



WEEKLY REVIEW



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H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga during the recent signing of the Appropriation bill into law.

Nyeri clears Kshs. 1.29 billion 4-year pending bills

By Governor's Press Unit

Following the inception of devolved governments in 2013, it led to devolving of huge resources in the county governments. Nevertheless, for counties to run smoothly there is a need for effective and efficient management of these resources including timely payment of

pending bills.

Pending bills are unpaid bills that arise when a payment voucher reaches the County Treasury and it's not paid during the financial year for one reason or the other and it is rolled over to the next financial year.

The reasons could range from unsupported claims in terms of documentation, inadequate budget or technical challenges in IFMIS.

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Governor disburses Elimu Fund bursaries to over 10,000 students

The bursaries will benefit students in secondary schools, colleges, polytechnics, universities and special schools across the 30 wards in Nyeri County. In the last four years, the county government has disbursed bursaries worth Kshs. 270 million to over 60,000 students.

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The ongoing Nyeri County projects pictorial.

From Page 8



ABOVE: County officers sorting out tender applications. BELOW: Governor Kahiga and Nyeri Assembly speaker Hon. John Kaguchia (seated) during the signing of new bills to laws. From left County Secretary Ben Gachichio, Majority Leader Hon. James Kanyugo (Othaya), Finance CEC Robert Thuo, Water CEC Fredrick Kinyua, Education CEC Margaret Macharia, Hon. Erastus Karanja (Ruguru MCA), Nahashon Mung'ora (Governor's PA), Hon. Gibson Wahinya (Dedan Kimathi MCA), Hon. John Theuri (Iriai-ni MCA) and Chief of Staff Paul Wambugu.

According to the Controller of Budget Annual report there has been a rise in pending bills as a result of delay in payment to contractors and suppliers. This, however, is a challenge attributed to delay in transfer of funds from the National Government as well as low revenue collection within the county governments.

In accordance to the Public Procurement & asset Disposal Act,

2015, all procuring entities are required to submit their reports on public procurement and asset disposal transactions to the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA). Last year, Nyeri County was recognized for complying with the public procurement laws in the three categories including:

1. Among the 12 counties who have submitted the half-year report on implementation of the preference and reservation

scheme under the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) programme for the youth, women and persons with disabilities.

2. Among the 15 counties who have published tender opportunities and contract awards in the Portal every 15th day of the subsequent month.

3. Among the 24 counties which have timely registered and published tenders and contracts in

the portal.

Nyeri Finance CEC Robert Thuo noted that the County Government of Nyeri has endeavored to comply with Public Procurement and Disposal Act 2015 and Regulations 2020. The Finance department also put Nyeri on a pedestal for being among only 12 counties that were hailed by Treasury CS Ukur Yatani for clearing their pending bills.

In the last four years, the county government has paid pending bills worth a total of Kshs. 1.2 billion.

The County Government of Nyeri is well known for paying its contractors and suppliers, most of whom who hail from Nyeri County, on time. As such, this has encouraged them to apply for jobs with the county since the suppliers of services get confidence that once they deliver the procured for services, payment will be made. The main challenge the department of Finance faces when clearing the pending bills is the delay of disbursement of funds from the National Treasury or IFMIS downtimes.



S/no.	Financial Year	Amount (Kshs)
1.	2017/18	525,581,167
2.	2018/19	360,493,767.63
3.	2019/20	61,686,531.49
4.	2020/21	351,930,096
Total		1,299,691,562.12

From the County Treasury vote books, you can easily get all the details on which contractors and suppliers was paid, amount, to which bank and when as supported by RTGS. All genuine contractors/suppliers are paid upon their work being certified done satisfactory by an acceptance & inspection committee. All support documents must be availed to the County Treasury and in time.

When pending bills are cleared, there is a huge positive impact to the economy of Nyeri. For instance, there is an increase in trade/Investment and flow of money in the county. Through a multiplier effect other sectors of the economy experience growth. The cash flow improves and cascades to SMEs and other informal sectors.

Some of the financial implications that a county government experiences in the even pending bills are delayed before clearing is that it becomes uncredit-worthy by suppliers refusing or reluctant to offer services. This affects many critical supplies e.g. medical drugs are not supplied impacting negatively on the Health sector. Suppliers/contractors with bank credit facilities may experience some penalties or more interest on their loans when overdue with some being auctioned.

