



WEEKLY REVIEW



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Nyeri retains top position in the implementation of KCSAP activities

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Nyeri County emerged position one out of 24 counties where KCSAP, a programme funded by the World Bank is being implemented.

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How Nyeri's internship gave me wings to soar

The Youth Empowerment Program targets to recruit 200 fresh graduates per year, from across the country and offer them hands on skills.

By Njambi Mugo

A report by the recently carried out Census exercise indicated that more than a third of Kenya's youth eligible for work have no jobs in an environment where Kenya's Government is struggling to tackle this acute

problem.

In response to this problem, the County Government of Nyeri under the governance of H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga started the County

Internship Programme in 2018, which has seen over 500 interns benefitting from it so far.

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The Youth Empowerment Program targets to recruit 200 fresh graduates per year, from across the country and offer them hands on skills as well as help them close the gap with real-world experience by placing them under seasoned public servants who act as their mentors.

So far, the county government has absorbed 49 interns from the 1st and 2nd batch, while others have been absorbed by other employers, either during the internship period or after, due to the valuable experience they gain.

By involving interns in day to day operations, the County Government of Nyeri finds future employees and reduc-



es the cost on resources from recruiting, creates a platform for test-driving youth talent, increases organizational productivity, it's a way of giving back to the community,

closes the skills gap in fresh graduates, fosters leadership skills, improves the overall work environment and has positioned Nyeri as a model county with both public and

private organizations benchmarking on the same.

Here are some of the success stories:

Candy Wamaitha Ngunjiri

Which department were you stationed at?

I was stationed at the Office of the Governor-Governor's Press Unit.



How was the experience like for you? What lessons did you learn?

My one-year experience was rewarding as my communication and social skills were honed. I was able to clearly understand the structure and functions of the county governments, as well as the effectiveness of time management or rather punctuality.

Where are you working right now?

I am working at China Road and Bridges Corporation; the contractors of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) in Kenya, as a Public Relations Executive.

How did the internship shape the person you are right now and how did the experience weigh on you getting a job?

The training impacted my career immensely and I can attest that my confidence was built up during this

time. This was a stepping stone for me even when I was applying for a job, because I was able to make presentations at work boldly. In addition, during my internship I was able to build networks, some of which I still use to date.

What advice would you give to your fellow youth who are looking for employment?

To always give their best in the space they are in be it, self or formal employment. I will leave them with a quote I cherish, "Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other" – Abraham Lincoln.

Message to H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga

I am forever grateful! Thank you for providing such an opportunity for young people like myself to gain workplace experience and improving our prospects for future employability.

Patrick Gachuhi Kamau

Which department were you stationed at?

I was an intern with the Department of Agriculture, Live-stock and Fisheries and was stationed at Mathira East sub-county veterinary offices.

How was the experience like for you? What lessons did you learn?

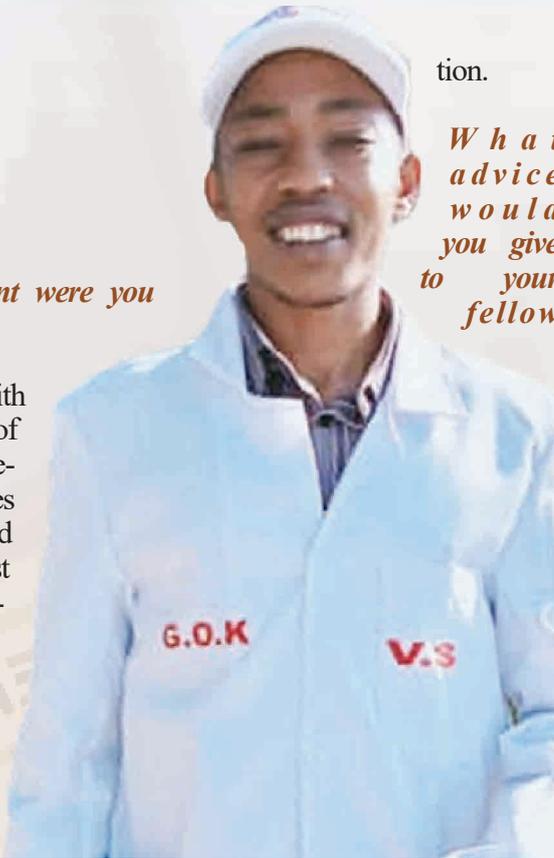
I learnt that only those who believe in the possibility of acceptance in such an opportunity that really get to high levels of success. There are many opportunities in the county where I interacted with very noble success oriented county personnel where I learnt of the government systems and operating procedures. I also learnt the importance of creating the right networks.

