



WEEKLY REVIEW



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Fish Cage farming at Hohwe Dam at Kirimukuyu ward, Mathira West sub-county. The Department of Agriculture undertook the stocking of 30 public dams each with 7,000 tilapia mixed sex fingerlings, stocked 45 fish cages each with 1,000 monosex fingerlings.

Why aquaculture business thrives in Nyeri

By Governor's Press Unit

Aquaculture is a vital agriculture sub-sector which plays a key role in social and economic development and contributes to food security, revenue generation, job creation and wealth.

The concept of fish farm-

ing has gained momentum over the last years in Nyeri County which can be largely attributed to the input made by the County Government of Nyeri under the leadership of H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga. The County

Government has been aggressive in promoting fish farming with the main aim of enhancing fish production.

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Youth empowerment for a better future



The youth were mentored by the involved partners, given fresh ideas including digital learning courses they could enroll in, internship programs offered at the national and county governments,

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Governor flags off agricultural lime & bio-fertilizer to over 10,000 farmers

This will boost coffee production, increase yield from maize, beans, Irish potato and also improve soil PH around PH 5.

Story on page 12



Through the Department of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries, the county government has distributed over 945,000 fingerlings to over 1,400 fish farmers across

liners, cover nets, fish cages, rehabilitation of ponds for individual farmers as well as offering extension support to fish farmers through fisheries officers located in all the

ports value addition demonstrations whereby fish farmers are trained on the various ways of adding value to fish and fish products.

Another key stakeholder in

and has played a major role in promoting aquaculture value chain within the county. ABDP supports fisheries activities in 15 counties, with Nyeri County being one of them.

Recently, the county government celebrated the Annual Aquaculture Day (AAD), a brainchild of the Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP). The objective of the Annual Aquaculture Day was to create a platform to bring aquaculture stakeholders together for knowledge and skills exchange, showcase aquaculture innovations along the various nodes of aquaculture value chain, and give aquaculture the national prominence it deserves. A total of 438 small scale fish farmers benefitted with aquaculture inputs such as liners, fencing materials, Aquaculture hand book and fish menu books this financial year through the ADBP. To enhance county fisheries extension officers, the ABDP also supported them with cool boxes,



the county at a cost of about Kshs. 14 million. The county government has provided both mixed sex and mono sex fingerlings which have been stocked in dams and ponds respectively. In the financial year 2019/2020, the county government undertook stocking of 30 public dams each with 7,000 tilapia mixed sex fingerlings, stocked 45 fish cages each with 1,000 Tilapia monosex fingerlings. In the current financial year, a total of 167 fish farmers were provided with 1,000 Tilapia monosex fingerlings each and fish feeds by the county government.

Further, through the department, the county government has supported fish farming through provision of fish farming inputs, pond

eight sub-counties.

Fish market in Nyeri County has been well coordinated right from the fish producers to the fish consumers, the fisheries extension officers who liaise with the Nyeri fish farmer's cooperative committee who ensure that the fish are delivered to fish bulking sites at the sub county level for marketing. So far, fish farmers have harvested over 89 tonnes of fish earning a total of about Kshs. 35 million. The county government also uses Wamagana Fish Factory in Tetu sub-county as a fish bulking/ collection center. Further, the county is indirectly involved in fish value addition. The extension officers train fish farmers on value addition while the county government sup-

ports value addition demonstrations whereby fish farmers are trained on the various ways of adding value to fish and fish products. Another key stakeholder in



harvesting nets and life saver jackets.

Nyeri County, having been ranked the highest in prevalence of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) such as hypertension, diabetes and cancer needed a high intervention in terms of dietary diversity. In conjunction with ABDP, the county government has been holding Eat More Fish campaigns in all sub-counties to ensure that the community is informed on the health benefits of fish which is packed with protein, vitamins, and nutrients that can lower blood pressure and help reduce the risk of a heart attack or stroke. The campaigns have also increased the number of fish consumers thus creating demand of fish in the county and local market for fish and fisheries products.

