



Nyeri's FY 2021/22 budget in a nutshell

By Governor's Press Unit

Nyeri residents have a reason to smile after the County Government of Nyeri pronounced the over Kshs. 8.1 billion budget for the financial year 2021/22 without increasing any levy to them.

Kshs. 184 million has been allocated towards the completion of the Naromoru Level 4 Hospital, a megafagship project by the county government funded by the World Bank under the Kenya Devolution Support Programme (KDSP), which will benefit residents from the larger Kieni sub-county who have lacked such a facility.

Some of the other big winning sectors from the budget include: the Elimu Fund bursary program which has received Kshs. 160 million while Kshs. 195 million has been set aside for medical drugs and supplies. Agricultural programs have been boosted with Kshs. 488 million, with Kshs.

132.8 million meant for water and irrigation projects. Improvement and maintenance of county roads has been allocated Kshs. 356 million.

While presenting the budget in the Nyeri County Assembly, Finance CEC Robert Thuo (*pictured*) however, noted that the county government will be focused on including some fees that were not previously captured in the Revenue Administration act 2014.

These include;

- Lease of County Land (for erecting communication masts).
- Inclusion of different business categories on sale of gas.
- Inclusion of various units of measures on the existing fees in order to reduce subjectivity.

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From left; Economic advisor to the governor Ndirangu Gachunia, Economist Gibson Mwangi, Economic Planning Chief Officer Francis Kirira, Finance & Economic Planning CEC Robert Thuo, H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga, Finance Chief Officer John Ngugi and Director Economic Planning Stephen Mathenge before the pronouncement of the budget outside governor's office. BELOW: Members of the Nyeri County Assembly following proceedings of the budget pronouncement.

The Finance CEC also proposed reduction in various fees and charges which include:

- Reduction of interest on land rates and rents to simple interest instead of compound interest.
- Removal of Tea and Coffee cess.
- Livestock cess to be equal to what is charged by the neighbouring counties.
- Removal of penalty of 5% compounded interest every month for undeveloped property.

The Finance CEC assured the Honorable House that the county government will continue to broaden the current revenue base and ensure ideal administrative costs as contained in the Finance Bill, 2021.

Nyeri County Budget Highlights

The total County Budget for the FY 2021/22 is Kshs. 8,194,994,227. Out of this, 76.0% will be financed through equitable share, 11.8% as conditional grants from the National Government sources whereas 12.2% will be funded through the County Own Source Revenue collec-

tions.

Summary of the County's Development and Recurrent budget estimates:

The county development budget is Kshs. 2,500,326,670. Most of these resources have been allocated in line with the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP 2018-2022) and the Annual Development Plan (ADP 2021/2022) which

were prepared in line with the National Development Agenda.

The total allocation towards recurrent expenditure is Kshs. 5,694,667,557 comprising Kshs. 3,836,232,534 for salaries and wages while Kshs. 1,858,435,023 has been allocated for operations and maintenance.





Governor Kahiga and Nyeri County Assembly Speaker Hon. John Kaguchia (seated) shortly after signing the Nyeri County Appropriation Bill, 2021. From left County Secretary Ben Gachichio, Majority Leader Hon. James Kanyugo (Mahiga ward), Finance CEC Robert Thuo, Water CEC Fredrick Kinyua, Hon. Erastus Karanja (Ruguru ward), Education CEC Margaret Macharia, Nahashon Mung'ora (Governor's PA), Hon. John Theuri (Iria-ini ward), Hon. Gibson Wahinya (Dedan Kimathi ward) and Chief of Staff Paul Wambugu.

Key activities earmarked for the financial year 2021/22:

- Kshs. 160 million for the county bursary programme dubbed 'Elimu Fund'
- Kshs. 15 million for youth polytechnics capitation to enable acquisition of technical skills and artisanship.
- Kshs. 195 million for medical drugs, laboratory materials, dressing and non-pharmaceuticals and other medical supplies.
- Kshs. 184 million for the World Bank supported Kenya Devolution Support Pro-

gramme towards completion and equipping of Naromoru Level IV Hospital.

