



Tetu biogas project transforms lives

As County Government of Nyeri rolls out 'one home, one biogas project'.



Biogas digesters save rural women from the overwhelming task of firewood collection. As a result, more time is left for other activities. More importantly, cooking on a gas stove, instead of an open fire, prevents the family from being exposed to smoke in the kitchen. This helps prevent respiratory diseases. Residents have come out to

laud the initiative dubbed 'one home, one biogas project', saying that if implemented to other households, it will be transformational to the lives of locals.

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One home, one biogas project transforms lives in Tetu

By Jackline Gikunju



PHOTOS | PETER WANGARI

Global interest in renewable sources of energy is gathering momentum. Biogas production is growing steadily but setting up a biogas digester for a common mwananchi has proven to be a daunting task. Biogas is a renewable, as well as a clean, source of energy meaning it does not pollute the environment. Call it killing two birds with one stone!

Biogas digesters save rural women from the overwhelming task of firewood collection. As a result, more time is left for other activities. More importantly, cooking on a gas stove, instead of an open fire, prevents the family from being exposed to smoke in the kitchen. This helps prevent respiratory diseases. It is cognizant to this fact that the County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Transport, Public works, Infrastructure and Energy has endeavored to transform the lives of its residents through building bio-digesters for their fuel needs. The project, one of a kind, was started as a pilot project in Aguthi / Gaaki ward, Tetu sub-county, Nyeri County. Upon its success, the project will be rolled out to many other beneficiaries.

Residents have come out to laud the initiative dubbed 'one home, one biogas project', saying that if implemented to other households, it will be transformational to the lives of locals.

David Wachira, a beneficiary of the project, said the biogas has saved his family a sum of money which he can now use to educate his children, money he previously used to purchase firewood.

"The biogas has helped my family save some money. It has also helped in conserving the environment as

I don't have to cut down trees for fuel. Further, the residue I get after the process is used as manure in my farm," he added.

He appreciated the harmonious working relationship that exists between the county executive and the MCAs noting that such a relationship ensures that wanjiku is reached by developmental projects.

"These are the benefits of a government that works in unity, we get to enjoy development as witnessed through the implementation of this project," Wachira noted.



Wambui Gikunju, also a beneficiary, recounts how she would wake up to the same nightmare over and over again.

“I used to waste so much time gathering firewood, sometimes even using wet firewood which is quite terrible. The smoke produced by the firewood would affect my eyes so much but I am so glad that I no longer have to use firewood. I thank my MCA and the county government for considering this project which will not only save farmers money, but also preserve their health,” she narrated.



Aguthi/Gaaki MCA Hon. Stanley Wakibia (*pictured above*) said that the project was one of his ward-specific projects in the financial year 2019/2020 after seeing the struggles the people were going through to acquire fuel. Realizing the need to provide an alternative while conserving the environment, he proposed the biogas project to the governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga, which he accepted and the project was actualized.

Due to monetary constraints however, only five homesteads benefitted at a cost of Ksh. 1 million. He is

lobbying for more funds from donors to see more households benefit in the near future.

“The dependence on firewood fuel for cooking by the residents of Aguthi/Gaaki poses an environmental challenge capable of aggravating the effects of climate change. Rural households can be helped to switch to biogas energy use because it is renewable, eco-friendly and affordable to them. Moreover, biogas residue provides organic fertilizer which is way better than inorganic fertilizer. With only one cow, a farmer will get milk, manure and fuel,” said Hon. Wakibia.

The farmers who benefitted from the project had only to purchase the cooker at a cheaper cost as the county government undertook all other expenses of setting up a digester.

According to Wamucii Kariuki, the project has been quite beneficial for the one month since its actualization. She wishes that more households be considered as most locals have cows that can produce the slurry required and besides they do not have large tracts of land for planting firewood trees.

The CEC Department of Transport, Public works, Infrastructure and Energy, Kariuki Muthui (*pictured below*), acknowledged that the county is seeking to move from traditional sources of energy to a much cleaner and efficient form that

will conserve the environment. “Once people come to learn of the benefits of the biogas digesters, many people are going to embrace them. They are an inexpensive source of energy which requires a farmer to have only one cow to set up,” he said.