“Once the first supplementary budget for FY 2021/2022 is enacted, the balance for the pending bills will be paid. The amount of pending bills however, can only be determined after the closure of a Financial Year. The allocation to pay pending bills is budgeted for during the supplementary budget which is yet to be done,” added the CEC.



Finance CEC Robert Thuo

Previously, the County Government of Nyeri’s Finance Team was recognized by the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) as being in Position One among all counties in Kenya for its adherence to procurement laws and regulations with a 75% success.

The County Government of Nyeri will continue being dedicated in serving the interests of you, our esteemed stakeholder in Nyeri County.

Agriculture

Fruitful harvest



Nyeri farmers who received free Hass Avocado seedlings from the County Government of Nyeri about three years ago have started harvesting the fruits. The demand for the fruits is usually very high locally, nationally and internationally. Issuance of Hass Avocado seedlings by the county government aimed to boost food security and to be grown commercially as part of the greening initiative.

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Health

CGN and MTRH deliberation

MTRH is a level six referral hospital which has striven to be the leading multi-specialty hospital for healthcare, training and research in Africa. The hospital offers Outpatient, Inpatient, and Specialized healthcare services.

Story: Njambi Mugo | Photo: Kennedy Karanja

Nyeri County Secretary Ben Gachichio met with a delegation from the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) to discuss areas of partnership between the County Government of Nyeri and the facility.

MTRH is a level six referral hospital which has striven to be the leading multi-specialty hospital for healthcare, training and research in Africa. The hospital offers Outpatient, Inpatient, and Specialized healthcare services.

Their services include:

- Chandaria Cancer and Chronic Disease Centre –The Chandaria Cancer and Chronic Diseases Centre (CCDC) is a one-stop Centre of Excellence for patients seeking treatment for Cancer and Chronic Diseases offering clinical services in; Chemotherapy, Nephrology, Anti-coagulation, Diabetic and Foot Care, Cardiac, Dermatology (phototherapy), Geriatric, Rheumatic Heart Disease, Respiratory Medicine, Alcohol and Drug Abuse – Rehabilitation, Psychiatric and Neurosurgery Clinic.
- Renal Dialysis & Transplant Centre – Kidney disease management and transplants.
- Shoe4Africa Children's Hospital – Pediatric Health.
- Cardiac Care Unit - Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Diseases Management.



Nyeri CS Ben Gachichio together with a team from MTRH led by Peris Kebenei-MTRH Deputy Director (third left), after a consultative meeting where they discussed areas of partnership between the County Government of Nyeri and the facility. On the far right is Dr. Nelson Muriu- Director Nyeri Health Department.

- Riley Mother and Baby Hospital – Maternal & Neo-Natal Child Health. Includes Neonatal Baby Unit (NBU), NICU, Mother's Hostel, Ante & Post Partum units, delivery rooms and operating rooms.
- Neurosurgery Centre – 45-bed facility complete with an Operating Room, High Dependency Unit & ICU.
- Intensive Care Unit – unit for the provision of Critical Care Services.
- Ophthalmology Unit – Complete with a Corneal Transplant Centre.
- Centre for Assault Recovery – Eldoret (Gender Based Violence

Interventional Centre).

- Mental Health & Substance Abuse Centre – Mental Health and Rehabilitative Services.
- Radiotherapy & Chemotherapy Infusion Centre – Diagnosis, treatment and management of oncology cases.

The teams will work hand in hand to draft a Memorandum of Understanding which will guide the two entities on areas of partnership such as research, capacity building for nurses and clinical medicine & surgery as well as for referral purposes.

The CS noted that the county

government under the leadership of H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga is committed to promoting affordable and specialized healthcare in Nyeri County and is looking forward to implementing the partnership between the two entities. Peris Kebenei MTRH College of Health Sciences Deputy Director emphasized on the importance of training nurses and clinical officers as this will bridge the skills gap, improve capacity building and promote primary healthcare subsequently promoting UHC, one of the Big 4 Agenda.

Education

Governor disburses Elimu Fund bursaries to over 10,000 students

An additional 180 students have benefitted through the Governor's Scholarship programme, which supports two bright students per ward who come from vulnerable backgrounds.