Where are you working right now?

I am a trainer at the Meat Training Institute, Athi River which is a national government institute.

How did the internship shape the person you are right now and how did the experience weigh on you getting a job?

The internship molded me into not only a competent veterinary technologist but also helped me gain immeasurable skills. The first hand expertise gained gave me a competitive edge while interviewing for my current posi-



tion.

What advice would you give to your fellow

youth who are looking for employment?

To stop lamenting that there are no job opportunities instead, they should believe in possibilities that may arise day in day out. They should further place themselves visibly in the corporate world by applying for such opportunities and also aim to be job creators.

Message to H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga

I wish to express my gratitude to Governor Kahiga for the opportunity to intern at the County Government of Nyeri. The programme is a noble idea which gave me the wings to fly and serve even at the national government level whilst applying the skills gained. May God bless you abundantly for creating opportunities for the youth, especially at a time when unemployment is quite high in the country.

Miriam Wangechi Ndirangu

Which department were you stationed at?

I was initially stationed in the Governors Press Unit. Later, I switched to the finance department under the revenue directorate where I was later employed on 1st March 2019 as a revenue clerk.

How was the experience like for you? What lessons did you learn?

The experience was mind blowing, humbling and I'm thankful every day I get to wake up and serve the people of Nyeri as a revenue clerk. I had initially looked for a job for two and half years before I got the internship opportunity.

Where are you working right now?

I am stationed at the county offices, Town Hall grounds serving as the Deputy Revenue Officer Nyeri Town sub-county.

How did the internship shape the person you are right now and how did the experience weigh on you getting a job?

It shaped me to becoming a more diverse person and to be open minded to other individuals' opinions and thoughts. I have also learnt to always put God first, to believe in myself as well as to take every opportunity that comes my way with open arms and work hard to be the best at it.

What advice would you give to your fellow youth who are looking for employment?

I would advise them to be open to opportunities available and strive to be the best. Message to H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga

I want to sincerely thank Governor Kahiga for the opportunity; no words can ever explain how grateful I am to his government for creating such a programme

which has granted me a job that I enjoy. Forever grateful
T E A M
KAHIGA
HOIYE!!



Norman Maina Mwangi

Which department were you stationed at?

I was in the Department of Health Services, Accounts office.

How was the experience like for you? What lessons did you learn?

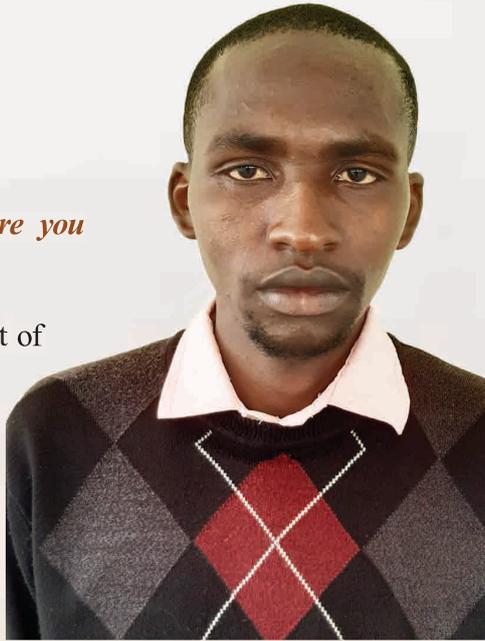
The experience was worthwhile because it helped me secure two jobs so far. In addition, I learnt how to interact with fellow workers, professional communication and networking.

Where are you working right now?

I am currently working for Centre for Health Solutions Ltd as a program accountant.

How did the internship shape the person you are right now and how did the experience weigh on you getting a job?

The internship helped me develop professional networks, the confidence to interact freely in professional environments and exposed me to real working environment. The experience I acquired helped me secure the current job, as some of the requirements were that the successful candidate ought to have worked with a county government and preferably in the department of health services and since I already had the two attributes gained from the internship, I was offered the job.



What advice would you offer to your fellow youth who are looking for employment?

