructor skills upgrading, capacity enhancement and industry guest experts. New partnerships between the youth polytechnics and the private sector will be initiated and existing ones strengthened to improve the sustainability, quality training and employability.

This will be done through:

a) Promotion of collaboration between the youth polytechnics and the industry to facilitate training, placement and employment
b) Creating awareness in youth polytechnics on the benefits of collaboration and networking
c) Promotion of positive attitude towards youth polytechnics through collaboration and networking
d) Building partnerships that enhance enterprise development

ix. Equity and Access

The attainment of Education for All (EFA) by 2015 is a major goal of the government in line with its commitment to international declarations, protocols and conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals. Whereas youth polytechnics are generally distributed across the country, disparities remain and should be addressed.

Appropriate mechanisms should be instituted in the youth polytechnics to promote access, equity, quality and relevant training. Furthermore, appropriate guidance and counselling services should be provided to youth polytechnics students.
Every occasion in life is an occasion – of thanking God for all His mercies and love to us all. We thank God for the blessing of this great day in our national calendar. It is in this spirit that I salute you all on this auspicious occasion of commemorating the 52nd anniversary of our liberation.

It is on this day that we as a nation liberated ourselves from the shackles of colonisation and began our journey as an independent and sovereign nation. We, in a relatively short time, have celebrated a dynamic history and also paying special homage to the gallant men and women who sacrificed their lives to make this day possible for us to realize this vision we aspire to harness and build.

One of the most transformational developments since independence is the formulation and ratification of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, which created the devolved system of government that has given us the opportunity to derive our mandate of governance as a County Government. The constitution declares Kenya as an independent and sovereign nation, founded on clearly defined national values and principles. Among these, are peace, national unity, devolution of power, rule of law, human dignity, social justice, inclusiveness, good governance, democracy, accountability and transparency, respect for human rights and individual freedoms.

Agriculture is the mainstay and lifeblood of our County. The County will strive to promote a paradigm shift by embracing agricultural intensity in the entire agricultural value chain. This is part of our Boreha Kilimo programme which besides aiming at increasing production and productivity also seeks to empower our farmers to participate actively in the entire agricultural value chain.

Similarly, we are just about to commence the expansion of our forests and agroforestry market at Chaka as we hasten the commissioning of the forest plantations that I also plan to open the nearly completed eco-systems of the Meiru Wetland Systems. In the Country, our development priorities during the two years of our County’s Integrated Development Plan will be a period of “total socio-economically inclusive and equitable quality of life for all” in the County. Our development targets during the period will be anchoured on the Constitution of Kenya and our laws on devolution. Our development priorities will also be fully aligned with the national Vision 2030 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda (2015-2030).

The Nyeri County is increasingly becoming a popular tourist destination and this has resulted in the development of some other tourist attractions like the BODA Beach in the County. The County Government will henceforth continue to guarantee the full participation of all stakeholders including women, the physically disabled and the elderly in the County’s development processes. We will also ensure the fulfillment of our rural access roads, this programme will profoundly contribute in making the Nyeri County an un-touled leading hub of business in the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Since coming to office, slightly over two and a half years ago, we have tried hard to implement our County’s Integrated Development Plan (2013 – 2017), to ensure a progressive, healthy, free and prosperous people, who are the custodians of our rich history, cultural and other farm produce. To achieve this, we have equipped our rural areas with all the necessary economic infrastructure and improved our agricultural value chain. This is part of our Boreha Kilimo programme which besides aiming at increasing production and productivity also seeks to empower our farmers to participate actively in the entire agricultural value chain.

As part of our initiative to improve the business development climate in the County, we shall early next month officially launch the fully automated Single Business Permit and the County Investment Portal platforms through the support of the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank.
As we reflect on our journey from March, 2013 to date, I feel greatly humbled and indebted to the people of Nyeri, for walking with us every step of that journey. As a matter of fact, I marvel when I consider how far we have come. I remember when constituting this Government, we had to start from scratch. Nobody was sure whether we could even make it in the first place; we were nowhere to look out for directions.

