



WEEKLY REVIEW



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From left H.E Mutahi Kahiga, Public Service Management CEC Beth Karimi, Nyeri County Public Service Board Chairman Paul Kimondo (extreme right) and some of the 200 interns recruited last year. This was during the launch of the programme in January this year. Nyeri County has for the last four years recruited 518 interns, and has absorbed 49 interns from the 1st and 2nd batch into the County Public Service in various department. Further, a total of 1,350 trainees from different learning institutions have benefitted through attachments.

Nyeri 3rd batch interns: One year after

By Governor's Press Unit

Impactful, enriching and transformative are just some of the few words that have been used to describe the internship programme run by the County Government of Nyeri. Since H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga took up the leadership mantle four years ago, 518 interns have been recruited to this programme. The success of the internship programme is evident seeing that 49 interns from the 1st and 2nd batch have been absorbed into the County Public Service in various county departments and other

organizations.

Governor Kahiga noted that the County Government of Nyeri is committed to supporting the youth, as such, it has started programs like the internship programme which seeks to impart hands-on skills through vigorous training and mentorship to graduates thus boosting their employability.

“By involving interns in day to day operations, the county government has found future employees reducing the cost on

resources from recruiting. It has also created a platform for test-driving youth talent and closing the skills gap in fresh graduates. It has increased organizational productivity, fostered leadership skills as well as improved the overall work environment,” he added.

The Department of County Public Service and Solid Waste Management CEC Beth Karimi noted that the county government is committed to supporting this programme, as internship is a

golden opportunity to equip the youth with appropriate skills to network and develop work ethics.

The internship programme has positioned Nyeri as a model county with both public and private organizations bench marking on the same. Currently, the County Government has rolled out the 4th annual internship programme whose recruitment is ongoing.

Continued on page 2,3 & 4

Here are some of the interns from the 3rd batch sharing their experience:

Brian Maina Intern President



have proved to be very vital to my social life and career progression. In addition, I have had the privilege of being the president of this cohort and that has sharpened my leadership skills as well as given me the opportunity of interacting with my colleagues on a personal

servitude which has also greatly impacted my leadership style. She has been at the centre stage of this internship programme and has been offering us support so that we are able to work in a conducive environment which is something that we are all grateful for.

through a self-awareness training that the CEC took us through. This has made me intentional about the way I attract with people in and out of the office. Another lesson that I have picked is about punctuality which has made me more responsible and professional. These are just a few of those lessons I picked but I have so many that will come in handy in both my professional and social life.

1. Which department are you working from?

I am an Irrigation Engineer based in the Department of Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change.

2. How many interns were enrolled during your term of Financial Year 2020/2021?

200 interns were recruited, 183 reported and 11 have resigned so far after landing greener pastures.

3. What has been your experience so far?

My experience has been nothing short of phenomenal. I had a strong feeling that this internship programme would notably change my outlook on life completely. I have gained knowledge in my field which is of great benefit for me. I have also networked with professionals in and out of my field that

level.

4. How has your relationship been like with your colleagues?

My relationship with my colleagues has been cordial. This has been brought about by the fact that I have interacted with them outside the parameters of the office. We have held events like the CSR to the Alfafah Children's Home that further shaped my relationship with them.

5. How is the relationship with your seniors including the Governor and the CEC?

I have interacted closely with Beth Karimi the CEC Department of County Public Service and Solid Waste Management; and she has turned out to be a mentor for us as the executive for this cohort. She is approachable and all about

6. What challenges have you experienced for the period you have worked here?

The greatest challenge we have faced as interns is the Covid-19 pandemic. Our learning exposure has been compromised in terms of acquiring knowledge about our fields since on some days we work from home and on others we work in shifts. With regard to assessment, interns expressed concern about how supervisors monitor or evaluate their work performance given the lack of in-person and on-site interaction. However, I want to thank all the departments' heads for they work tirelessly to ensure that even as the interns work in shifts they work tirelessly to ensure that interns learn and polish their skills in every way possible.

7. Is your stipend enough and is it paid on time?

I wish the stipend is a bit more but I am so grateful for the one the one we have been receiving. I also love that it is consistent and on those few times that we do not receive it on time the Department of Finance takes it upon themselves to explain.

8. What lessons have you learnt that you realize will help you in future?

I have picked many invaluable lessons through this internship programme. One of them is that I am now aware of my personality

Events coordinator Kennedy Maina

1. Which department are you working from?

I am a Tourism Officer based at the department of Trade, Tourism, Culture and Cooperative Development.