To secure work experience whether by volunteering or other arrangements because all that matters when looking for a job is experience a person has. Also have a well drafted CV and use the internet to look for jobs which has many platforms for employment opportunities. Personally, I learnt about my current position through the internet.

Message to H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga

I would like to thank the governor for coming up with this idea of offering internships to graduates and for making us feel like a valued part of the Nyeri County staff. Were it not for the internship opportunity, I wouldn't have been in the position I am today. I would also like to thank my then supervisor Mr. Moses Githinji for instilling confidence in me, and making me the person I am today career wise.

Jecinta Wachera

Which department were you stationed at?

I was interning in the Governor's Office- Legal department.

How was the experience like for you? What lessons did you learn?

It was a great learning experience that successfully transitioned me from being a law student to a real world practitioner. I learnt that it's important to be ready and willing to learn from others in the same field as you.

Where are you working right now?

I'm working in the County Public Service Board's Secretariat as a Legal Researcher.

How did the internship shape the person you are right now and how did the experience weigh on you getting a job?

During the internship period, I polished my professional and interpersonal skills. I had opportunities to in-

teract and learn from senior legal practitioners hence broadening my network. I also gained on the job skills that came in handy when looking for a job.

What advice would you give to your fellow youth who are looking for employment?

I would encourage them to take up any learning opportunities that can help enhance their area of studies. A job seeker who has volunteered for six months is better placed than a job-seeker with no practical skills at all, even if the latter has better grades.

Message to H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga

I'm very grateful to the governor for conceiving, championing and implementing such a noble initiative that is churning skilled labour to the world. His 'Nyeri First' mantra is well felt through this as it improves the life of very many families.



Nyeri retains top position in the implementation of KCSAP activities



PHOTOS | PETER WANGARI

By Njambi Mugo

The County Government of Nyeri under the leadership of H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga has yet again been feted for being position one in the timely and proper implementation of the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP) activities.

Nyeri County emerged position one out of 24 counties where KCSAP, a programme funded by the World Bank is being implemented.

Nyeri County surpassed the KCSAP targets in the following leagues:

- On Micro Projects, Nyeri has approved and funded 216 Common Interest Groups, vulnerable and marginalized groups.

- On Sub Projects, four projects have been completed

namely: Kiria Dam Irrigation Project, Kamangura Dam Irrigation Project and three masonry tanks. Others include Lusoi Dam Irrigation Project and Thiha Sagna Irrigation Project which are 98% and 93% complete respectively.

- Nyeri has also approved 6 producer organizations and funded them with an inclusion grant. The projects are Kieni Dairy Products Ltd, Mukurwe-ini Wakulima Dairy Ltd, Sabeke Horticulture Cooperative Society, Mwikuria Grains Farmers' Cooperative Society, Mukuni Poultry Cooperative Society and Nyeri South Banana Producers Cooperative Society. Further the county government is funding Natural Ways Food Supple-

ments as part of public-private partnership.

- On funds absorption, Nyeri County has surpassed the expected parameter with 98.06% funds absorption. KCSAP is being implemented in 6 wards namely: Gakawa, Mugunda, Thegu River,

Mukurwe-ini Central, Rugi and Gatarakwa wards.

The project operates through a statement of expenditure, and with Nyeri County's performance, this will consequently translate to more funds allocation.



The fight against rabies in Nyeri County continues

By Brian Kanyungu

In efforts to fight the infectious disease, rabies, the County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries commenced a 30 day vaccination program of dogs, cats and donkeys at Mukurwe-ini Central ward in Mukurwe-ini Sub-county.

The County Government of Nyeri has in the past played an active role in the fight against rabies whereby in the last year alone, the Department of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries facilitated the vaccination of 7,200 animals in the county. In this year's mop up exercise, the team plans to vaccinate at least 5,000 animals. Rabies is an infectious disease that affects the central nervous system in mammals. It can be spread to people from the saliva of infected animals.

Animals that have

contracted rabies may show a variety of signs, including fearfulness, aggression, excessive drooling, difficulty swallowing, staggering, paralysis and seizures. It is usually spread through an animal bite. The most likely animals to spread rabies include dogs, bats, jackals and as has been observed in the recent events, donkeys and cats.