As such, there arose a need to improve dietary diversity such as fish eating which is a low-fat high quality protein filled with omega-3 fatty acids and vitamins such as D and B2. It is also rich in calcium and phosphorus and minerals including iron, zinc, iodine, magnesium, and potassium. It is in this light that together with ABDP.

Fresh water ornamental fish



production is also practiced in the county whereby fish farmers rear the fish in ponds and tanks. Despite there being over 200 species of fish in the ornamental fish trade in the country, it is dominated mainly by the goldfish, mollies and Koi fish species. Savannah Ornamental Fish Farm in Mukurwe-ini Central ward, Mukurwe-ini sub-county is one of the ornamental fish farm in the county. The owners stock the following fish breeds; Black Moor, Platy, Koi, Shubunkin, Goldfish, Guppies, Sword tails and Gourami. Savannah Ornamental Fish Farm has numerous ponds for various purposes,

be it egg-bearing, hatching or growth depending on the type of fish as they all have different specific requirements for effective growth. Compared to other agriculture sub-sectors, aquaculture has some advantages including the fact that fish farming business is easy to start, the production process is cheaper and more profitable as fish convert feed into body protein more efficiently therefore less food and energy is used to produce fish meaning and it requires less space for production e.g. Bio floc systems in aquaculture.

The county government has developed strategic future plans for the fish industry in

the county including:

- To increase the annual fish production.
- To reduce fish post-harvest losses by promoting fish value addition.
- To increase the value of marketed fish from the County by encouraging fish processing, packaging and branding.
- To privatize Wamagana Fish Processing plant through public-private partnership by promoting private investment in the fisheries sector.
- To ensure that the county has an operational and authenticated hatchery.
- To develop a quality assurance structure for ensuring that fish feed available within the county are of good quality.
- To develop a policy framework that will promote investments in the fish industry and create a conducive environment to fish traders, input suppliers and fish farmers.



CGN sets up first pasteurizer in Othaya

A milk pasteurizer machine is able to eliminate pathogenic bacteria harmful to people's health, and preserve milk quality as much as possible. The equipment will be stored in a dairy shed which is currently being constructed as part of the ward specific projects.

By Ivy Muruga

The County Government of Nyeri (CGN) through the Department of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries has set up the first county-owned milk pasteurizer in Nyeri. The modern pasteurizer is in Kairuthi in Iriaini ward, Othaya sub-county.

Pasteurization is a technology applied in milk sterilization. A milk pasteurizer machine is able to eliminate those pathogenic bacteria harmful to people's health, and preserve milk quality as much as possible. This machine will enhance milk value addition for Kairuthi Dairy Farmers, who produce over 5,000 litres of milk daily.

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga while inspecting the project noted that through value addition, farmers will earn more as they will now sell their milk at a premium price.

In addition, the county



PHOTO | PETER WANGARI

government will also set up a milk cooler in the same locality, which will significantly help in reduction of milk wastage collected from the farmers. This will add to the already existing 26 milk coolers which have been installed and commissioned in the last three years by the County Gov-

ernment of Nyeri.

The equipment will be stored in a dairy shed which is currently being constructed as part of the ward specific projects. Area sub-county Administrator Jane Ndirangu reiterated the county government's commitment to improving the farmers' livelihoods.

Governor Kahiga also did a follow up visit to youth farmers to check on the progress of their Avocado and Macadamia trees. The group is part of the Nyeri farmers supplied with over 120,000 Hass Avocado and 35,000 Macadamia seedlings by the county government two years ago.

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PHOTO | BRENDA NJABARA

Psychosocial support sensitization

By Brenda Njabara

The Department of County Public Service and Solid Waste Management with the support from the Kenya Devolution Support Program (KDSP) conducted a two week sensitization forum on psychosocial support. The target groups were employees from different departments which were :Agriculture, Sanitation, Water, Lands and Education. All employees from the eight sub counties were well represented in the sensitization forum.