Story | Zipporah Wanjiru & Photo | Kennedy Karanja

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga presided over the commissioning and disbursement of Elimu Fund bursaries worth Kshs. 40 million for the financial year 2020/2021.

The bursaries will benefit over 10,000 students in secondary schools, colleges, polytechnics, universities and special schools across the 30 wards in Nyeri County.

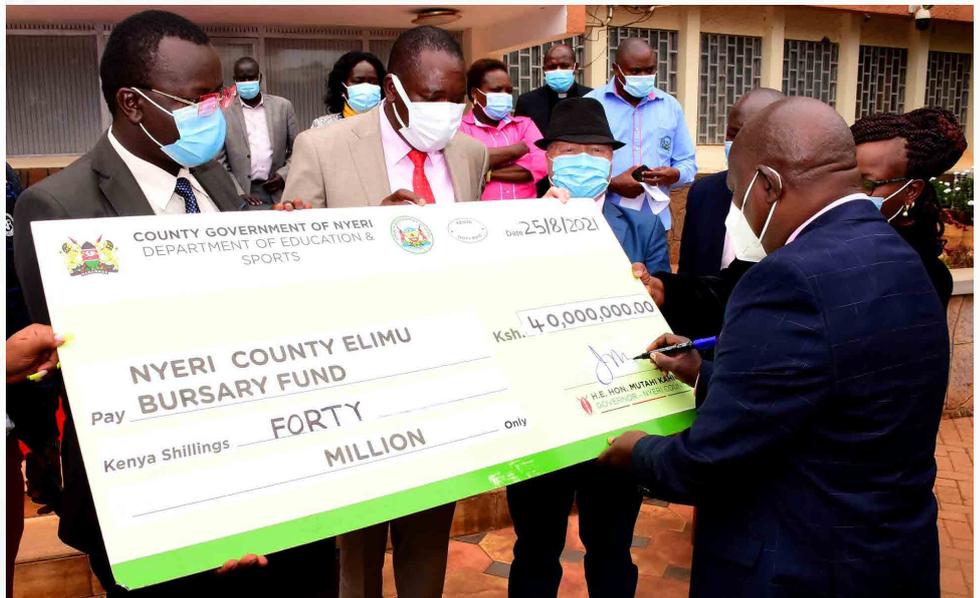
Due to Covid-19, the bursaries will be distributed by the sub-county administrators and Principal Education Officers in their respective sub-counties.

Governor Kahiga noted that he is committed towards promoting the education sector as it is the only tool which can make a difference in Nyeri and the country at large. In this current year, additional Elimu Fund bursaries worth Kshs. 160 million will also be distributed.

In the last four years, the county government has disbursed bursaries worth Kshs. 270 million to over 60,000 students.

An additional 180 students have benefitted through the Governor's Scholarship programme, which supports two bright students per ward who come from vulnerable backgrounds.

Nyeri County Director of Education Sabina Aroni lauded the county government for this programme which benefits students from needy backgrounds. She added that so far 98% students have transitioned smoothly to secondary schools in Nyeri County and the office is following up on the remaining 2%. Nyeri is currently the leading county in primary- secondary school transition. Nyamira, Mandera and Bomet are the second, third and fourth respectively.



TOP: Governor Kahiga signing the Kshs. 40 million cheque for the Elimu Bursary Fund. The bursaries will be disbursed to over 10,000 beneficiaries across the 30 wards.

BELOW: Governor Kahiga (middle) together with some beneficiaries.



Health

CGN's efforts in streamlining the health care sector

Story | Faith Hiuu & Photo | Kennedy Karanja

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga met with all the hospital managers from five hospitals in Nyeri County namely Nyeri Referral Hospital, Mt. Kenya, Karatina, Mukurwe-ini and Othaya Level 4 Hospitals. The hospital managers included: medical superintendents, hospital directors, hospital administrators and nursing managers.

They deliberated on hospitals' operations on a daily basis, patients' experience in the facilities, the welfare of the healthcare workers and subordinate staff, operationalization of the Nyeri County Health Services Fund and ways of expanding ICUs & oxygen plants due to the strain that Covid-19 pandemic has put on hospitals.