2. What has been your experience so far?

Every single day of this internship program to me has been a winning day. All the tasks allocated by the supervisors have been a trigger to go an extra mile in a bid to transit from a graduate into a professional. Notably, as a directorate and with the input of the interns and the leadership of our able director, we have been able to deliver the county tourism guide, guide the development of various culture centers, operationalize the culture center conducted an impact assessment baseline survey on the impact of Covid-19 on the tourism and hospitality industry in the county and organize an off-road expedition in the Aberdare in a bid to boost domestic tourism and resuscitate the hard hit tourism industry.



3. What challenges have you experienced during the period you have worked here?

Covid-19 has been the biggest challenge during my internship period. Some of the scheduled events have had to be postponed and this was an interruption to our working from home which is not as conducive as working from the office but the situation warranted the same.

4. What lessons have you learnt that you realize will help you in future?

First, you can't be a monopoly of knowledge, that's why consultations are important. Secondly, leadership is about service and not positions and lastly teamwork yields better results.

5. How was the relationship with your seniors including the governor, CEC and your colleagues during this period?

I look up to the governor for leadership. His track record since he rose to the helm of this county inspires me. He also has a soft spot for the youth and will go any mile to address their concerns. My colleagues have been very sup-

portive which made the working environment conducive.

6. What can you say about this internship programme?

I take this opportunity to thank H.E. Governor Mutahi Kahiga for giving us this platform to showcase knowledge and talents that we have acquired from the various institutions and also get hands-on experience in our areas of specialization.

Joyce M. Maina Vice Secretary

1. Which department are you working from?

I am an Internal Auditor in the Department of Finance and Economic Planning, in the Directorate of Internal Audit.

2. What has been your experience so far? Tell us about your success story.

My experience as an intern has been educating and quite mind opening. I got to see how the county works and how operations run, learning about different processes from revenue,

procurement and how different department co-exist for maximum output. My success story is being elected as the Vice Secretary/ Treasurer representing in the 3rd cohort interns executive. As part of the executive, I'm proud of our recent C. S.R activity at the Alfalah Children's Home that was a success.

3. How is your relationship with your colleagues?

My colleagues have been very supportive, patient and have ended up being one of my role models in my life. I have gotten to learn different set skills from each one of them. They always encourage us to seek answers on something we don't understand and considering we are auditors, evidence and facts to prove certain transactions or processes is very important.

I haven't had the chance to interact with the Governor yet but I do hope before the contracts ends, I'll get a chance to thank him for this amazing and rare opportunity he has given us. Our C.E.C, Mr. Robert Thuo has been engaging with us in the office. He is always concerned about our progress and if we have everything we may need to work in an ideal workspace to ensure that things run smoothly in our office.

5. What lessons have you learnt that you realize will help you in future?

The biggest lesson I have learnt is to be prepared to meet different personalities in different people within a working space and to be able to be flexible, tolerating and understanding to be able to maintain a cordial and professional relationship in the working place to promote efficiency.



4. How was the relationship with your seniors including the Governor and the CEC?

Check related pictorial on page 10

Consolata Wairimu

1. Which department are you working from?

I am a procurement Officer with the Department of Finance and Economic Planning, Directorate of procurement.

2. What has been your experience so far? Tell us about your success story.

My experience have been great, I have gained practical skills and knowledge and got the opportunity to interact with different kind of people of different profession level.

3. How is the relationship with your seniors and colleagues?

Relationship with my seniors was friendly and professional, I found them easy to approach and they were eager to teach and guide. With my colleagues, it was a positive relationship which led to a conducive working environment that enabled great individual and teamwork performance

4. What challenges have you experienced during the period you have worked here? Did Covid-19 affect your work?

Some of the challenges include stipend payment delay in the first month of new financial year, inadequate space in the office, poor internet and IFMIS connectivity which led to work delay. Covid-19 pandemic was also a challenge as it has led to some of us working in shifts so as to ensure social distancing at workplace.



5. What lessons have you learnt that you realize will help you in future?

Network building is very important in career growth. Also, punctuality in all aspects is important whether it's arriving early in the morning or getting a task done on time, punctuality is essential.

6. What can you say about this internship programme?

It has accorded me an opportunity to network and gain experience improving my employability skills in future.

achieved a lot in practical skills, learnt how to work as a team since November when I joined my work station at Karatina Vocational Center as a food and beverage instructor.

3. How has the relationship been with your seniors and colleagues so far?

I have enjoyed working with them as they are so welcoming and excellent to work with.

4. What challenges did you experience during the period you have worked here? Did Covid-19

affect your work?