The training was officially opened by CEC

Beth Karimi who was in charge of overseeing the overall structure of the training. She also engaged the employees in some of the topics that were being discussed such as self awareness where she used different fruits to demonstrate people's characters and behaviour. Trainers from different parts of the department conducted the sensitization where different topics were discussed amongst different groups of people during the week. Some of the topics were :dimensions of wellness, stress management,

communication and personal branding, self awareness, addiction and recovery.

The goal of this program was to foster a safe and healthy occupational environment. Employers have a common duty to take reasonable care of the safety of their employees and the employee has the sole responsibility of making sure they are taking care of themselves. Everybody should be given the highest level of psychosocial safety that is reasonably practicable.

Nyeri community health volunteers trained on Covid-19

By Muthoni Kanja

Community health volunteers in Nyeri Central sub-county attached to vaccination stations have successfully been trained on the Astrazeneca Covid-19 vaccine.

A total of 20 CHV's have been trained with an aim of equipping them with knowledge regarding the vaccine. They were urged to cascade the information to the community in order to clarify on misconceptions related to the vaccine and COVID-19 at large.

This activity has been supported by Amref Health Africa with funding from Chicago Community Trust Fund.

In brief...

By Njambi Mugo

Upon request by the family of Nahashon Ndigirigi Biringi from Dedan Kimathi ward, Tetu sub-county, H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga intervened on their case in regards to exhumation of bodies of their loved ones buried along the Mau Mau road.

The intervention was done in a bid to ensure that the right channels are followed as well as to ensure the MauMau road project continued per schedule.

Through the Office of the County Attorney, the family was issued with a court order in accordance with the Public Health Act to exhume and re-bury three bodies of their departed loved ones. The services were offered pro bono.



GBV sector technical working group launch and orientation

The technical working group will be an avenue where problems are identified and solutions proposed for action on matters GBV in Nyeri County.

By Jane Baru

Gender-based violence (GBV) is one of the most common and socially condoned kinds of human rights violations and cuts beyond nationality, race, class, ethnicity, and religion. It is currently a major source of inequality in Kenya. It has far-reaching social and economic consequences for families, communities, and the entire country, as well as grave national security implications.

In response to the GBV menace, the County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services, in partnership with the Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) has developed a technical working group which will work towards its prevention.

The department's CECM Esther Ndung'u officially launched this

program in a workshop held at Ibis Hotel in Nyeri.

GBV has been on the rise especially with the Covid-19 pandemic. The CECM urged the stakeholders to join hands in ensuring that the county is free of GBV. She also noted that the previously accomplished milestones by the county will act as a foundation for the program to run smoothly.

The 16 days of activism, mentorship programs, and empowerment programs for women, youth and PWDs are among the successful initiatives carried out within the county.

The technical working group will be an avenue where problems are identified and solutions proposed for action on matters GBV in Nyeri County. It will also be an

avenue for referral pathway to access justice for the victims.

The key stakeholders drawn from the national and county governments, the judiciary, office of the DPP, probation prisons, media, civil society, private sector, faith-based organization, the police, Council of elders, women, PWD among other organizations, were taken through the overview of GBV in Nyeri County, including the forms, types, causes and effects.

They were also taken through their roles as stakeholders after which they gave their opinions and recommendations on how they envision the group to be operating including having quarterly meetings to deliberate on GBV issues.

Youth empowerment for a better future

The platform was to disseminate information that's present for the youth, and pick up complements, comments and possible ideas that are there, but can be taken up by the government.

By Jane Baru



PHOTO | JANE BARU

The youth are, and will remain, a significant share of Kenya's population for the foreseeable future. Engaging the youth population completely is therefore no longer an option but an imperative in the development process. Failure to provide suitable possibilities for this vast sector of the population might have massive economic, political, cultural, and social ramifications.

This is why the County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services partnered with the State Department for Youth in pulling youth from the central region to

share with them on matters youth empowerment.

The County Government of Nyeri has embarked on a number of efforts to address the youth challenges including hosting a 'Kikao Mtaani' programme which is a dialogue-based youth-led approach to facilitate discussions between the youth and government in order to address root causes of challenges affecting them.

