



WEEKLY REVIEW



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Sweet potato farmers in Mbugua village in Mukurwe-ini sub county harvesting sweet potatoes for sale and for local consumption. These are some of the beneficiaries of Thiha-Sagana Irrigation Project which is being implemented by the County Government of Nyeri, the National Government and the World Bank through the Kenya Smart Climate Agriculture Project (KCSAP).

How Thiha-Sagana Irrigation Water Project is transforming Mukurwe-ini

By Governor's Press Unit

For many years the residents of Mukurwe-ini Central ward in Mukurwe-ini sub-county, have had an insurmountable obstacle to their progress as a community and that is the lack of water.

When people can't get access to water their lives are disrupted, stalled and economic decline may even occur. Water is life, as the saying goes.

We rely on water for our food, our health, our livelihoods, and

for fun and leisure. But water can also take away life. And the absence of water can be even worse.

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Medical Drugs distribution spot check



The County Government of Nyeri disbursed pharmaceuticals and non-pharmaceuticals including hypertension drugs, antibiotics, pain-killers, gloves, syringes, bandages, cleaning agents to rural health facilities subsequently ensuring uninterrupted service delivery within the hospitals.

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Over 200 students benefit from Elimu Bursary



Story on page 11

The reprieve for the residents of Mukurwe-ini Central ward came in the form of the rehabilitation of the Thiha-Sagana Irrigation Water Project.

The project was jointly funded by the County Government of Nyeri under the stewardship of H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga with the World Bank through the Kenya Smart Climate Agriculture Project (KSCAP) at a cost of about Kshs 31 million.

The project activities involved upgrading of water intake, protection of the Thiha River banks, installation of conveyance and distribution pipes and in-fields, and the construction of a project office block.

The project which started in June 2020 and ended in February 2021 was handed over to the beneficiaries and it has directly benefitted 1,536 members who irrigate about 396 acres.

The project was founded by some of the respectable leaders in the area including the late Richard Kaguchia Gichohi, father to Nyeri Speaker Hon. John Kaguchia.

The crops under irrigation in-



Edward Kibicho who is a farmer at Gitundu area, Mukurwe-ini Central ward inspecting crops at his green house. BELOW: Sweet Potato farmers carrying their harvests on their backs to the market.

clude: bananas, beans, sweet potatoes plus other high value horticultural crops.

Elizabeth Wanjugu, a member of the Thiha-Sagana Irrigation Project and a beneficiary of its rehabilitation noted that this project has changed her fortune. She attributed that to this project which has really come in handy to the sweet potato farming that she practices.

“Since the rehabilitation of this project, my life and that of

my family has been positively changed. I am a sweet potato farmer and now that water is not a problem I have been able to harvest and from the profit gained I have educated my children with ease and even improved our living conditions at our home,” she added.

Wilson Mwangi another farmer who hails from Mbugua area and has since ventured into sweet potato farming has nothing but gratitude for KSCAP and the County Government of Nyeri

for how the project has notably transformed his life.

“This is my second harvest since the project was rehabilitated. This would not have been possible without the constant supply of water that we now have. Through my small farm I have created employment for some community members. From the harvests of every six months there's been value addition to myself and to my family as well, in that our basic needs are met and through the profits we have reaped our horizons have expanded for us,” added Mwangi.

According to Peter Maina, a sweet potato farmer and the chairman of the Thiha-Sagana Irrigation Project, the project has been quite beneficial since its actualization saying that for so many years the residents of Rutune area have suffered because of the lack of constant water supply and but this project has absolutely turned their lives around.



“Our area is semi-arid and for the longest time the progress of our lives as a community was curtailed by the lack of constant water supply; but since this project was rehabilitated we have enjoyed water supply at the comfort of our homes and even ventured in horticulture and dairy farming which was unheard of in our community. This has undoubtedly enhanced our lives wholly,” he added.