Yes the Covid-19 pandemic did affect my work since students were sent home

5. What lessons did you learn that you realise will help you in future?

I gained entrepreneurial skills which will have helped me to set up my own business and the importance of team work in an organization.

6. What can you say about this internship programme?

I wish to express my gratitude to H.E. Governor Mutahi Kahiga for pioneering this programme as it has been of great benefit especially to fresh graduates.

Christine Kangai

1. Which department are you working from?

I am an Intern Inspector in the Department of Education and Sports.

2. What has been your experience so far? Tell us about your success story.

I have gained skills in teaching,



Consultative meeting

Sub-county bar & restaurants' owners meeting

Bar and restaurant owners across the county lauded the County Government of Nyeri for the measures that it has put in place to ensure that their businesses thrive and expand.

Story | Joseph Wambugu & Photo | Kennedy Karanja

H. E Governor Mutahi Kahiga held a two-day consultative meeting with entertainment and hospitality industry stakeholders in all the sub-counties.

The meetings were geared towards understanding how the industry has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and ways to revive the industry amidst this persistent pandemic.

Bar and restaurant owners across the county lauded the County Government of Nyeri for the measures that it has put in place to ensure that their businesses thrive and expand.

The governor assured the business owners that the county government is committed towards supporting the industry to ensure that their businesses have a conducive working environment to operate in. He noted that for this financial year, his government has suspended inspection of bars and will only apply for new businesses.

The stakeholders were also urged to continue adhering to Covid-19 protocols as they operate their businesses and to go for vaccination jabs in their nearest vaccination sites.



Consultative meeting

Consultative meeting between CGN and DeKUT's CIEM

Story & Photo | Jane Baru

Officers from the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services led by the CECM Esther Ndung'u held a consultative meeting with the Vice Chancellor, DVC Academic Affairs and the Director for Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Management (CIEM) Dr. Roselyne Kangodu at Dedan Kimathi University on matters youth empowerment.

They deliberated on various channels which are meant to improve the welfare of the youth and other special interest groups within Nyeri County.

The County Government of Nyeri and DeKUT share similar views when it comes to promoting and enhancing social initiatives as well as gender and youth empowerment. As such, they both seek to promote youth skills through innovative initiatives.

The meeting shed light on areas of mutual interest for collaboration and framework of engagement in youth and gender programs and



other mainstreaming programs that require more attention and those that need to be actualized. The leather tanning industry, coffee value addition, internship programs and ward specific projects being among the business ideas discussed and are considered to

be commercially viable.

After hours of discussions with representatives of the chemistry department, the ICT department and the department of science and technology and CIEM convenor Dr. Kang'odu, the two parties

were in agreement that DeKUT would play a vital role as a partner in the present and future plans. The meeting concluded with a tour through the University to the institutions Film Hub.

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NYERI COUNTY WEEKLY REVIEW

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Health



Hospital managers and county health management teams during a training on multiple Covid-19 vaccine introduction. They were also trained on other areas which include: Covid-19 vaccines attributes, storage & supply logistics, Covid-19 vaccine administration, Covid-19 safety monitoring & surveillance and communication for Covid-19 vaccines.

Multiple Covid-19 vaccine introduction training

The training touched on the introduction of the following vaccines: Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson and Sinopharm.

Story | Njambi Mugo & Photo | Kenneth Ngatia

The County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Health Services in conjunction with Amref Health Africa conducted a two-day training on multiple Covid-19 vaccine introduction.

The training was attended by hospital managers and County Health Management Teams from all Level 4 and 5 hospitals in Nyeri County as well as Kenyatta Na-

tional Hospital - Othaya Annex. The training touched on the introduction of the following vaccines: Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson and Sinopharm.

The medical practitioners were also trained on other areas which include: Covid-19 vaccines attributes, storage & supply logistics, Covid-19 vaccine administration, Covid-19 safety monitoring & surveillance and communication for

Covid-19 vaccines.

Speaking at the training, Joyce Maina, the County Expanded Programme of Immunization Logistician noted that Nyeri County has a low wastage of the Covid-19 vaccine which is very impressive.

“Nyeri is also among the top counties that have registered the highest proportion of fully vaccinated people in the country. I like that

Nyeri residents have embraced immunization against Covid-19,” she added.

The health care workers were also trained on the same areas last week.

The County Government of Nyeri encourages its residents to go for vaccination at their nearest vaccine station and to continue adhering to MoH protocols.

GOVERNOR'S PRESS UNIT



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Opinion piece

By Nelson Maina - Budget Coordinator, the Chapter Six Group

The ward specific program

In an attempt to distribute resources fairly across the 30 wards, the Governor and Assembly created the ward specific program.