The platform was to disseminate information that's present for the youth, and pick up complements, comments and possible ideas that are there, but can be taken up by the government. In return the

youth were mentored by the involved partners, given fresh ideas including digital learning courses they could enroll in, internship programs offered at the national and county governments, ICT centers located in designated em-

powerment centers among other platforms.

Partners involved included the National Youth Council Kenya, Generation Unlimited Kenya and the DCC- Nyeri Central among others.



Nyeri County gender and development policy review and validation



PHOTO | JANE BARU

By Jane Baru

The County Government of Nyeri, through the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services, with support from the Center for Rights Education and Awareness on women's rights (CREAW) held a workshop to review and validate the policy.

The main purpose of the policy is the achievement of gender equality and women empowerment, mainstream gender equality concerns into the county development concerns and ensure its integration into county policies, planning and programs.

The meeting involved a wide range of stakeholders drawn from the national and county governments, the judiciary, county assembly, media, civil society, private sector, faith-based organization, the police, Council of elders, youth, women, PWD among other organizations.

The CECM, Esther Ndungu while appreciating the valuable input of all the stakeholders and the development partner, noted that achieving gender equality requires the concerted efforts and support of all actors in the gender sector.

She affirmed H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga's commitment, support and political leadership goodwill towards achieving the gender equality and women empowerment in Nyeri County. She also noted that Nyeri County is above the minimum required threshold on gender parity in appointive leadership positions.

Hon. Patrick Mutahi, the county assembly gender chair, assured the team of his commitment and that of the county assembly towards supporting the policy and its implementation.

CGN partnership with AMREF in disseminating digital courses

By Muthoni Kanja

Through the Department of Health Services, the County Government of Nyeri in collaboration with Amref Health Africa in Kenya rolled out a 3-day exercise to enroll health workers for digital courses on mental health. The activity targeted healthcare providers in selected health facilities across the 8 sub-counties.

The two digital courses which have been enabled through the Jibu App were; Mental Health in Public Emergencies for health care professionals and Community Health Course for Community Health Assistants. The courses have been approved by the Ministry of Health and in successful completion, one is awarded with a certificate and CPD points.

The County Health Management Team spearheaded by Health CEC Dr. Rachel Kamau were also oriented and enrolled for the courses. Dr. Rachel noted that the courses are timely especially in an era where mental health disorders have been on the rise as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. She encouraged all the health workers to enroll and complete the courses which were fully sponsored.

Over 50 health care providers have been enrolled from Karatina, Mt. Kenya and Othaya Level IV Hospitals with more targeted forums. The participants were called upon to share the knowledge amongst their colleagues.

Governor opens MultiChoice Kenya Nyeri branch

So far, the county has attracted in excess of Kshs. 1 Billion worth of new investment with the potential of creating many high paying direct jobs and huge impact into the local economy with forward and backward linkages.

By Joseph Wambugu



H.E Mutahi Kahiga opened MultiChoice Kenya Regional Office in Nyeri town which will serve DSTv, Showmax and GOtv subscribers in the Mt Kenya region that comprises of about 10 counties.

One of the main objectives of devolution was to promote social and economic development and provision of proximate, easily accessible services to the citizens. In line with this, through public – private partnership, the County Government of Nyeri has put in place measures geared towards mak-