There was neither a manual nor signboards to direct evolution. To make the matter worse, there were no offices, no existing Government structures, no critical staff, no resources, no Cabinet, and no means of communicating to those projections from an impatient citizenry. Indeed, it was by sheer determination, effort, the grit we exhibited, that we withered that initial challenge. We can now say with confidence that we have not only formed, stirred and normed but also walked half way through the performance phase. Nobody thought that a Government being formed from nothing is easy, it is! Our Government is now almost 90 percent complete. People will be surprised to realize that a County we see a lot of good coming out of evolution into our County Government. Our efforts include, Health, Agriculture and Roads among others.

It is to be noted that most of the units have brought services closer to the people. Citizen participation in decision making is happening everywhere. Seventy five percent (75%) of the people of Nyeri correctly believe that the evolution of the health system is working and they are right.

Let me say that adaptability has been the watchword of our government. There is a Chinese proverb that says that the wise adapt themselves to circumstances as water moulds itself to the pitcher. Nothing encapsulates better our everyday situation as we steer the County Government of Nyeri, than that proverb.

When His Excellency, Governor Gachagua and I set to form our first Government, nobody, not even a County, knew the tough challenge we were about to undertake. Nobody thought we could more than half way through the formation of the Government, the County Government. But as they say: "I’Ihata ha anaweza yatafuta", (A wise person adapts to his environment). We have been able to navigate our way forward, out of the depression, even though we are in the early stages of development.

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A nyeri adopts elaborate plan to uplift youth polys

Nyeri adopts elaborate plan to uplift youth polys

The youth polytechnics establishment, management and operations are largely determined by their operators. The main objective of youth polytechnics is to offer vocational education and training for individual and national development.

For more coherent and coordinated regulation of youth polytechnics, provide guidance and continuous training to youth technical staff, no resources, no cabinet, and no means of communicating to those projections from an impatient citizenry. Indeed, it was by sheer determination, effort, the grit we exhibited, that we withered that initial challenge. We can now say with confidence that we have not only formed, stirred and normed but also walked half way through the performance phase. Nobody thought that a Government being formed from nothing is easy, it is! Our Government is now almost 90 percent complete. People will be surprised to realize that a County we see a lot of good coming out of evolution into our County Government. Our efforts include, Health, Agriculture and Roads among others.

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We can now say with confidence that the wise adapt themselves to circumstances as water moulds itself to the pitcher. Nothing encapsulates better our everyday situation as we steer the County Government of Nyeri, than that proverb.

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Boresha Kilimo – A stitch in time saves 9

By Grace Githinji

Farmers in the country spent about 10 million to purchase the cereals.

With fertile volcanic soils, a temperate climate and other needs. There is enough money to buy food for feeding people directly, but at maximum cost spent about 10 million to purchase the cereals.

Governor Gachagua gives maize seeds to a farmer at Wamagana during the launch of Boresha Kilimo Programme in October 2015. A total of 23,577 farmers benefited from the initiative.

MESSAGE FROM ROBERT THUO - CEC, AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

In modern times, Agriculture aims not at feeding people directly, but at maximizing output from the farm to ensure that there is enough money to buy food and other needs.

Nyandarua County has suffered from frequent droughts in the recent past especially in the two Kieni sub counties, the marginal coffee zones of Makururei, Nyandarua Central and Mathira West. This has been attributed to climate change phenomena which calls for mitigation measures both in the short term and long term. As a short term mitigation measure, the County Governor Gathuru of Nyandarua through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock Development procured certified seeds of maize, beans and wheat.

The main objective of this programme is to impress upon Nyandarua farmers the importance of growing the recommended seed variety for the right Agro ecological zone. The other two objectives are to train farmers on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and to take advantage of the El-Nino short rains.

Nyandarua is well equipped to be a major agricultural hub, especially if you throw in the natural hardworkingness of Nyandarua people.

The main objective of this programme is to impress upon Nyandarua farmers the importance of growing the recommended seed variety for the right Agro ecological zone.