The governor noted that the healthcare

workers are the gatekeepers of the health system, as such, the hospital managers should strive to make their working environment conducive. He further insisted on the importance of training the new subordinate staff on how operations are carried out within the hospitals.

"This will go a long way in ensuring that when patients visit the facilities they experience quality service from all corners," added governor Kahiga.

The County Government of Nyeri is working hard towards having an impeccable hospital management system within all its health facilities to ensure that Nyerians have access to better and improved healthcare services.



Governor Kahiga (centre) during a meeting with stakeholders from the Department of Health including the Health CEC Dr. Rachel Kamau, Director Dr. Nelson Muriu and hospital managers from Nyeri referral Hospital, Mt. Kenya, Karatina, Othaya and Karatina Level 4 Hospitals. They deliberated on how to improve health care delivery in the county.



Opinion piece

By Nelson Maina - Budget Coordinator, the Chapter Six Group

Governance versus politics



From the word go, Governance is not Politics and Governance is not Government.

I have been in the governance space for several years and Kenyans assume these three terms mean the same thing.

And politics drives everything in our country and county.

Governance is about how key community objectives are determined and realized.

Thus we have either good governance or bad governance.

In Nyeri, only a small percentage pays attention to governance, we focus more on politics and this drives all levels of our decision making.

But slowly by slowly there's now a mindset shift. Young Nyerians are now more interested in understanding the processes of decision making.

Nyerians are now focusing more on how decisions are made be it on County Flagship Projects, Ward Specific Projects, policies and laws or specific programs like drugs or bursary issuance.

This is a good thing and must be encouraged. Citizens must participate more on how decisions are made and less on political rhetoric.

Citizens must demand for Access to Information from government, in a timely manner and must attend public participation forums to deliberate on their proposals.

This is how we transform our County and Country.

Vaccination:

The North Star of infection prevention and control

Dr Sarah Kibira | Deputy Chief Pharmacist, Nyeri County Referral Hospital

What is vaccination?

Vaccination is a safe and effective method of protecting people against infections before they contract the infection. It uses the body's natural defense mechanisms to build resistance to specific infections and makes your immune system stronger.

What is a vaccine?

A vaccine is a product that stimulates a person's immune system to produce immunity to a specific infection thus protecting the person from a disease that could be caused by that infection.

A vaccine contains only killed or weakened forms of microbes like viruses or bacteria therefore they do not cause the infection or put you at risk of its complications. However, they train the body's immune system to produce antibodies to fight an infection the same way the body does when exposed to an infection.

Antibodies are proteins produced naturally by the body's immune system.

What happens after one is vaccinated?

Vaccines are administered either through an injection or by mouth. After the administration of a vaccine, the body identifies the invading microbe, produces antibodies and remembers the infection and how to fight it. In future, when a vaccinated person is exposed to an infection, their immune system quickly remembers the infection and fights it before they become sick from the infection.

Once a person is vaccinated against a specific infection, they remain protected from the infection for years or a lifetime. Therefore, vaccines prevent people from contracting infections thus making it an effective strategy for infection prevention and control.

Do vaccines cause side effects?

Upon administration, vaccines can cause mild side effects such as a low-grade fever, allergic reactions and/or pain or redness at the injection site. Mild side effects resolve on their own after a few days however, severe side effects are rare as vaccines are continually being monitored for safety, to detect rare adverse events.

In the event you develop any reaction to a vaccine, report the reaction to the nearest health facility for further management.