Speaking at the forum, CEC James Wachihi recognized the importance of this exercise in that it promotes the safety and well-being of the people of Nyeri. He insisted on the importance of good ownership practices in dog and animal keeping in general. He noted that it is a requirement by the law that dog owners feed, control

and kennel their dogs to ensure the safety and well-being of themselves and others.

He expressed concern about the rapid increase in the number of stray dogs in the county and pointed out the numerous risks they bring along. In efforts to curb this, the County Government of Nyeri has started a dog population management exercise dubbed 'County Dog Population Management Program' which the CEC launched by presenting the sub-county veterinary officers with surgical kits to assist in the castration of dogs. CEC James Wachihi also pointed out that the County Government of Nyeri is working hand in hand with the Kenya Wildlife Service to fight the disease in cases where it occurs in wild animals like jackals.

Dr. Joseph Mwangi,

The Director of Veterinary Services and his team comprising of veterinary officers from the sub-counties not only vaccinated the animals but also engaged locals on responsible dog ownership practices and the take of the law on dog keeping. They also taught locals on important guidelines to follow in case of an animal bite:

1. Treat all bites as rabies transmitting bites.
2. When bitten, clean area immediately with clean running water and soap for at least two minutes.
3. Immediately rush to the nearest health center for medical advice.
4. Never skip the dosage prescribed once started.

The exercise will run for 30 days with the veterinary team traversing Nyeri County vaccinating animals and educating locals.





PS Francis Owino pays courtesy call to the governor

By Jackline Kinyua

Francis Owino, PS Fisheries, Aquaculture and Blue Economy paid a courtesy call to H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga in his office.

He lauded the governor for his exemplary performance and in supporting national programmes such as the Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP).

Governor Kahiga pointed out that fish farming in Nyeri County has helped in boosting the economy as well as introducing a new culture of fish consumption which has assist-

ed in our day to day diet.

Nyeri County has improved efforts to promote the fisheries sector as it was previously known for minimal production of fish. There has been an upward trend in fish production and targeting more production from farmed systems through the support of small scale farmers.

Samuel Macharia, the Project Coordinator International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) mentioned that IFAD will also support youth programs in aquaculture.

IPMS champions training

The County Government of Nyeri has automated performance contracts, staff performance appraisals and reporting.

It is for this reason that the Department of Lands, Housing, Physical Planning, and Urban Development held a two day training from 8th to 9th March 2021 on Integrated Performance Management System (IPMS).

The training targeted the IPMS champions selected from the four directorates (Physical Planning, Lands & Survey, Housing and Nyeri Municipal Board).

A team from the County Performance Man-

agement Unit Mr. Patrick Migwi and Mr. Tyson Mwangi trained champions on performance management framework, linking the departmental priorities with CIDP, Budget and ADP, setting SMART targets and undertaking mid and end-year reviews in the Integrated Performance Management System (IPMS). The champions will be responsible for training and coaching staff in their respective directorates on target setting in the system, developing an individual work plan, and ensuring timely reporting of the achievements made.



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Kisumu Marwa Solidarity Health Scheme Launch

Nyeri County has at the same time increased NHIF coverage to vulnerable residents covering over 18,000 households.

By Joseph Wambugu

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga jointly with his Kisumu counterpart Prof Anyang' Nyong'o launched the Kisumu Marwa Solidarity Health Insurance Scheme.

The launch of the insurance cover held at Ciala Resort in Kisumu County will ensure many residents in the county are covered.

The theme of the launch was 'Sustainable Health Financing in Implementation of UHC'.

The ambitious insurance program launched will cov-

er over 90,000 households which are unable to pay the monthly NHIF.

Governor Kahiga was specially invited by host Governor Nyong'o to share Nyeri County's experience on UHC roll out now that Nyeri was ranked the best among the pilot counties that successfully rolled out the program.

The governor who also represented CoG Chair H.E Martin Wambora lauded the County Government of Kisumu for such a unique health program which will

ensure quality affordable health care for locals. He also urged local private hospitals to support this scheme.

Nyeri County has at the same time increased NHIF coverage to vulnerable residents covering over 18,000 households.

In his message, CoG Chair Wambora urged other counties to follow suit in order to ensure more Kenyans benefit.

Marwa is a local name meaning 'ours'.