Coffee; 

Coffee production increased from 21.3kgs in 2012 to 42.4 million kgs in 2014, over 100% increase that catapulted the county to number two after Kieni County, with farmers’ earnings increasing by a similar margin from Kshs 1 million/kgs to Kshs 3.4 billion.

We helped this growth by facilitating the subsidization of 39,071 bags of NPK fertilizer as well as making available new seedlings, looking for new markets and conceptualization of value addition through branded products.

Dairy cows, beef cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits, chicken and fish.

Wambunge Farm Agricultural Training Centre has for many years been the centre for specific research on Nyandarua, as well as experimentation and demonstrations, working in tandem with national research institutions. From this centre, information is disseminated directly during field days and demos, and through extension officers that move from farm to farm with a view to improving quality and quantity of production.

Mr. Robert Thuo - CEC Agriculture at an agricultural function.

Governor Gachagua visits an agricultural show stand for local SME investors - Magpie Yorgbart and Canola Oil. Examples of successful value addition.

Governor Gachagua gives maize seeds to a farmer at Wamagana during the launch of Boresha Kilimo Programme in October 2015. A total of 23,577 farmers benefited from the initiative.

Green leaf production improved to 74 million Kgs in 2014 from 63 million kgs in 2012 with earnings marginally going up to Kshs. 3.5 billion from 3.2 billion despite a depressed international market.

Nyandarua farmers continued to be at the very top in quality, enabling them to receive amongst the highest payments per kg in the country.

As a county Nyandarua is number two overall with Gathuru and Gitugi factories in the top ten.

Introduction of new high yielding varieties like purple tea, and the introduction of orthodox tea are some of our interventions. A task force on value addition has compiled a report to be implemented within the next financial year.

Horticulture;

A task force sat and compiled a report whose recommendations have already been passed, while others are in the pipeline. 3 million has been spent on establishing rabbit breeding centers and slaughter houses in Nyandarua.

To boost fish production, a 3 ton refrigerated truck has been purchased to deliver fish to the fish processing plants there where fisheries staffs were dispatched to Kismu for training and 2kms at Karima stocked with fingerlings.

Livestock;

The county supported Wakulima Dairy (Makururei) with ksh26 million to start value addition by installing a yoghurt line while 14 dairy cows and 44 dairy goats have been given to specific farmer groups on a pull off basis.

Kshs. 3 million has been spent on establishing rabbit breeding centers and slaughter houses in Nyandarua.

An extensive vaccination service and the rehabilitation of cattle dips will ensure that animals remain disease free.

Several policy and regulatory bills have already been passed, while others are in the pipeline.

The challenge of the future is to continue increasing quantity and quality of all our products, and working together with our counterparts in the department of trade to ensure that farmers are motivated to keep striving for better returns.

Grade cows at the Agricultural Society of Kenya show at Kaburu-ini Show Ground.

The following seeds were procured by the county.
In Tourism, Nyeri arguably possesses the lions share. The spreading of the murram with the fresh produce market getting the tonnes of murram for the two markets Mweiga located behind the matatu stage.

The fresh produce market is vulnerable to flooding due to poor drainage system, design and flexibility of its location. There is also a Muthuma market in Mweiga located behind the matatu stage. The Department supplied about 255 tonnes of murram for the two markets with the fresh produce market getting the lions share. The spreading of the murram was done by local labourers.

The traders in the Muthuma market had previously declined to pay the market fees to the County Government but agreed to comply after the gravelling of the area.

The Department hired local labourers to clear the blocked drainage systems around the market. This was followed by supplying about 165 tonnes of Murram 4 for the access paths within the market. The work was supervised by the subcounty engineer.

To increase the total bed capacity, the department held a homestays stakeholders forum.

The market is facilitating construction of Open Air Markets in Nyeri at a cost of 44 million Ksh, and was launched by H.E. Hon. Gachagua on December 16th 2016. The works are expected to start early January 2016. The Market is expected to be completed by May 2016.

The market renovation contract was awarded to Whimbe Contractors. The roofing of the Chicken market and renovation of the roof are complete. The Madavadi toilet renovation has also been done and the pavement leading to the washrooms has also been done. All the works pertaining to face one of the Madavadi market is complete.