- Kshs. 40 million for surveying, registration, and development of colonial villages, market and trading centres.
- Kshs. 294 million for improvement of various health facilities in the county including procurement of ambulances to ease response to emergencies and improve health outreach activities.
- Kshs. 27.2 million for various gender and youth related programmes geared towards economic recovery from the effects of the Covid-19 pan-

demic.

- Kshs. 4.5 million for equipping of fire stations and Kshs. 9 million for operationalization of the disaster management unit.
- Kshs. 64.5 million will be directed towards solid waste management including dumpsites.
- Agriculture development activities have been apportioned Kshs. 488 million for various activities to guarantee food and nutritional security. This includes Kshs. 381 million for the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP) and Kshs.

20 million for the Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP).

· Other funded activities under the agriculture docket include: procurement of certified fruit tree seedlings and breeding stock, value addition among others.

· Kshs. 94 million has been allocated for improvement of various markets and promotion of the county as a tourist destination under Trade and Tourism.

· Kshs. 63.1 million for youth polytechnics and ECDE centres across the county, improvement of various stadia and procurement of sports related equipment.

· Kshs. 132.8 million for water and irrigation projects in the county. Out of which 49.9 million is earmarked for water treatment plants and completion of the ongoing projects.

· Kshs. 8.1 million for climate change resilience related activities.

· Kshs. 356 million has been earmarked for roads improvement and maintenance.

· Kshs. 145.5 million will be directed towards lighting of towns, trading and markets centres.

"In the FY 2021/22, the county local revenue target is estimated to remain at Kshs. 1 Billion and all efforts will be geared towards its attainment and possibly exceeding the same if the economic waves will be manageable including containment of the Covid-19 pandemic," said the CEC.

DEPARTMENT	RECURRENT BUDGET	DEVELOPMENT BUDGET	TOTAL BUDGET
Executive Office of the County Governor	143,083,962	20,000,000	163,083,962
Office of the County Secretary	300,199,168	40,000,000	340,199,168
Department of Finance and Economic Planning	840,221,954	242,795,683	1,083,017,637
Department of Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urbanization	59,379,640	436,900,000	496,279,640
Department of Health Services	2,575,080,164	294,854,035	2,869,934,199
Department of Gender Youth and Social Services	56,164,024	56,200,000	112,364,024
Department of County Public Service and Solid Waste Management	109,385,107	74,000,000	183,385,107
Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries	244,766,843	488,780,826	733,547,669
Department of Trade, Culture, Tourism and Cooperative Development	50,245,025	94,026,955	144,271,980
Department of Education and Sports	410,894,783	63,100,000	473,994,783
Department of Water, Environment and Climate Change	75,724,101	132,869,171	208,593,272
County Assembly	706,085,232	50,000,000	756,085,232
County Public Service Board	39,548,187	5,000,000	44,548,187
Department of Transport, Public Works, Infrastructure and Energy	73,155,887	501,800,000	574,955,887
Office of the County Attorney	10,733,480		10,733,480
TOTAL	Kshs 5,694,667,557	2,500,326,670	8,194,994,227

Total Budgetary Allocations for the year 2021/22 per department:

Rugi ADA farmer's group set to benefit from ABDP

CGN and the Aquaculture Business Development Programme team will work in collaboration with the Rugi ADA to implement some of the solutions and opportunities which were agreed upon.

By Brian Kanyungu



PHOTO | BRIAN KANYUNGU

The Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP) in close collaboration with the County Government of Nyeri conducted a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) at Githugu Polytechnic in Rugi ward, Mukurweini where the community drew up the Aquaculture Development Area Action Plan (ADA-AP).

The activity revolved around training a group of 30 members of the Rugi ADA for two weeks who then came around and selected 15 aquaculture development area committee members (ADAC) who presented the documents and eventually translated the same to

the rest of the community during the forum.

The forum involved taking up extensive activities like resource mapping and transect walks to figure out the topography and resources available in the area, identify problems and brainstorm on possible solutions and opportunities. They identified problems like:

- Inadequate fish farming inputs
- Inadequate knowledge in aquaculture within the community
- Lack of water
- Lack of quality fingerlings
- High prices of fish feeds.