Each ward receives an equal amount of funds to address unique development priorities.

Each MCA should hold public participation forums in their wards to generate a list of priority projects equal to the amount allocated. The 30 ward lists are compiled and submitted to the relevant departments for implementation. However, the lists cannot be altered without the consent of the affected MCA.

According to Assembly this program has been a success as not only does it reduce conflict with the executive but also every ward gets an equal share of develop-

ment resources.

In 2019/20 each ward received 30 million and an extra 10 million for the Kieni wards as affirmative action. In the two subsequent years they received 16million and 12million respectively.

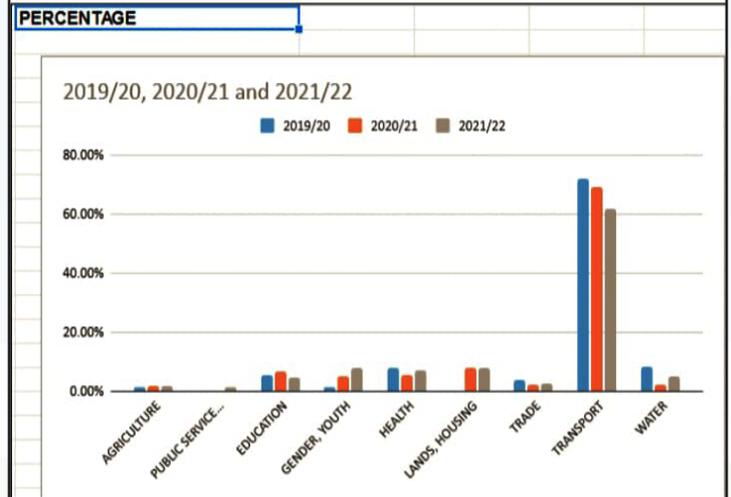
However, is equality the same as equity? In a report launched by the Nyeri County Budget Coalition analyzing the 3 years the program has run, it emerged that there's no fair distribution among sectors across the wards.

Infrastructure sector received on average 60% of the allocation though this has been declining over the years.

Agriculture gets the lowest allocation on average at less than 2% across the 3 years.

NYERI COUNTY

Below is a graph showing percentage changes over the years per sector for WARD SPECIFIC PROJECTS



Gender, Youth and Social Services leaps from 1% to 8% whereas trade department has an average allocation of 3%.

The report further notes that the ward specific program is a gentleman's agreement as it's not anchored in law. It recommends that the County Assembly should draft a legislation expressly for this program.

Further the report highlights the lack of a needs assessment in determining how much each ward gets factoring in the principles of equity. These are; need, minimum

share, capacity, effort and efficiently.

Finally, the report captures the challenge that Covid has created in terms of public participation forums. It recommends that assembly must device innovative ways that citizens can still participate in the decision making process.

The assembly agrees that this is a learning process and are open to ideas on how to improve fair distribution of resources across the 30 wards.



Education

Public participation on ATI

- *The commission led the exercise to gain views, observations, comments and recommendations on the Access to Information (ATI) Act and regulations which was proposed in 2016.*

Story & Photo | Joseph Wambugu



Officers from the County Government of Nyeri took part in a public participation exercise conducted by the Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ) (Ombudsman) held at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (Dekut) in Nyeri.

The commission led the exercise to gain views, observations, comments and recommendations on the Access to Information (ATI) Act and regulations which was proposed in 2016.

The Access to Information Act 2016 requires Government agencies to make official information more freely available, to provide for proper access by each person to official information relating to that person, to protect official information to the extent consistent with the public interest.

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

FILM AS A TOOL FOR ADVOCACY ON GCED

GOAL : Provide young leaders with advanced practical skills and hands-on experience on how they can use authentic visual storytelling to advance their own advocacy work.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS
: *Ideal for those who are interested in and willing to learn visual storytelling/ filming with practical skills

DATE : September 6 - October 8, 2021

FORMAT:

- 5 weeks e-workshop
- Master Classes
- Discussion forum
- Participatory activities
- Hands-on experience: create your own impact campaigns
- Impact Report

APPLICATION

BY 31 AUGUST, 2021





Nyeri interns CSR activity pictorial



Ongo...ing Nyeri County projects



Recently renovated workshop at Gathuthi Vocational Training Centre in Wamagana ward, Tetu sub-county.



Ongoing construction of Gakuyu masonry tank in Konyu ward, Mathira East sub-county.



Ongoing Mudavadi Chicken Market roofing and electrical work.



Ongoing Mutoigu intake at Gura River in Aberdare forest.



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



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