The department is working with Works department to develop BOQs in order to start repairs for other markets in all the wards. 84M is the 2015/16 budget for the markets activities. In addition, we are in the last phase of completing repairs for the 8 ESP markets that was recently handed over to the County government by the national government.

The Karatina new market is back on course for the repairs and we expect the repairs to be completed in six months. Tenders for the 600M Chaka market are undergoing evaluation, and we expect the ground breaking to take place in the early part of year 2016.
WATER, IRRIGATION, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Water is the most sought after commodity by man. Without it there would be no life as we know it today. Man needs water for drinking and cooking, for quenching the thirst of his livestock and for his crops. Water is also needed for bathing and washing, for construction, and for industrial use.

Nyeri County is lucky to be one of the few counties with adequate water thanks to its position between two mountain ranges. The windward sides of the mountain, one is always within a maximum of two kilometers away from one river or the other, though in Kieni, the rivers are more sparsely distributed.

The Nyahururu town water system is being expanded to the urban and rural areas through the installation of new water mains, which will be extended to the hinterland. In the rural areas, the installation of boreholes is on going, particularly in the eastern parts of the county.

In the energy sector, we are in the advanced state of remedying this situation. Other achievements of the department have been the establishment of good looking and functional model kitos, training of the public on appropriate building technologies. We have also done a proper inventory of all the 480 county houses and plan to have them properly rehabilitated. Plans are underway to construct more housing units in the underutilized sectors of urban centers.

PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND ENERGY

At the beginning of our mandate, the County had 3,092.73kms of classified roads. 450kms were bitumen while 1390.59 were gravel and 1252kms earth service. We have now graded 676kms of the earth roads and gravelled 420kms, as well as the construction of 17 foot bridges. Additionally we have bought our own road construction machinery so as to reduce the cost of road construction and repairs.

In the energy sector, we are in the process of procuring for a contractor to establish the Kiamatge solar farm project. Our Mwanga Nyeri program has been highly successful resulting in the installation of 49 high mast flood lights (Mulika Mwizi) as well as the street lighting of many of our towns totaling 28kms.

The high masts are located in high population areas such as Kangemi, Kimathi University and in the larger towns like Othaya, Kiamutu, Kibungu, Murunguru, Karatina and Nairutia. Street lighting was extended to cover the towns of Gakawa, Naromoru, Kima- huri, Mweiga, Endarasha and Konyu. 10 extra milikiwizi masts were put up as part of the Sister Irene beatification programme at Kiharo, Kaharo, Karaba, Kikungu, Mathari, Muthuthini, Ragati and Karatina hospital. Pakoni and Gikendi.

Environmental Conservation:
In the period under review we have helped protect our water catchment protection through planting of both indig- enous trees and bamboos on the 86,000 seedlings planted at 17 WRUAS. In addi- tion we have involved students in school greening, getting them to plant, nurture and “own” trees. So far over 40,000 trees have been planted in 101 schools within the 8 sub counties.

Other environmental conservation measures have involved bush clearing, watering and weeding of flower beds and repairs of the statues and seats at all the parks in Nyeri Town and Githini.

We also participated in the World Environmental Day (June 4th 2015) and several activities planned by NEMA (National Environment and Management Authority)
The department was set up to handle issues of disadvantaged groups, anticipate and mitigate against disasters as well as co-ordinate sports and youth activities.

Sanitary Towels

The department has distributed sanitary towels to all class eight pupils in public primary schools and intends to do so every school term.

Mentorship

A mentorship program has been started in collaboration with Amani Foundation and Kikuyu Council of elders. The program targets boys and girls in secondary schools where they are most prone to social evils that distract them from schooling.

Capacity Building

As a government requirement, that 30% of all public teachers go to special interest groups, the department organized sensitization meetings/workshops on the available opportunities within the county. The Coca Cola Company in collaboration with the department launched an empowerment program targeting small scale business women from Nyeri town and its environs. 2 crates of Soda and a Coster box were donated to all as an empowerment program where they meet twice a month to discuss emerging issues affecting them. Once they attain the age of eighteen, the department co-ordinates the acquisition of national identity cards.