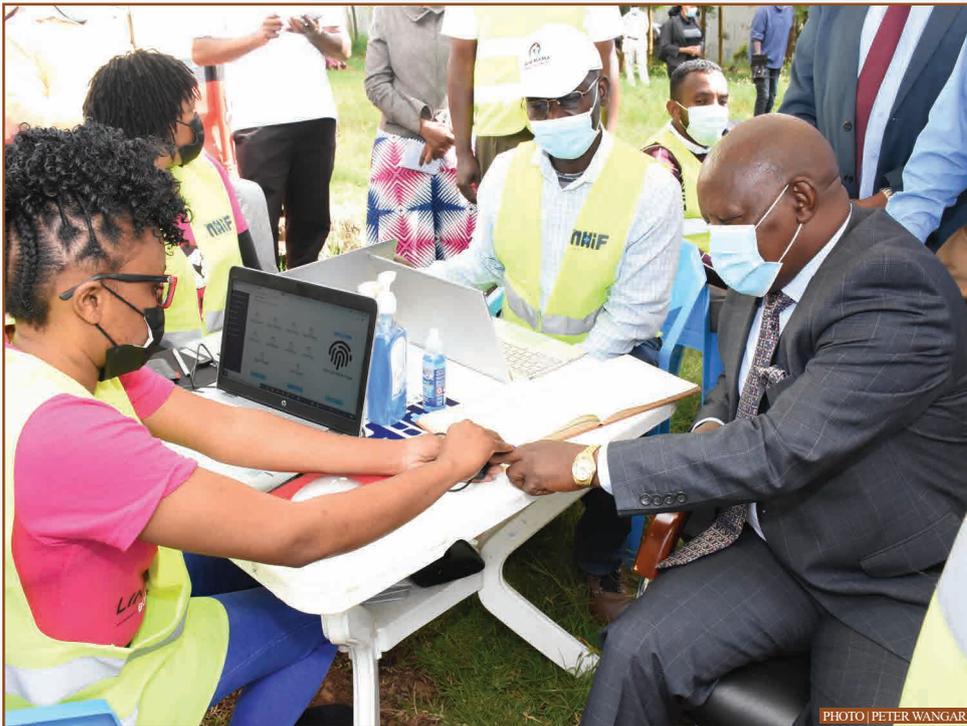
ing Nyeri County the investment destination of choice. The county government has developed an open-door policy making it easier for investors to navigate the county bureaucracy and cut the red tape. A raft of policies like investment policy and the Finance Act have been developed to make Nyeri a stable and predictable investment destination.

Governor Kahiga noted that the county government has provided a favorable environment which enables the populace to engage in meaningful economic activities.

Not only has the county government moved steadily along the path to create jobs and wealth for the people, it has maintained the course to brand Nyeri County as the cradle of entrepreneurship. So far, the county has attracted in excess of Kshs. 1 Billion worth of new investment with the potential of creating many high paying direct jobs and huge impact into the local economy with forward and backward linkages.

He further added that the county government is committed to invest heavily in

the development of employable skills as it sought employment opportunities through new investments in the county. As such, the governor invited MultiChoice Kenya to partner with the Department of Trade, Tourism & Cooperatives as the County also drives the partnership with the Kenya Film Commission to support and develop local youths to produce local content that can be aired in their platforms. The key ingredient of businesses prosperity and sustainability is having the right partners. By forging long-term partnerships with the government, the regulator, national broadcaster, local audio channels and free-to-air (FTA) channels, Governor Kahiga commended the company seeing that they have in last 26 years contributed positively to Kenya's GDP while also enriching the lives of many here in Nyeri and in Kenya at large. MultiChoice Kenya Managing Director Nancy Matimu appreciated the governor for creating a conducive business environment for the company and supporting wealth creation.



Launch of the NHIF mass biometric registration

This will provide a platform for vulnerable households' identification and verification at the time of accessing healthcare services at the accredited NHIF health facilities.

By Faith Hiuhi

H. E Governor Mutahi Kahiga together with the NHIF ICT Director Washington Okoth launched the NHIF mass biometric registration at Wamagana Education Hall, Tetu sub-county.

This will provide a platform for vulnerable households' identification and verification at the time of accessing healthcare services at

the accredited NHIF health facilities.

As he launched the registration, Governor Kahiga called upon the citizens of Nyeri to embrace and show up for the biometric registration seeing that NHIF comes in handy and will lessen the medicare burden for them.

He also noted that the biometric registration gives a new journey for

the healthcare delivery experience, further saying that the County Government of Nyeri is committed to support the scheme to its successful execution.

The County Government of Nyeri targets to register 45% of its 850,000 population by the end of the biometric registration.

Nyeri County Referral Hospital receives Hemafuse system

By Muthoni Kanja

Courtesy of the partnership between Amref Health Africa and SISU, Nyeri County Referral Hospital (PGH) received a Hemafuse machine worth Ksh. 510, 000. This was after over 20 theatre staff comprising of surgeons, anaesthesiologists and scrub nurses underwent an intensive training on the use and maintenance of Hemafuse system. The partnership is in a bid to increase blood access in hospitals during emergency and scheduled surgery procedures.