Aid for Mathira fire tragedy victims

By Jane Baru

H.E Mutahi Kahiga together with Iriani MCA Hon. David Kabatha visited the families of Patrick Njohi Mundia of Kahachu village, Mathira East sub-county who were hit by a fire tragedy on 6th March 2021.

The fire razed down their houses, rendering the six families homeless. Nothing was rescued from the houses; fortunately, no casualties were reported.

In aid of these families, the County Government of Nyeri donated assorted foodstuffs, some building materials, clothes and a personal donation of Ksh. 60,000 from the governor.

Governor Kahiga also pledged that through the department of Gender, Youth and Social Services the families will be assisted to replace their certificates and personal documents.



PHOTO | JOSEPH WAMBUGU

Covid-19 roll out plan

The county governments in close collaboration with the MoH, will ensure proper and effective administration of the vaccine.

By Kennedy Karanja



PHOTO | KENNEDY KARANJA

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahi-ga joined his fellow governors for a deliberation meeting held at the Council of Governors (CoG) headquar-

ters at Delta House, Nairobi. They conferred with the Ministry of Health officers led by the CS Hon. Mutahi Kagwe about the roll out ex-

ercise of the Covid-19 vaccine which is being carried out in 3 phases. The county governments in close collaboration with the MoH, will

ensure proper and effective administration of the vaccine. All the necessary stakeholders will be involved including political and religious leaders.

Other key issues discussed was the untimely release of the equitable share to the County Governments by the National Treasury, which has continued to disrupt service delivery at the county level and delayed payment of salaries to the staff.

The governors also deliberated on the outstanding funds for the Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP) and the Kenya Devolution Support Programme (KDSP).

Title deeds presented by KISIP

Officials from the Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Project (KISIP) have presented 48 title deeds for Ihwagi village. This is in addition to 600 others for Miiri, Ngorano, Gikaibii, Kiaruhiu, Mweiga (Gikomo/Kiawara), Kiamwathi and Njoguini villages that were presented to the County Government of Nyeri in December 2019. The title deeds were received by the Chief Of-

ficer Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development, Han-

nah Maranga, Director of Physical Planning Beatrice Koech and County

KISIP Coordinator Moses Muturi Ndwiga.





Nyeri County Forest Conservation Forum

The two-day training workshop involved discussions on challenges facing the forest sector management which will be addressed by the proposed Policy & Bill.

By Njambi Mugo

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga launched an engagement forum on the proposed Nyeri County Forest Conservation and Management Policy & Bill 2020 between the County Government of Nyeri and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The two-day training workshop involved discussions on challenges facing the forest sector management which will be addressed by the proposed Policy & Bill. UNDP which seeks to ad-

dress the developmental challenges on matters climate change being faced in Nyeri and Kenya at large, will aid in the formulation and evaluation of the policy. Governor Kahiga lauded the UNDP for their support in the creation of this Bill adding that he's committed to ensuring Nyeri County exceeds its current forest cover. Nyeri boasts being the leading county with the highest percentage tree cover at 38.3%.

"Wisdom is planting trees

under whose shade we shall never sit under hence it is important to lay the groundwork for generations to come," noted the governor. The County Assembly of Nyeri Environment and Natural Resources Committee chairman Hon. Watson Weru called upon Nyerians to embrace the 'Hummingbird' concept by Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai and actively take part in planting of more trees with an aim of conserving the environment.

In brief...

The County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Transport, Public works, Infrastructure and Energy is currently excavating the Kiangima-Kagumo road in Kagumo village, Iria-ini ward, Othaya sub-county.



Busia County officers's courtesy call

By Jane Barua

Mr. George Mwangi, the Chief Officer department of Gender, Youth and Social Services - Nyeri County, received a courtesy call from his counterpart in Busia County, Mr. Joe Maurice Odundo.

The two exchanged information on the various components of the respective departments and agreed on areas of further collaboration including youth exchange programs from the two counties.

They also proposed that a structured and regular forum probably under the auspices of the Council of Governors (CoG), where all departments dealing with youth in the country, should be organized.

Mr. Odundo was in Nyeri County to attend the Africa Scouts Day under the World Scouts Parliamentary Union, which was celebrated at Pigeon Park on 12th March, 2021.

The two COs visited the Baden Powell Cemetery before attending the Nyeri County Occupational Health and Safety training at White Rhino Hotel, where Mr. Odundo was invited to close the four-day training.