Response to disaster incidents

In conjunction with the Red Cross, Nyeri branch responded to a total of 187 disaster incidents that included fires, landslides and flooding. 7685 beneficiaries were supported with food, iron sheets, kitchen ware, blankets, water cans and lanterns. Financial and psychosocial counseling was also extended to the terrorism victims at the Mandera quarters and Garissa University. All the deceased victims of the terrorism attack were assisted in funeral arrangements and family members counseled.

Street family empowerment

The department runs a street families empowerment program where they meet twice a month to discuss emerging issues affecting them. Once they attain the age of eighteen, the department co-ordinates the acquisition of national identity cards.

Governor Gachagua launches Afya Mashinani NHIF Programme.

By Lydia Gichuki


The BIMA-AFYA NYERI (a collaboration between the county government of Nyeri and NHIF) programme provides a medical insurance cover for the severely vulnerable members of society (orphans, people living with disabilities, widows and widowers, extremely poor elderly persons above 70years) who have no source of income at all or whose incomes are less than 1500 in the entire county (100 beneficiaries per ward) and the number will increase with increase in budgetary allocations with an additional 6000 beneficiaries totaling to 9,000 by 2016.

The department of special Programmes entered into an MOU with the NHIF to ensure seamless transfer of funds from the county government of Nyeri to the National Hospital Insurance Fund for purposes of providing an insurance cover for the vetted beneficiaries.

During 2014, 3 local football players were secured by national teams. Chris Kariuki by AFC Leopards, Kenneth Githinji by Muhoroni Youth FC, Dennis Mureithi by Bidco FC while Mt. Kenya recruited Joseph Wangondu (Jen), Daniel Mwamba (Othaya) and Richard Kimondo of Kieni into their volleyball team.

As a county, Nyeri participated in both the Kenya Inter county Sports and Cultural Association (KICOSA) as well as the East African local Authority Sports and Cultural Association Sports meet held in October 2014, in Kampala, Uganda.

In the Kenya Youth Inter County Association (KYISA) held in Nanyuki in May 2015, 48 youthful players participated in volleyball and football. The men took position 4 in volleyball and position 3 in football, while the women were fourth in football and fifth in volleyball.

Sports

During 2014, 3 local football players were secured by national teams. Chris Kariuki by AFC Leopards, Kenneth Githinji by Muhoroni Youth FC, Dennis Mureithi by Bidco FC while Mt. Kenya recruited Joseph Wangondu (Jen), Daniel Mwamba (Othaya) and Richard Kimondo of Kieni into their volleyball team.

Deputy Governor Ambassador Samuel Wamathai dances with one of the Tanaye Deaf Women Self Help Group during the UN International Day for Persons with Disabilities.

Governor Gachagua being introduced to Thunguma football players earlier this year.
We have retrained many of our farmers and conducted demonstrations of people’s crop and animal husbandry. This is an ongoing activity and we aim to ensure that we help farmers identify the right crops or animals, acquire the right seeds and tools, and practice modern methods that maximize returns, already we have seen positive growth in areas such as coffee, tea, milk, potatoes etc.

Nyeri is the second largest coffee producing county in Kenya. Quite a good number of us were brought up and educated on coffee, but of late the sector has been in decline with low prices leading to neglect this has in turn led to low production and low quality. Naturally sought to try and improve both crop production and marketing. I personally made great efforts to secure better markets for our coffee abroad, and despite a desperate fight from well entrenched cartels, we are able to report partial support with the prices having risen significantly especially where quality is high. To further enhance coffee earnings, we are in touch with other coffee producing counties with a view to collectively strategize.

In the meantime, the department of agriculture is working with farmers to increase production and quality aiming for the benchmark already achieved by Mr. David Kimotho of Karogoto whose coffee regularly attains 37kg per stem. Were all farmers to reach this level, and given the generally high quality of Nyeri coffee, our economy would receive a major boost.