This innovative technology has seen development of a medical device, Hemafuse, which is the first of its kind in Kenya. The device is designed to re-use patient's blood gathered from internal bleeding during surgery by collection of whole blood from cases of internal bleeding and re-transfusing to the patient. It has the capacity of transfusing a capacity of 700ml equivalent to two blood bags and can be used on 25 patients.

The device is important in preserving blood resources. It also saves lives in cases where there are no ready blood donations.

Emma Muraguri, a trainer, encouraged them to embrace the new technology noting that it will go along way mitigating deaths resulting from severe bleeding during surgery. She noted that Amref is in discussion with NHIF in order to develop a system to cushion the patient on the cost.

NYC meeting with governor

The theme of the World Environment Day is 'Ecosystem Restoration.' Nyeri boasts of being the top county in the country with 38 % forest cover.

By Faith Hiuhu



H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga hosted a team from the National Youth Council (NYC) led by CEO Roy Telewa, for preparations ahead of the World Environment Day. The NYC plans to mark the World Environment Day in Nyeri County with the Chief Guest as

ICT Cabinet Secretary Joe Mucheru.

The theme of the World Environment Day is 'Ecosystem Restoration.' Ecosystem restoration can take many forms: Growing trees, greening cities, rewilding gardens, changing diets or cleaning up rivers and coasts.

Governor Kahiga noted that his government is committed towards supporting this noble idea since planting trees is an exemplary way of restoring the ecosystem both locally and internationally. Nyeri boasts of being the top county in the country with 38 % forest cover.

NYC has been taking a lead role in the Greening Kenya Initiative by ensuring the youth plant over 500,000 tree seedlings across the country during the Fursa Mashinani engagements.

In brief...

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga visited Wamagana Health Centre in Tetu sub-county where he interacted with patients and medical staff. The governor thanked the medical staff for their efforts towards improving the health sector in line with Nyeri County's vision of a wealthy county with happy, healthy and secure people.



Governor flags off agricultural lime & bio-fertilizer to over 10,000 farmers

Over 12,000 bags of lime worth Kshs. 8 Million and bio fertilizer worth Kshs. 6 Million were flagged off to be distributed to over 10,000 coffee farmers across six cooperative societies in the six coffee-producing sub-counties.

By Njambi Mugo



PHOTOS: KENNEDY KARANJA

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga flagged off agricultural lime and bio-fertilizer (mycorrhiza) set to benefit coffee farmers across Nyeri County.

The event was held at Mutheka Farmers Cooperative Society in Kamakwa/Mukaro ward, Nyeri Central sub-county.

Over 12,000 bags of lime worth Kshs. 8 Million and bio fertilizer worth Kshs. 6 Million were flagged off to be distributed to over 10,000 coffee farmers across six cooperative societies in the six coffee-producing sub-counties.

This will boost coffee production, increase yield from maize, beans, Irish potato and also improve soil PH around PH 5.

Governor Kahiga noted that the county government is committed to supporting coffee farmers adding that several measures have been put in place towards growing this agricultural sub-sector.

In the current financial year, the county government has purchased manure and coffee seedlings for coffee farmers in Kirimukuyu ward.

A total of 10 Million has been allocated in this financial year as part of the county contribution towards the coffee revitalization project. In the next financial year 2021/2022 a total of Kshs.20M has been allocated towards the same project which is being done in col-

laboration with the national government.

Department of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries CEC James Wachihi noted that one factory affiliated to Mutheka Cooperative Society will benefit from rehabilitation of infrastructure, and digitization. The farmers will also be enrolled in the e-voucher system to access subsidized inputs for coffee. Additionally, three extension officers will be recruited and placed in the societies to enhance farmer training.

Previously, the county government has also distributed agricultural lime, purchased hand soil scanners and offered subsidized soil analysis services as well as issued manure to coffee farmers in Mahiga ward.