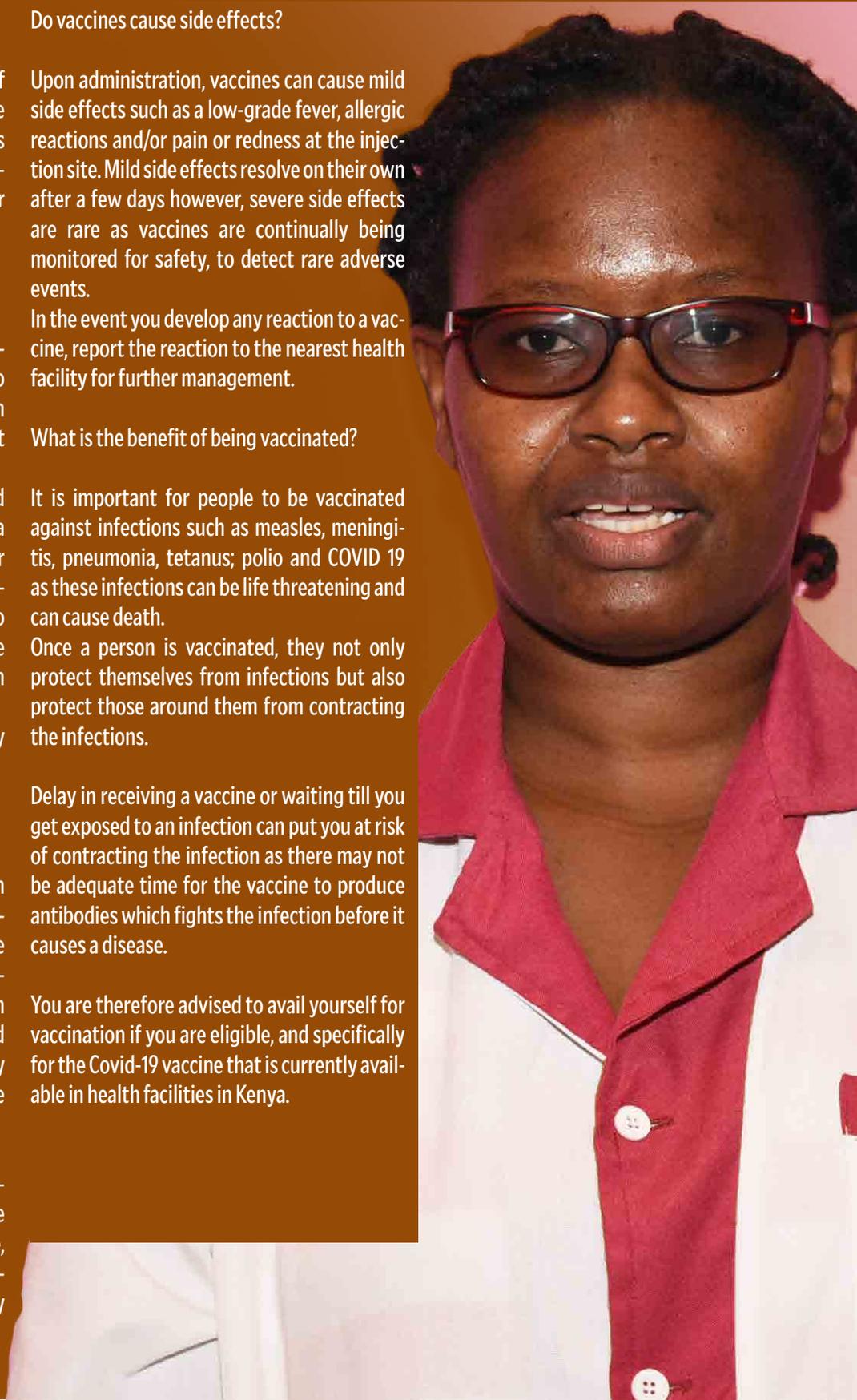
What is the benefit of being vaccinated?

It is important for people to be vaccinated against infections such as measles, meningitis, pneumonia, tetanus; polio and COVID 19 as these infections can be life threatening and can cause death.

Once a person is vaccinated, they not only protect themselves from infections but also protect those around them from contracting the infections.

Delay in receiving a vaccine or waiting till you get exposed to an infection can put you at risk of contracting the infection as there may not be adequate time for the vaccine to produce antibodies which fights the infection before it causes a disease.

You are therefore advised to avail yourself for vaccination if you are eligible, and specifically for the Covid-19 vaccine that is currently available in health facilities in Kenya.



Trade

Issuance of consent letters to Park Lane Road traders

The County Government of Nyeri is committed towards prioritizing the welfare of traders all over Nyeri and ensuring that they work in a conducive environment which is essential for any business to thrive.

Story | Caroline Wanjiku & Photo | Kennedy Karanja



H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga issued consent letters to 176 traders from Park Lane Road to formalize the existing temporary stalls at Nyeri Central Business District.