Edward Kibicho from Gitundu area who is also another beneficiary thanked Governor Kahiga and area MCA Hon. Wamae for the project since the farmer has been able to utilize the water in growing of strawberries, cucumbers and rearing of ornamental fish which has earned him good income.

In dairy farming value chain, several farmers have also benefited through biogas project which is a clean and cheap source of energy.

Stephen Maina and his wife Lucy from Kiboya village noted that the project has greatly benefited them since the energy is sustainable, reliable and affordable and at the same time protective of the environment.

The area MCA Hon. Gatheru Wamae said that the project has helped in provision of reliable water for farming, women empowerment in food production, involvement of youth in modern farming and a way of creating employment which has also played a significant role in reducing crime rate in the area.

Ephantus Ndirangu from the Department of Agriculture and now under the KCSAP programme said this has improved the livelihood of the local community since it is an upcoming enterprise. The farmers can harvest the Bungoma variety sweet potatoes in two seasons per year per acre. They are also engaging the local youth in marketing.

Other projects funded by KCSAP in Mukurwe-ini sub-county include: micro projects in Mukurwe-ini Central ward which has benefitted 54 groups at the cost of Kshs. 43 million and 52 groups in Rugi ward at the cost of Kshs. 43 million.

As a producer organization Wakulima Dairy Cooperative Society has also benefitted with Kshs. 20 million and through Public Private Partnership (Natural Ways Food Supplements) there has been Banana Value Addition at the cost of Kshs. 3.7 million.

In a bid to ensure food security and improvement of diet, the County Government of Nyeri is committed to continue in investing in such projects so that the social, economic and nutritional needs of its citizens are met.



FROM TOP: Some of the fish ponds under the project, Stephen Maina who is one of the beneficiaries of the biogas project and some of the sweet potato veins which is called Bungoma variety which mature within six months.

Health & drugs



Medical Drugs distribution spot check

Story | Njambi Mugo & Photos | Kenneth Ngatia

The County Government of Nyeri disbursed pharmaceuticals and non-pharmaceuticals including hypertension drugs, antibiotics, painkillers, gloves, syringes, bandages, cleaning agents to rural health facilities subsequently ensuring uninterrupted service delivery within the hospitals.

The drugs disbursement exercise continued in Gichira, Thageini, Aguthi, Unjiru, Wamagana, Kiganjo, Kinunga, Karia and Marua health facilities. They were also disbursed

to Karatina Sub County Hospital, Ngorano Health Centre and health facilities in Mukurwe-ini sub-county.

It is important to note that the County Government of Nyeri had made an order of supplies worth Kshs. 91 million but Kenya Medical Supplies Agency (KEMSA)

supplied commodities worth Kshs. 43 million, half of the order Nyeri had made. KEMSA did not have some of the supplies ordered and as such, CGN is exploring other options to fill the gap. The County Government of Nyeri under the leadership of H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga is committed to continue prioritizing healthcare for the people of Nyeri as it is at the heart of a happy, progressive and wealthy people.



Training

Senior Management Course kicks off

Story | Faith Hiuu, & Photo | Kenneth Ngatia

As anyone advances in their career there is need to continuously learn and develop new skills.

from different departments have been facilitated for a senior management course.

The senior management course targets managers responsible for managing resources for their



Nyeri County Secretary Ben Gachichio (seated centre) with other officers after officially opening the one-month senior management course.

The County Government of Nyeri is concerned about the career progression and productivity of its employees and that is why some government officials drawn

The County Secretary Ben Gachichio officially opened the one-month training for the government officers at Wambugu ATC Farm.

organizations. The course is further meant to inculcate core skills and competencies to these officers to guarantee a positive movement towards

service delivery for the residents in the County.

The course will cover eight modules namely:

- Management Principles and Practices
- Development Planning and Policy formulation
- Management Communication
- Effective Leadership
- Good Governance and sustainable development
- Public Resource Management
- Public Sector Reforms and Emerging Issues
- Research Methods

The County Government of Nyeri is committed towards investing in its employees for them to become more proactive and industrious for maximum productivity and yields to the public.