Subsequent to this, the County Government of

Nyeri and the Aquaculture Business Development Programme team will work in collaboration with the Rugi ADA to implement some of the solutions and opportunities which they put across. These include but are not limited to; offering training, supply of construction, fencing materials and pond liners and supply of fingerlings.

Peter Gacheru Nyeri County headquarters fisheries officer, assured the farmers of the county government's and ABDP's staunchness to walking together with the fish farmers in their aquaculture journey. He also urged the 66 farmers from Mukurweini sub-county who will

benefit with either pond liners or fencing materials to ensure they use them to their full potential in order to maximize on the profits they will reap. In Mukurweini sub-county, 36 farmers are set to receive pond liners while the other 30 get fencing materials.

Ann Wakarindi, the fisheries officer for Mukurweini sub-county noted that she was pleased with the farmers for their collaboration so far. She also noted the need for each farmer present to take the initiative to apply what they learnt in order to lay the ground work for the rest of the community.

Speaking at the forum, Jesse Maina from the fisheries headquarters spoke about the ABDP's bottom-up approach towards promoting aquaculture in Nyeri County whereby they start by identifying the problems that farmers and prospective fish farmers are facing on the ground and then figure out and apply solutions suited to the farmers in question. He also urged the beneficiaries to take the extra step towards value addition and to make use of the available technical advice and guidance from the extension officers.



PHOTO | NJAMBI MUGO

Covid-19 sensitization forum for prison officers

The officers were taken through a training session on the Covid-19 pandemic and measures to mitigate the same, the importance of the Covishield vaccine and sensitized on gender based violence issues and how to work towards ending the same.

By Njambi Mugo

The County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Health Services in collaboration with Amref Health Africa carried out a sensitization forum to 70 wardens from the maximum, medium and women GK King'ong'o Prison in Nyeri.

The officers were taken through a training session by Lydiah Njaramba, County Covid-19 coordinator and Boniface Macharia on the following topics:

- The Covid-19 pandemic

and measures to undertake to prevent the further spread of the virus within the prison

- Covishield (Astrazeneca Vaccine) and its importance which is to protect them, their families and the prison community

- Sensitized on gender based violence issues such as domestic violence, rape, harmful cultural practices such as FGM, how to identify them as they arise and how to work towards ending the same.

Winnie Muthee, a clinical psychologist from Mt. Kenya Level 4 Hospital also trained them on the importance of psychosocial support which addresses the psychological and social problems caused by Covid-19, affecting families, caregivers and the community at large.

Lydiah further noted that the officers will receive their second Covishield vaccine as soon as the doses are replenished.

Charles Manzi, Deputy

Commander Nyeri Prison thanked the team for the training adding that the lessons learnt will help them execute their duties better during this Covid-19 pandemic.

GK King'ong'o Prison serves as one of the Covid-19 quarantine facilities for Nyeri County.

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

Staff sensitization workshop on social life and service delivery

● *The officers were taken through a training session on road use and safety, alcohol and drug abuse and HIV/AIDS awareness.*



By Jane Baru

The Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services held a staff sensitization workshop on HIV/AIDS, roads safety, alcohol and drug abuse.

The workshop was officially opened by the CECM Esther Ndung'u. Speaking during the event,

she emphasized on teamwork among the staff, as it serves as a key aspect in service delivery within the county.

The officers were taken through a training session on road use and safety by Chris Otieno from NTSA, alcohol and drug

abuse by Andrew Githui from NACADA, and HIV/AIDS awareness by Margaret Mihunyo from the Department of Health.

They were also taken through employee wellness by the department's Chief Officer, George Mwangi.

Such workshops contribute towards the improvement in employees skills, which in turn increase the quality and quantity of output. They also contribute towards the completion of primary objectives.

World day to combat desertification and drought 2021

By Tracy Wambui

The theme for this day which is celebrated every June 17th was 'Restoration, Land, Recovery; We build back better with healthy land.'

To mark the World Deserti-

fication Day, the Department of Water, Environment, Irrigation and Climate Change celebrated by planting 500 assorted tree seedlings at Lusoi Dam in Kieni East

sub-county.

This is in an effort to green Kieni sub-county which is classified as an ASAL in Nyeri County and to increase the forest cover from

the current 38% to 42%.