To support the TEA sector and other crops, we have facilitated the provision of subsidized fertilizer, distributed subsidized seeds and deployed hundreds of extension officers as move from farm to farm. And we are most encouraged that in the last two years, both production and quality have improved significantly.

Through massive lighting initiatives in most of our urban centers including the installation of several high mast lights (nicknamed mulikamwizi) and good co-ordination with the National government we have greatly improved security in our county. In most of our towns, people can now go around their normal business even at night, with little danger of attack.

As one of the counties enjoying plenty of water, thanks to our presence between the two great mountain systems, our main challenge is to ensure clean piped water is available both for domestic consumption and irrigation. Through the rehabilitation of several dams and the setting up efforts of the Nyeri Water Services Board (Nywawasco), great strides have been achieved. To replicate the success of Nyewasco, several other WASCOs including (Dawasco), (Othaya-Mukurweni), Narowasco (Naromoru), Maawasco (Mathera) have been established, we can confidently say that most of our people are able to access clean water round the clock.

We have strived to ensure that our offices are at ward, sub county and county levels are reachable either in person or by phone. We have additionally created several iHubs to ensure that we can be accessed on email and are currently embarking on a creation of structured electronic platforms to ensure timely response and engagement with our stakeholders.

A biannual newsletter written in English and Gikuyu, will further enhance our continuous engagement with the people that we serve.

At the beginning of our mandate, Nyeri had 560kms of tarred roads, 1200kms of murram roads and 500km of earth roads. We have since graded 676km of roads and graved 420km. In addition, we have now bought our own road construction equipment so as to bring down the cost of road construction and repairs, and reduce delays. Most of Nyeri people can access their homes and farms 24/7 though our aim is to have most of the important roads tarred.

In trade we have looked at our great unexploited potential and sought to work with other institutions to ensure we create an enabling environment towards this and an investment conference was held on Oct 26th at the Nyaminza Theatre. The honey sector of our markets like Chaka and Karatina are now undergoing rehabilitation and modernization.

The department of trade has now published the “County Investments and development Bill” that aims at streamlining bureaucratic barriers at involving public sector and private sector investors to partner with the county.

Our greatest challenge however, remains the establishing of current business structures to ensure that our farmers get a fair return for their hard work. In this we plan to contribute with the local universities, local businesses, potential investors and marketing experts to create an enabling environment for the branding of our county and products for greater prosperity.

To give back to Education, Nyeri has a great heritage of being the “education county” though it has been on a slow decline over the past few years. Even with primary and secondary school education still managed at the national government level, we have sought to work with the relevant offices and institutions on ensuring proper standards are maintained, right from ECDE level to the universities and other Para-secondary institutions. We have held several forums with education officers, head teachers, teachers and students, so as to understand how best we can help.

In ECDE, we have come up with a regulatory and policy framework to guide the mushrooming ECDE centers that are mushrooming across the country and much needed focus by ensuring that each sub county has a polytechnic specializing in a different field that is relevant to the needs of the county.

And in tourism, with one of the best raw touristic product in Kenya, we have established our development needs and hope that with the passing of the investiture bill, we will get investors to help develop the raw product into the best tourism product of any country in the world. Some of these areas include the Kieni Elephant Corridor, Kariu Falls, Mt. Kenya, the Aberdires, the Mau Mau Heritage Sites, the Home of Scouting etc.

Early this year, we were beneficiaries of a rare form of tourism as we hosted Africa’s first bearistic ceremony, that of Sister Irene Stefan “Nyahiti”.

We now plan to put in place annual pilgrimage tour for our dear departed heroes Lord Baden Powell, Sister Stefani, Dedi Kimutui and Prof. Wangari Mathaari.

Follow us countyens, our stakeholders, ladies and gentlemen, as we start off on our final lap, we look forward to accomplishing what we started, conscious that we will be thoroughly scrutinized and judged. Where we may have fallen short, we do so with the forts of dying or indifference. At this stage, we welcome your constructive engagement, aimed at helping achieve the best results in the remaining period, for after all, we are in this together, and it is all about you.