The training is being organized by the County Government of Nyeri and the Kenya School of Government, Embu campus.

KSG Embu Campus Deputy Director Dr. Fredrick Mukabi said that this is one of the most crucial training which will help them be transformed.

Review meeting

Health workers review meeting on Empower Health App

Story & Photo | Muthoni Kanja

Courtesy of Medtronic Labs, representatives from all the six Afya Dumu stations convened a meeting to review the progress on the use of Empower Health App and address any challenges on the same.

Empower Health is a mobile app mainly used to assist in the triaging, monitoring and management for Diabetes and Hypertension

patients at a health facility. The application which has been in operation for two years now has overseen enrollment of 8,365 clients across the county. County NCDs Coordinator Dr. Martin Mwangi, pledged his support and that of the Department of Health services in mitigating the challenges they are experiencing at the facility level.

Community Health Strategy Coordinator Ann Nduta, also appreciated them for the exemplary work and noted their flexibility to adapt to the new changes. The County Government has partnered with various partners led by Medtronic Labs to address the burden of NCDs and especially Diabetes and Hypertension.



Covid-19 vaccine

3rd batch of health workers trained on multiple Covid-19 vaccines

Story | Muthoni Kanja & Photo | Kennedy Karanja



In conjunction with Amref Health Africa in Kenya, the Department of Health Services organized a two-day training on the third batch of health workers on multiple covid-19 vaccines. The 31 participants comprised of medical superintendents from all the hospitals, medical officers and clinicians.

They were trained on various essential modules in the multiple

vaccine deployment across the county and its service provision.

The modules are;

- Overview of Corona Virus Disease
- Rationale, Justification and objectives for Deployment of the COVID-19 Vaccine
- Eligibility Criteria and Contraindications
- Infection Prevention and Control
- Covid-19 Vaccines Attributes

-Storage and Supply Logistics

- Covid-19 Vaccine Administration
- Covid-19 Vaccine Safety Monitoring and Surveillance
- Communication for Covid-19 vaccines.

Christine Mumbi, a Health Records and Information officer at the Department of Health, lauded her colleagues for their work at the health facilities despite the challenges. She reaffirmed the

department's commitment to ensuring that they get full support. The County Government of Nyeri recognizes the health workers exemplary work, especially towards mitigating Covid-19, and is committed to ensuring a conducive working environment to harness their full potential and ensure safety at their workstations.

In brief...

The county Government of Nyeri is pleased to announce that all Chaka market food and clothes traders, kiosks and matatus have moved to the new modern market that was recently completed by the National Government.



Courtesy call

Governor meets with Boda Boda team

● *Nyeri County has about 20,000 boda boda operators who play a crucial role in the transport sector ferrying goods and pillion passengers.*

Story | Maureen Muthoni & Photo | Kennedy Karanja

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga met with Nyeri County Boda Boda team officials who paid a courtesy call in his office.

Nyeri County has about 20,000 boda boda operators who play a crucial role in the transport sector ferrying goods and pillion passengers.

The County Government of Nyeri is committed to supporting the operators who help in building up the economy.

However, the governor urged them to form a Sacco in order to receive more benefits in future. They should also practice self-regulation and teamwork.



H. E Governor Mutahi Kahiga (centre) with Nyeri County Boda Boda officials who paid him a courtesy call recently.



Covid-19 vaccines outreach

Story | Muthoni Kanja

In a bid to reach out to a larger population to access the COVID-19 vaccine, the County Government of Nyeri, through The Department of Health Services, carried out the vaccine outreaches across the county.

The exercise targeted community members with priority given to those above 58 years and those with underlying conditions.

The outreaches were conducted in some of the dispensaries: Kangocho Dispensary, Githakwa Dispensary, Kamoko Health centre, Kianguwe and Thangari Dispensary.