The event aimed at restoring the degraded land that has lost its natural productivity due to human activities.

Projects inspection in Mweiga ward

By Njambi Mugo

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga together with Hon. Kwanjiku Kwanjiku inspected the ongoing construction of Expages Borehole in Mweiga ward, Kieni West sub-county. The solar-powered borehole will be producing about 33,000 litres of water per hour, set to benefit over 1,000 residents from both Expages and the neighbouring villages.

A water kiosk will also be set up at the site. The county government is equipping 10 boreholes with pumps and one borehole with both solar panels and a pump in this financial year.

The governor also paid a visit to Expages ECDE Centre, where he noted that the county government will look into building another classroom as well as levelling the ground so as to create a conducive environment for the young children to learn and play.

The newly constructed Mweiga Social Hall and ablution, which are part of the projects being implemented under the Ward Specific Fund every financial year were also inspected. The hall will provide a platform where area residents can hold their meetings while the ablution block will improve sanitation for Mweiga town residents

He further noted that he'll come back to officially commission the projects.



1. The recently installed solar panels at the Expages Borehole in Mweiga ward, Kieni West sub-county.
2. The newly constructed Mweiga Social Hall which will provide the area residents with a platform where they can hold their meetings.
3. Expages ECDE centre which has been renovated by the County Government of Nyeri in a bid to create a conducive environment for the young children to learn and play.

Magutu ward visit in Mathira East

● *The governor commissioned about 10 projects in Mugutu ward as part of the ward visits programme. The visit came a few days after his visit in Kirimukuyu ward.*

By Njambi Mugo

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga together with Magutu MCA Hon. Wanjira Wambati commissioned, inspected and took stock of the progress of various projects in Mathira East sub-county. The governor commissioned about 10 projects in the ward as part of the ward visits programme. The visit came a few days after his visit in Kirimukuyu ward.

The projects, under the ward specific fund operationalized by Governor Kahiga, have transformed lives.

Gikumbo - Gatambi road

Together with the MCA, Governor Kahiga commissioned the recently upgraded Gikumbo -Gatambi road. The road upgraded by the Department of Transport, Infrastructure and Energy will ease movement of the area residents as well as the transportation of farm produce. Infrastructural development is key in economic transformation and realization of goals and vision.

The County Government of Nyeri is committed to improving the road network in the entire county. In light of this, the governor pledged that Migogoi-ini bridge in Gatambi will also be upgraded.



PHOTOS | PETER WANGARI

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga laying the foundation stone of the ongoing construction of the Giakagina borehole in Magutu ward. The project will be solar powered to ensure sufficient water in the area.

Giakagina borehole

They also inspected the ongoing construction of Giakagina borehole which will serve about 150 households will ensure area residents have access to adequate water supply.

The governor pledged that the county government will provide water pipes which will ensure water is distributed to all recipients.

Water pipes have already been procured and will soon

be distributed to ensure locals access water for irrigation and domestic use.

The borehole will be fitted with solar panels through the Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation in the next two weeks.

Kiamigwi-Gitimaini road

The recently upgraded Kiamigwi- Gitimaini road (*below*).



The road has been upgraded by the county government, which remains committed to improving the road network in Nyeri County.

The roads will ease movement of the area residents as well as the transportation of farm produce. Infrastructural development is key in economic transformation and realization of goals and vision.

Gaikuyu dispensary inspection

Together with the MCA, Governor Kahiga inspected the ongoing renovations in Gaikuyu Dispensary.

The facility will soon be functional once all renovation works are completed and it is equipped.

Medical staff will also be posted in order for the locals to receive the best health services.

Gitunduti - gikore road

The governor also commissioned the recently upgraded Gitunduti- Gikore road during the ward visit.

The road has been upgraded by my government, which remains committed to improving the road network in Nyeri County.

The roads will ease movement of the area residents as well as the transportation of farm produce.

Ngurwe-ini and Kiangera Gatambi roads

Together with Magutu MCA Hon. Wanjira Wamabati, H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga commissioned the recently upgraded Ngurwe-ini road (0.85km) and Kiangera Gatambi road (0.65km).