The traders from Park Lane Road have been trading in the temporary stalls since 2004 but with the consent letters they can now construct modern stalls which will be a game changer in their lives.

Through the Department of Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development, the traders have been provided with guidelines on how these modern stalls will be constructed and utilized. Some of the guidelines include:

- The orientation of the stalls shall be strictly as guided by the County Physical Planner through the

provided stall layout.

- That the stall shall be used for commercial retail purpose only.

- The owner of the stall will abide by the county government's rules and regulations as shall be enforced and introduced from time to time.



Speaking at the event, Rware MCA Hon. Paul Kanyari thanked the governor for leading a government that is working harmoniously with the county assembly to ensure that Nyeri residents get quality services in all areas.

Park Lane Road Traders Chairman Fredrick Njogu, lauded the County

Government of Nyeri for having their businesses and interests at heart. He further noted that with the issuance of these consent letters, this will mean more security for their businesses and ultimately this will bring notable growth in their businesses which will in turn positively impact their lives. Governor Kahiga lauded the traders for the unity they have demonstrated when working with officials from the county government through the whole process of attaining the consent letters.

He further noted that the County Government of Nyeri is committed towards prioritizing the welfare of traders all over Nyeri and ensuring that they work in a conducive environment which is essential for any business to thrive.

Ongo...ing Nyeri County projects



Recently constructed Mweru - Muchatha market shade in Rugi ward, Mukurwe-ini sub-county.



A new office and a store have been constructed at Othaya Vocational Training Centre, Iria-ini Othaya ward.



The new face of Titie Water Treatment Plant in Aberdare forest in Dedan Kimathi and Wamagana wards in Tetu.

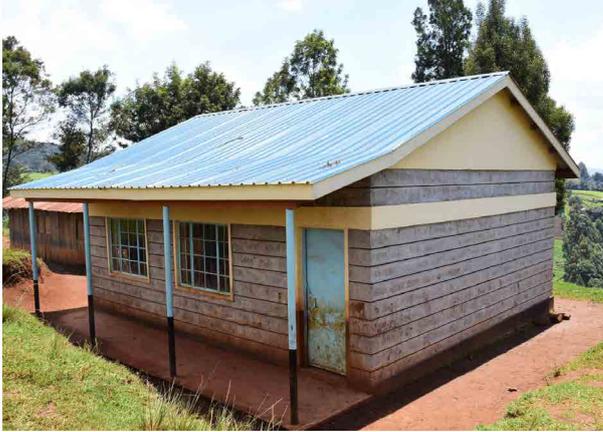


The upgrading of the floor using cabro paving blocks at Mihuti market shade is complete. This is in Rugi ward, Mukurwe-ini sub-county.



The recently installed solar power system at Nyange Borehole in Thegu River ward, Kieni East sub-county which will help draw water and supply it to the nearest masonry tank.

Ongo...ing Nyeri County projects



A classroom at Konyu ECDE Centre in Iria-ini ward Othaya sub-county which was constructed last year.



The recently renovated classrooms at Ngurumo ECDE Centre in Kirimukuyu ward, Mathira West sub-county.



Chain link fence at Iria-ini grounds, Iria-ini ward in Mathira East sub-county.



The Phase II of the construction of a boundary wall at Ruring'u stadium, Ruring'u ward near Nyeri town is almost complete.



Queens Hostel at Karatina Vocational Training Centre which had initially stalled due to lack of funds is now complete.



Two classrooms have been constructed at Hiriga ECDE Center in Ruguru ward, Mathira West sub-county.

Ongo...ing Nyeri County projects



The new face of the three renovated classrooms and an office at Thunguri ECDE Centre in Iria-ini Othaya ward, Othaya sub-county.



New chain link fencing at Kabebero Vocational Training Centre in Iria-ini ward, Othaya sub-county.



The recently renovated classroom at Umbui ECDE Centre in Mahiga ward, Othaya sub-county.



The constructed two classrooms at Sagana ECDE Centre in Ruguru ward, Mathira West sub-county are complete.



The recently renovated Mutonga ECDE Centre in Gikondi ward, Mukurwe-ini sub-county.



Ongoing chain link fencing at Ihururu stadium, Dedan Kimathi ward, Tetu sub-county.