The CEC encouraged more farmers to engage with their leaders to be enrolled in the programme as the county government will be willing to support them.



Water tanks donation from AMREF



PHOTO | KENNEDY KARANJA

By Njambi Mugo

Nyeri County Secretary Ben Gachichio (right) receiving water tank donation from Amref Nyeri project officer Joram Onditi. The donation is part of the ongoing Covid-19 Emergency Response Project by Amref Health Africa, which is being funded by the European Union in the county.

Amref Health Africa donated five-1,000-litre water tanks in support of the ongoing county government's campaign against Covid-19 pandemic.

The donation was made by Amref Nyeri Project Officer, Joram Onditi, who noted that the tanks will be distributed to busy places such as markets and bus parks to ensure everyone accesses clean water for hand washing as a way of keeping the virus at bay.

The County Secretary Ben Gachichio, who received the donation on behalf of H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga, commended the organization for its noble gesture em-

phasizing on the need for more preventive approaches against the pandemic.

The donation is part of the ongoing Covid-19 Emergency Response Project by Amref Health Africa, which is being funded by the European Union in the county.

The project is aimed at strengthening the county's capabilities to slow down the spread of Covid-19, detect cases early and respond effectively; and support continuity of essential health services.

Routine visit and inspection of Nyeri Referral Hospital

The facility has a fully functional oxygen plant with a capacity of around 600 litres per day.

By Dynah Mwangi

H. E Governor Mutahi Kahiga visited the Nyeri County Referral Hospital to assess the quality of service delivery at the facility and confirm the preparedness of isolation wards at this time of Covid-19 pandemic.

He visited the High Dependency Unit (HDU), the casualty unit, Covid-19 holding area, the oxygen plant and the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) located in the neighbourhood.

The facility has a fully functional oxygen plant with a capacity of around 600 litres per day. Additionally, the KMTC isolation center is so far fully prepared and equipped with a 180 bed capacity.



PHOTO | PETER WANGARI

PHOTO *of the week*



Children watch as their mother prepares cow dung slurry for the Bio gas project in Aguthi/Gaaki ward, Tetu sub-county recently.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI



NYERI COUNTY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FUND BOARD

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2. The Enterprise should be operating in Nyeri County
3. Must be a registered enterprise, group or cooperative society
4. The Enterprise should have a Business Permit
5. Provide a Bank or Sacco statement
6. Provide books of records for the enterprise
7. Provide security for the Loan: Title, Logbooks, Shares listed in NSE, Investment Insurance policies and third party security of any of the above.
8. Groups, companies and cooperatives to provide minutes of resolution to borrow, their constitution or articles of association
9. Attach copies of ID, Pin Certificate, Tax Compliance, Business permit
10. Attach Credit Reference Bureau Report. **Note:** not clearance certificate
11. Any other supporting document

How to apply:

1. Download the application form from Nyeri County Government website www.nyeri.go.ke
2. Fill in the application
3. Take to the area chief for stamping and signature
4. Take the form to your area Ward Administrator
5. Submit the dully filled application form to Trade offices at Co-operative Building opposite Golf Club

The closing date for the EDF applications is on 15th August, 2020.

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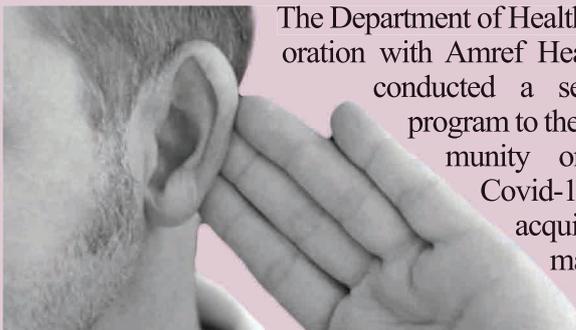
Reach us on:



0207840588.

Covid-19 training to the deaf community

By Caroline Kariuki



The Department of Health in collaboration with Amref Health Africa conducted a sensitization program to the deaf community on matters Covid-19 and to acquire information they had about the virus.