Nyeri County widows engagement forum

● *Through the Department of Gender in partnership with Centre for Rights, Education and Awareness (CREAW), the County Government of Nyeri crafted a Covid-19 coping mechanism initiative for vulnerable widows.*

By Faith Hiuhu



H.E Mutahi Kahiga (centre) with Gender CECM Esther Ndung'u with other leaders during an engagement forum attended by about 200 vulnerable widows recently.

The loss of a partner is devastating. The bereaved are left with depression, sadness, frustration and too many responsibilities. They are judged, and friends disappear. They are left struggling for basic needs, human rights and dignity.

Already, widows are largely unseen, unsupported and unmeasured in the society. With lone-mother families and single older women already particularly vulnerable to poverty, this is an area that needs urgent attention.

In light of this, H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga joined about 200 vulnerable widows from Nyeri during an engagement forum to sen-

sitize on the prolonged adverse and negative health and socio-economic effects of Covid -19 on widows.

Through the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services, the widows were also sensitized on the increased cases of Gender Based Violence during the Covid -19 period and explored coping strategies.

The event was also meant to elicit feedback from the widows on some of the challenges they face on a daily basis. The feedback will then inform the County Government of Nyeri in crafting long term specific initiatives to cushion the widows from the aforementioned negative

effects of Covid -19.

Through the Department of Gender in partnership with Centre for Rights, Education and Awareness (CREAW), the county government crafted a Covid-19 coping mechanism initiative for vulnerable widows within the county, to address some of the issues affecting them. The CGN will also invite other partners to support the initiative including exploring ways of transforming the initiative to a sustainable widows' support programme.

The county government is also committed to developing resources and policies which will empower wid-

ows and their children and allow them to have access to the various opportunities available in education, work, healthcare, lives free of violence.

The governor also directed the department officers to ensure the Kshs. 3 million in the bank is released in order to help local widows. The funds were raised by the former regime.

Governor Kahiga was also honored to receive the Gender Trailblazer Award 2021, which was conferred to the Gender Department by the First Lady H.E Margaret Kenyatta a few months ago.

Roads upgrade program

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, PUBLIC WORKS, INFRASTRUCTURE & ENERGY - BY JOHN NDEGWA



Recently murramed Nairutia Primary-Mutitu-Nyakija road in Mugunda ward, Kieni West sub-county.



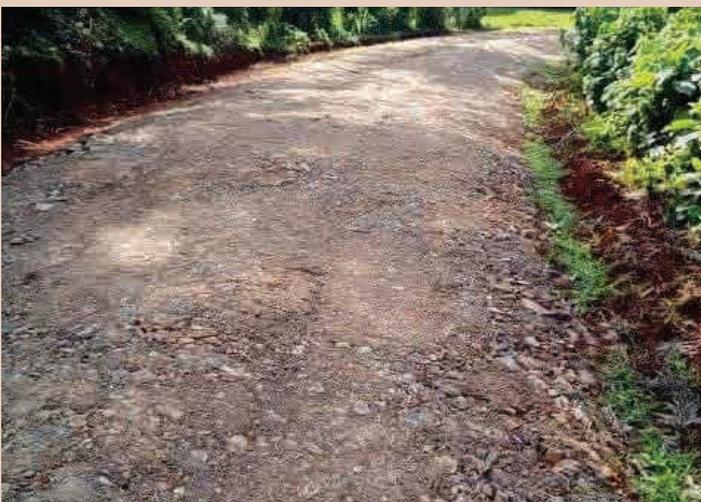
Ugrading of Gitimaini-Kiamigwi road in Magutu ward, Mathira East sub-county is currently ongoing.



Installed stand-alone high masts at various locations in Wamagana ward, Tetu sub-county.



An excavator upgrading Town View Academy - PEFA Church road in Ngangarithi area near Nyeri Town.



Upgraded Kiamathambo - Rutura road in Dedan Kimathi ward, Tetu sub-county.



The recently upgraded Mwireri road in Mweiga ward, Kieni West sub-county.