The roads have been upgraded by the county government in a bid to ease movement of the area residents as well as the transportation of farm produce.

Gathehu ECDE class

They also commissioned a newly constructed modern classroom at Gathehu ECDE Centre.

The classroom will create a conducive learning environment for the young pupils at the centre. Governor Kahiga pledged to equip the classroom and build an ablution block in the next budget.

The governor concluded the ward visit by holding a public baraza at Kanjuri grounds where he interacted with Magutu residents and listened to issues affecting them. He assured them that more projects will be initiated by the county government in the near future in order to further transform the ward.



1. One of the recently commissioned roads in Magutu ward, Mathira East sub-county. The roads will ease movement of people and transportation of goods.

2. Governor Kahiga together with Hon. Wanjira Wamabati during the commissioning of the newly constructed modern classroom at Gathehu ECDE Centre.

3. Gaikuyu dispensary in Magutu ward which is currently being renovated by the County Government of Nyeri.

'Eat More Fish' campaign in Tetu sub county



PHOTO | BRIAN KANYUNGU

By Brian Kanyungu

In continuation of the Eat More Fish campaign, the County Government of Nyeri in close collaboration with the Aquaculture Business Development programme (ABDP) set base in Dedan Kimathi ward, Tetu sub-county.

The campaign, which is being held in all the eight sub-counties in Nyeri County exposed existent and prospective fish farmers to extensive information on the financial and nutritional benefits of aquaculture.

Peter Gacheru, a fisheries officer from the county headquarters interacted with the farmers in an educative session on the operations of the ABDP and how they stand to benefit from it. He also urged those who will benefit

with either fencing materials or pond liners to ensure they take the extra initiative and utilize the materials so as to substitute or increase their income and ultimately better Nyeri County's economy.

Lydia Gateru, Kieni West fisheries officer laid out the criteria and importance of record keeping in aquaculture be it in stocking, feeding and harvesting of fish in that it eases workload and keeps potential problems and losses in check.

Geoffrey Giteru, the fisheries officer in charge of Tetu sub-county took the farmers through the different types of ponds, their construction and the types of fish suitable for each. He assured the

farmers of the county government's commitment to guiding them through stocking suitable fingerlings and harvesting.

Alice Mukami from the county fisheries headquarters conducted a short training to help familiarize the farmers with how to prepare fish and consume it without losing any of its crucial nutrients. Fish, she noted, 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, phosphorous and iodine. Eating fish reduces the chances of contracting blood pressure and heart attacks.

Departmental workshop

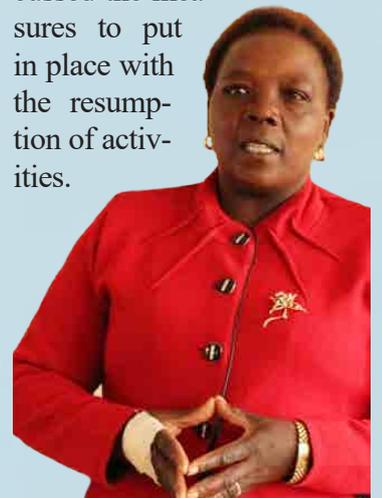
By Zipporah Mwangi

The Department of Education and Sports conducted a two - day departmental workshop for its staff which aimed at educating them on financial prudence, IFMIs support, CBC roll out, Elimu Bursary Fund program and procurement process.

Education Chief Officer Simon Wachira emphasized on the need for continuous trainings especially to personnel at the management level, as a way of enhancing good governance and leadership.

An EACC official was also invited to conduct training on the Leadership and Integrity Act. The trainer, Grace Moraa touched on key areas like: tax evasion, illegally acquired assets, penalties under ACECA and ethics and integrity.

The staff led by the CEC Margaret Macharia (*pictured below*) also deliberated on the way forward, amidst the Covid-19 pandemic and discussed the measures to put in place with the resumption of activities.



In support of Nyeri musicians

● Governor Kahiga noted that in the next financial year 2021/2022, funds have been set aside for 16 wards to purchase equipment which will empower the youth economically.



PHOTO | PETER WANGARI

Governor Kahiga (centre) together with musicians Samolean and Annah during the launch of their album dubbed 'Mwalimu' at the Old Municipal Park at Whispers Park, Nyeri town.