The deaf community has initially been disadvantaged when it comes to acquiring information. However, in regards to Covid-19, they are aware of the disease and its symptoms through social media platforms like Facebook and other social groups where they share information. Nevertheless, accessing information shared on TV has been a problem to deaf individuals, since most of them lack television sets which makes them feel left out during daily brief-

ings.

Wearing of masks has been a hindrance to them during communication as well as knowing asymptomatic cases where an infected person does not show any signs of illness.

The training helped them understand how to protect themselves from contracting Covid-19 which is a challenge to them because they use most of their body parts to communicate and get a better understanding of community level transmission. The participants were sent to the community as ambassadors to educate others on how to protect themselves through wearing of masks and keeping social distance.

The deaf community has been affected largely by Covid-19 following the foreclosure of their businesses due to the pandemic. They benefitted from aids like sanitizers and masks while some receive a weekly token of Kshs 1,000 based on needy cases.

One on one with Mathira East sub-county administrator George Mwangi

Some Nyeri County residents are not aware of the responsibilities of the sub-county administrator. Perhaps you can enlighten us on this.

The responsibilities of a sub-county administrator are articulated in the County Government Act of 2012. That piece of National legislation states that a sub-county administrator in summary shall be responsible for the coordination, management and supervision of the general administrative functions in the sub-county unit. It also outlines specific responsibilities in development of policies and plans, service delivery, developmental activities to empower the community, provision and maintenance of infrastructure and facilities of public services and facilitation and coordination of citizen participation in the development of policies and plans. Other responsibilities for the sub county administrator as stipulated by the Nyeri County Alcoholic Drinks and Management Act of 2013 include alcohol regulation, control and management. In a nutshell, the sub county administrator offers leadership in the sub county in all areas. The sub county administrator also acts as the liaison person between county government and the national government as well as other government agencies and institutions

Is there any difference between a sub county administrator and a ward administrator? Are their roles the same?

The first difference is in scope, where a sub-county administrator is in charge of a sub-county while a ward administrator is in charge of a ward which is a smaller administrative unit. Several wards make up a sub-county.

The other difference is in depth of work. A sub-county administrator in Art. 50 (2) requires qualifications and knowledge in administration and management and for a ward administrator in Art. 51 (2) requires professional qualifications and technical knowledge in administration. As mentioned earlier, the sub-county administrator plays a leadership and management role but a ward administrator is management and technical role.

As Mathira sub -county administrator, which areas of jurisdiction do you cover?

Mathira East sub-county is made up of four wards which include Karatina which is the headquarters, Konyu, Iria-Ini and Magutu ward.

Are all your wards covered by the ward administrators?

No, as a matter of fact, none of the



wards have a ward administrator making work of a sub county administrator extremely hard bearing in mind that Mathira East is very vast, with a myriad of issues not to mention being a hotbed of Nyeri politics.

What is your experience in development of policies in the County Government of Nyeri?

I have a long experience in policy development including having worked as an independent policy consultant. I have also trained at Kenya School of Government in policy formulation as well as having studied policy at both my bachelors and master trainings. I have also participated in development of many policy documents in the county government in various departments.



One might say that Nyeri County has no issues of conflict or terrorism. What's your take?

Conflicts are a norm of life. The only difference is the frequency and intensity. In Nyeri County, different types of conflicts abound. I have in mind conflicts such as resource based conflict, business space related conflicts, land inheritance and boundaries conflicts, business rivalry, criminal gangs and political conflicts.

Tell us about the roles of a sub county administrator in revenue collection.

The sub-county administrator has a role in revenue collection; first in educating the public on the need for people to pay rents, rates and licenses. Secondly, the sub-county administrator has both an implicit and an explicit role in revenue collection including meeting the sub county revenue targets and working with revenue officers to enforce compliance. Alcohol revenue is also directly under the sub-county administrator.

What role do you play in disaster management and emergency response activities?

Mostly surveillance and coordination after disaster has occurred.

I also offer leadership in case of major disasters.

How do administrators work with other departments in the county and officers from the national government without duplicating or contradicting roles?

At the sub county level administrators coordinate work through meetings, directives, participation, leadership, liaison, collaboration, partnership, communication involvement.

Government officers are perceived to engage in withholding public information. How do you handle this as an administrator?

I engage the public through civic education, dissemination of information on need to know basis, interacting with the people, holding meetings using other prepared public fora by other government agencies and creating a feedback system.

Which part do you play on development projects?

Mainly in identification of projects and in monitoring the implementation of projects once funded and tendered out.

Do you play any part in articulating the implementation of Articles 10

(on national values and principles of governance) and 232 (on values and principles of public service) of the constitution to the citizens?

Yes, these principles must be seen in our work. We must demonstrate patriotism, national unity, sharing and devolution of power the rules of law, democracy and participation of the people, good governance, and integrity. We must also educate other officers and indeed the public on their importance.

Being one of the experienced and long serving sub county administrators in the County Government of Nyeri, what lessons have you learnt so far? What are your aspirations?

- Firmness in fair decision making.
- Interacting with the people even at the lowest level..
- Integrity/honesty in carrying out our work to earn public trust.
- Respect and team work.
- Being principled.
- Taking one day at time, not taking anything to heart or taking anything personal.

My aspiration is to ascend to higher policy making organs in order to make large scale impacts on poverty, unemployment and high taxation.

 Tweet of the week 

 **Waweru** @WaweruRichie · 20 Jul
Replying to @County19Nyeri and @GovernorKahiga

I can remember how i suffered while at muthaiga matope wah.
Kudos county government

A rescue mission at Webcom Bitumen Company

By Dynah Mwangi

The toughest assignment a fireman has to tackle in the line of duty is a fire tragedy. Theirs is to stay on their feet, armed for a quick response in the event of a distress call. Our firemen put their lives at stake to save other people's lives and property. Their dedication to the course is priceless. The County's fire brigade had an operation at Webcom operation site situated at Kagochi, Karatina where they helped extinguish the fire that had ensued from bitumen barrels that were being heated in readiness for transportation.

The brigadiers managed to contain the fire that could have otherwise caused bigger damages in case the bitumen barrels exploded. One of the firemen sustained minor injuries but no casualties were reported.



PHOTO | DYNAH MWANGI

Nyeri Physical and Land Use Planning Liaison Committee inaugurated



PHOTO | KENNEDY KARANJA

The newly inaugurated Nyeri Physical and Land Use Planning Liaison Committee members in group photo outside governor's office. Third left is the Nyeri County Secretary Ben Gachichio.

By Joseph Wambugu

The County Government of Nyeri has inaugurated the newly formed County Physical and Land Use Planning Liaison Committee. The eight-member- committee which started its work after the members took their oath of office will be involved in resolving land matters and also physical planning.

On behalf of H.E Governor Muta-hi Kahiga, Nyeri Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urbanization CEC Dr. Kwai Wanjaria witnessed the swearing-in-ceremony presided over by County Legal Officer Kimani Rucuiya. The committee comprises of Rosemary Nderitu (an advocate), Lucas Adwera (from National Construction Authority), Hellen Njoki (Physical Planner), Gathiru Mwai (architect), Wanjohi Kaguongo (surveyor), Isaac Mwangi and Rose Kigo (members of the Nyeri Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry) and an officer from National Land Commission. Rosemary Nderitu was elected as the chairperson of the committee.

The function of the committee members include, hearing and determining complaints and claims in respect to applications submitted to the planning authority in the county. The committee will also hear appeals against decisions made by the planning authority with respect to physical and land use development plans, advice the CEC on broad physical and land use planning policies, strategies and standards.

Hearing of appeals with respect to enforcement notices is another function of the committee.

Nyeri County Secretary Ben Gachichio who was also present urged the committee to come up with a land policy and also develop a new physical plan for Nyeri town which can be used for the next 50 years since the current one was developed during the colonial era. He also noted that there is need to consult all stakeholders while making decisions on land matters.