By Faith Hiuhu

H. E Governor Muta-hi Kahiga attended the launch of album dubbed 'Mwalimu' by Samolean held at the Old Municipal Hall, Whispers Park, Nyeri Town.

The governor noted that in the next financial year 2021/2022, funds have

been set aside for 16 wards to purchase equipment which will empower the youth economically.

The governor also lauded the youth for showing up to support their own. He further encouraged the youth to join Saccos to

help them achieve a saving habit so that their future is secure and better.

The County Government of Nyeri is committed to supporting and enhancing the development of talents of the youth across the county in a bid to empower them.

Half year review meeting for the third cohort of interns

By Faith Hiuhu

The Department of County Public Service & Solid Waste Management conducted a review meeting for the third cohort of interns held at the Old Municipal Hall, Whispers Park.

The review meeting was held to discuss the progress so far, challenges the interns may be facing and to forge a way forward for the remaining period of the internship.

The interns thanked the County Government of Nyeri under the leadership of H.E Governor Muta-hi Kahiga for creating an opportunity for them to gain requisite skills boosting their employability.

The CEC CPSM Beth Karimi hailed the interns for showing up and for their input in the review meeting, noting that the county's leadership is committed to making the necessary changes for the program to run smoothly.

She also led the interns in carrying out a self awareness exercise that the interns thoroughly enjoyed and picked lessons from.

The internship program was launched in 2018 by governor Kahiga and has so far benefitted over 500 youth.



PHOTO | SAM GITONGA

KFCB stakeholders meeting



PHOTO | JANE BARU

From Left: KFCB CEO Dr. Ezekiel Mutua, Nyeri County Commissioner Loyford Kibaara and Amani Director Executive Director Margaret Gachagua during the stakeholders meeting held at White Rhino Hotel in Nyeri town.

By Jane Baru

The CEC Gender, Youth and Social Services Esther Ndung'u joined Dr. Ezekiel Mutua, the C.E.O Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB) and the Regional Commissioner Wilfred Nyagwanga during the commissioning of the KFCB clean content ambassadors for Nyeri County, during the KFCB stakeholders meeting at the White Rhino Hotel,

Nyeri. Guided by the Board's mandate, Dr. Mutua emphasized against unprincipled content. He also highlighted on collaboration between government agencies and the community to prevent a breakdown of moral values in Kenya. "We have a collective responsibility to protect children from exposure to

harmful content," noted Dr. Mutua. Dr. Mutua also affirmed KFCB's support to create a film in partnership with the County Government of Nyeri in recognition of the Scouts founder Lord Baden Powell. The CEC commended KFCB for its commitment in promotion of morality even as they continue to nur-

ture talents. She noted that the county government is supporting the Board's partnership with Nyeri County leaders in championing for clean content and is ready to enhance more ties with the KFCB in the near future. The Youth Directorate plays a vital role in instilling moral values to the youth even as they are empowered in other areas.

Gatunyu Sharks FC vs. Karatina Homeboiz FC derby

By Faith Hiuhi

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga joined soccer fans in witnessing the regional league game between Gatunyu Sharks FC and Homeboiz FC at Karatina Stadium, Mathira East sub-county.

The county government is committed to supporting all sports activities including improving sports facilities in the county to ensure nurturing of talents among the youth.



PHOTO | PETER WANGARI



Governor Kahiga and Nyeri County Assembly Speaker Hon. John Kaguchia (seated) shortly after signing the two bills. From left County Secretary Ben Gachichio, Majority Leader Hon. James Kanyugo (Mahiga ward), Finance CEC Robert Thuo, Water CEC Fredrick Kinyua, Hon. Erastus Karanja (Ruguru ward), Education CEC Margaret Macharia, Nahashon Mung'ora (Governor's PA), Hon. Gibson Wahinya (Dedan Kimathi ward), Hon. John Theuri (Iria-ini ward) and Chief of Staff Paul Wambugu.

Governor Kahiga assents to law two new bills

While assenting to the bills into law, governor Kahiga lauded the committees involved in the preparation of the same for the dedication showed towards achieving their mandate as an assembly noting that it is the assembly that has passed the highest number of bills.