IHRM donates towards Nyeri Covid-19 Emergency Fund



PHOTO | PETER WANGARI

Nyeri County Secretary Ben Gachichio (right) receiving donations from Institute of Human Resource Management (IHRM) chairperson James Chumbe (left) and Catherine Mwangi - IHRM Council Member.

By Jackline Gikunju

The Institute of Human Resource Management (IHRM) handed in foodstuff donations to feed families adversely affected by covid-19 pandemic in Nyeri.

Led by their chairperson James Chumbe, the team drawn from the entire Mt Kenya region, said they were delighted to join the county in cushioning those who don't have during this period.

This year's Human Resource month theme, 'Holistic Wellness' was in line with the current situation as they recognized the negative economic effects that the pandemic has caused and decided to take a support-

ive approach. They also gave a proposal for a partnership with the County Government of Nyeri for establishment of IHRM in the county.

The County Secretary Ben Gachichio while receiving the donations on behalf of the HE. Governor Mutahi Kahiga, said the donations were a sign of great magnanimity and philanthropy noting that the HR profession is key to the success of any institution.

The 50 food packages donated contained rice, cooking oil, maize flour and soap.

In brief



PHOTO | PETER WANGARI

The parking lot at outpatient area in Nyeri Referral Hospital, Nyeri town has been upgraded with cabros for easy parking. This will ensure longevity of the parking spaces without wearing out.

YOUR SAY ON FACEBOOK



Top fan

Benson Ngure

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another." "There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up." "When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed." "You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you." Congratulations.



Top fan

Wanjiku Simon

Well done your Excellency for ensuring we have empowered CHVs and the number is impressive with the equipment and the training they have undergone they will be so instrumental mashinganani to attend to the patients with the conditions and also sensitive them on how to keep safe from covid_19. Keep it up with the commitment.



Emily Nderitu

Heco you congratulates you all the way from Namanga at least we feel good when we hear good things about our county but I would like to ask a question mshesha who said we should exhaust all our product I've years in other areas alafu tunarudi home when we r exhausted mi nimeboeka na hi place nice time we r proud of you as teacher s



Jack Wachira

We can see the tremendous amount of Job done, even those who were blind yesterday have started seeing and some have hidden themselves into caves and others wondering of where to hydrate themselves due to the fact that all roads have become passable



Kamotho Ndegwa

That's your work Honourable Governor. Kindly focus we have a lot of pending issues in our county including the deplorable roads in chaka town, youth empowerment via sports, state of the art stadia and much more.



Diana Rosa Alejo Lopez

Good and intelligent strategy because right now the transmission is community level. Is in the community the best escenario to work promotion and prevention; early diagnosis and fast treatment. 🙌🙌🙌



Joyce Wanjiru

All who have accomplished great things have had a great aim, have fixed their gaze on a goal which was high, one which sometimes seemed impossible.. Great job keep on moving Governor.



Jymy Kent

Kahiga you have got my support, Sisi kama wana youths we are behind you and your agenda's, hence count my vote come 2022 but vijana tumeachwa nyuma we are jobless my dear hapo cheza kama wewe



Top fan

Ken Nduati

Further to that, it enhances easy movement in case of an emergency (both into and out of the facility)

Know your sub-county

FOCUS ON TETU

By Jackline Gikunju

Tetu sub-county is the smallest sub-county of Nyeri county, Kenya. It is located at the West of adjacent Nyeri town, the county capital. It stretches from the slopes of Aberdares all the way to the confluence of rivers Gura and Sagana with a hilly and mountainous topography.

The sub-county has a total population of 78,320 people, a population density 378 of per km² according to the census conducted in 2019. As a constituency, Tetu is represented by Hon. James Gichuhi in the national assembly.

It has three wards namely Wamagana represented at the Nyeri County Assembly by Hon. Sabastian Mugo, Dedan Kimathi ward (Hon. Gibson Wahinya), Aguthi/Gaaki ward (Hon. Stanley Wakibia). Tetu sub-county administrator is Jemimah Ruheni.