By Njambi Mugo

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga assented into law two bills which will benefit Nyeri residents immensely.

The bills which are the Nyeri County Appropriation Bill, 2021 and the Nyeri County Elimu Fund (amendment) Bill, 2021 have been drafted in close collaboration between the County Executive and the County Assembly of Nyeri.

The Nyeri County Elimu Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2021 proposes a number of changes to the already established Nyeri County Elimu Fund Act of 2015. The fund has been amended to comply with

the provisions of the Public Finance Management (PMF) Act of 2012. In this financial year 2021/2022, the bursary allocation has been increased to Kshs. 160 million.

The Nyeri County Appropriation Bill, 2021 authorizes the issue of a sum of money out of the Nyeri County Revenue Fund and its application towards the service of the year ending on the 30th June, 2022. Governor Kahiga noted that the Department of Health has received the largest share at Kshs. 2.5 Billion and the Department of Finance Kshs. 840 Million which will facilitate the payment of pend-

ing bills.

Money has also been allocated towards the completion of the Nyeri Bus Termini at the Asian Quarters and the Naromoru Level 4 Hospital, while the roads upgrade programme has also been prioritized with the Department of Transport and Infrastructure receiving over Kshs. 500 Million.

While assenting to the bills into law, governor Kahiga lauded the committees involved in the preparation of the same for the dedication showed towards achieving their mandate as an assembly noting that it is the assembly that has passed the highest number

of bills.

The governor further called for the authorization of the budget as early as possible as well as appealed to the National Treasury to release the funds in time to ensure smooth running of operations within the counties.

The County Assembly of Nyeri Speaker Hon. John Kaguchia lauded the executive for its continued support throughout the process of bill formulation.

With the signing of these two bills into law, it now brings to a total of six bills to be assented to by the governor in the recent past.



PHOTO | PETER WANGARI

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga (centre in red tie) in a group photo with Almasi General Manager Philip Gikunju (in white shirt next to the governor), Youth Committee chair Hon. Beth Nyawira, Gender CEC Esther Ndung'u among other leaders with some of the beneficiaries of the Kuza Kazi project during the launch of the programme recently.

150 Nyeri youth benefit from the Kuza Kazi program

● *“The ‘Kuza Kazi’ initiative fits very well into our youth empowerment strategy which involves creating, supporting and sustaining an environment that unlocks the potential of the Nyerians.*

By Joseph Wambugu

The County Government of Nyeri jointly with Coca Cola Company launched the ‘Kuza Kazi’ project which involves 150 youths in the county.

The initiative which seeks to empower youth with business skills training, facilitate access to financial assets and create job opportunities, provided 150 beneficiaries with a starter kit each consisting of an ice box, a parasol and a garden set.

The youth will join Coca Cola’s retail chain distribution network to earn an income, generate savings, expand their businesses and enhance their potential to become future employers.

The starter kit issued to the youth beneficiaries serves as an initial investment into their business by the partners. They will operate under the direct supervision of Almasi Beverages Ltd who will integrate them into the Coca Cola retail network as vendors and also fulfil their product orders, offer training and sales support.

Nyeri Governor H.E. Mutahi Kahiga and Phillip Gikunju, General Manager, Almasi Beverages Limited also signed an MoU which will help in proper working relationship between CGN and Almasi.

The governor during the event said the youth will be

given a waiver for their licences for six months as a start-up for their work.

“The ‘Kuza Kazi’ initiative fits very well into our youth empowerment strategy which involves creating, supporting and sustaining an environment that unlocks the potential of the people of Nyeri to achieve progressive socio-economic growth. It will be a worthy addition to our youth empowerment program currently being run by the department of gender youth and social services where youth are being supported with tools, equipment and machinery to support their business start-ups or bolster existing small busi-

nesses,” said the governor.

He expressed his commitment for the support of the youth adding that his government has started other initiatives for empowering the youth including Enterprise Development Fund, AGPO and internship programme among others.

The Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services CEC Esther Ndung’u noted that the department has purchased Coca Cola beverage products (soft drinks, water and juices) and provided trading spaces for the youth to enable them start table-top businesses.