The area is rich in agricultural produce like coffee, tea and milk which is as a result of favorable climatic conditions, soil and abundance of water. Lately, fish farming has gained momentum as the county Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries aims to oversee a paradigm shift to locals embracing fish meat, a dish rarely consumed in the central part of the country. The world-famous Gathuthi Tea Factory and Wamagana Fish Factory, the only fish processing factory in the county are also in this sub-county.

The sub-county prides itself in being home to liberation leader Field Marshal Dedan Kimathi who was subdued and captured by British collaborators at Kahiga-ini area.

The County Government of Nyeri has erected a monument in honour of the hero at this site to immortalize him. One of Kimathi's most renowned slogans was

'Better to die on our feet than live on our knees'. The sub-county also was home to Nobel peace prize laureate Prof. Wangari Maathai, a renowned Kenyan social, environmental and political activist. The county has also immortalized her by erecting her monument at Nyeri Central Park.

The sub-county has a number of sceneries to boast about such as the Aberdare National Park whose part is in the sub-county. Aberdare is a rich botanic paradise of equatorial exuberance and alpine vegetation. Gura River, the fastest in Africa, marks the Tetu-Othaya boundary and also offers a pristine environment for relaxation and unwinding. It also hosts part of the Aberdare forest, one of Kenya's major water-catchment towers. The beautiful landscapes and pure breath of clean air from the forest is just but astounding!

Tertiary educational institutions in Tetu include Tetu Vocational Training Center, Kagumo Teacher's College and seven VTCs spread across the wards. There are also a number of health centers including Gichira, Wamagana, Ndugamano, Thage-ini and Ihururu among others. In Ihururu, the county government has partnered with NACADA to set up a 100-bed capacity drug rehabilitation centre.

Road infrastructure in the sub-county is quite developed with the county government having recently upgraded most roads. The proposed Mau Mau road that will connect Nyeri, Murang'a, Kiambu and Nyandarua counties will economically open up Tetu.



ONGOING...

NYERI COUNTY PROJECTS

ISSUE 40 | www.nyeri.go.ke | +254 721 019 0919



A modern macadamia and coffee store at Mukurwe-ini West ward, Mukurwe-ini sub county is now complete and ready for use by the local farmers.



The recently renovated Gatura dispensary in Mukurwe-ini West ward is almost complete.



Improvement of roofing and gutters at Gakindu Market in Mukurwe-ini West ward. This will improve the working conditions of the traders.



The recently constructed Chain link fence at Tambaya grounds in Mukurwe-ini West ward, Mukurwe-ini sub-county.



The newly constructed perimeter fence at Njokiini Dispensary in Mukurwe-ini West ward is complete. The dispensary has also been renovated.



LEFT: A modern workshop at Kaheti Youth Vocational Centre in Mukurwe-ini West ward is now complete.

RIGHT: The biogas projects in Aguthi / Gaaki ward, Tetu sub county are now complete transforming five families in the area.



PICTORIAL

ISSUE 40 - PHOTOS | PETER MUBARI, ANDREW KARIUKI & SOURCE



Ongoing upgrading of Ithanji Kwa-Wa-Marigu road in Karima ward, Othaya sub-county.



Recently installed streetlights in Karima ward, Othaya sub-county.



Recently upgraded Njaga-ini road in Gikondi ward, Mukurwe-ini sub-county.



Ongoing upgrading of Gachui Kariuki-Waihenya road in Gikondi ward, Mukurwe-ini sub-county.



Ongoing roads upgrade program in Gatitu/Muruguru ward in Nyeri Central sub-county. Some of the upgraded roads include, Kahururu road-0.8km githiru, Githoithiro road-0.7km, Kwa Waiharo road-0.5km, Thunguma prison road-0.3km and Thunguma-Ndegwas-Kahia road 0.8km.



Ongoing repair of high masts (Mulika Mwizi) in Kanyange area in Iria-ini ward, Othaya sub-county.



Recently installed streetlights at Wariruta shopping centre, Giagatika and Karogoto centre in Kirimukuyu ward, Mathira West.



Ongoing upgrading of Chiagumba area of Chinga Ward, Othaya sub-county.