The county government is calling upon its citizenry to take up this opportunity to access the vaccine. Amref Health Africa supported the program.

Trade

Relocation of Kamakwa traders

- *This facility allocated to traders who deal with mitumba (second-hand clothes) will enhance safety for both the traders and their customers and offer them a conducive environment for trading.*

Story & Photo | Brenda Njabara

Through the Department of Trade, Tourism, Culture and Co-operatives Development, the County Government of Nyeri has successfully relocated 62 traders

to the newly constructed open-air Kamakwa Market, Nyeri Central sub-county.

This facility allocated to traders who deal with mitumba (sec-

ond-hand clothes) will enhance safety for both the traders and their customers and offer them a conducive environment for trading.

The department will continue to allocate funds in the coming financial years to construct more markets to accommodate more traders.

Allocation of spaces at Mihuti market

Story & Photo | Brenda Njabara

The Department of Trade, Tourism, Culture and Co-operatives development conducted a verification exercise for the allocation of spaces at Mihuti Market in Mukurwe-ini sub-county.

The spaces which are seventy eight in total were allocated to fresh produce traders. This was done fairly through balloting.

After the allocation, the traders were given a time limit up to the 15th of October to fully occupy the market.

They were also guided on what is ex-

pected of them including well maintenance of the market.

The department will continue to al-

locate funds in the coming financial years to construct additional markets to accommodate more traders.



Tourism

World Tourism Day 2021 commemoration

- *Tourism has the unique ability to ensure that nobody is left behind as the world begins to open up again and look to the future.*



Story | Brenda Njabara

The County Government of Nyeri joined the UNWTO, its Member States, non-members, sister UN agencies, businesses and individuals in commemoration of World Tourism Day 2021 whose theme was 'Tourism for Inclusive Growth'.

Tourism has the unique ability to ensure that nobody is left behind as the world begins to open up again and look to the future. The World Tourism Day, celebrated each year on September 27, is the global observance day fostering awareness of tourism's social, cultural, political, and economic value and the sector's contribution towards reaching the Sustainable Development Goals.

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga noted that his government would continue creating a conducive tourism environment for the investors through legal frameworks, improving infrastructure, and providing servant leadership by embracing dialogue among the citizens.

The County Government of Nyeri is determined to support tourism as an avenue to pursue growth that brings everyone on board. The department has already mapped out and documented over 30 heritage sites in the county. The focus will also be on the development of tourist sites and tourism promotion for inclusive growth.



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Education

Gender-based violence technical working group quarterly meeting

The main objective of the GBV- TWG is to support a comprehensive and coordinated approach to SGBV, including prevention, care, support and efforts to hold perpetrators accountable.



Story & Photo Jane Baru

Gender Youth and Social Services CEC Esther Ndung'u presided over a stakeholder meeting with the Nyeri County GBV technical working group duty bearers to deliberate on a holistic, multi-sectoral

and sustainable approach to the prevention of and response to GBV.

The technical working group was launched and oriented in May 2021 and brings together duty

bearers drawn from the National and County Governments, the judiciary, office of the DPP, Police Service, Prisons, Media, Civil Society, Private Sector, Faith-based Organizations, Council of Elders,

Student organizations, among other stakeholders.

The main objective of the GBV-TWG is to support a comprehensive and coordinated approach to SGBV, including prevention, care, support and efforts to hold perpetrators accountable.

The committee is also obligated to respond to GBV issues across the county by dissecting the emerging issues and existing gaps at the grassroots levels and strengthening the referral pathway.

The stakeholders identified focal points representing different sectors and thematic groups in health, education, outreach to men, and advocacy with focal persons nominated to develop effective prevention of and response to GBV.

In brief...

Delivery of oxygen plant and incinerator equipment for Mukurwe-ini Sub County Hospital. Installation to commence soon.

Once installed and functional, the plant will have a capacity to deliver medical oxygen at 500 litres per minute.



Graduates training

Employability soft skills training for TVET graduates

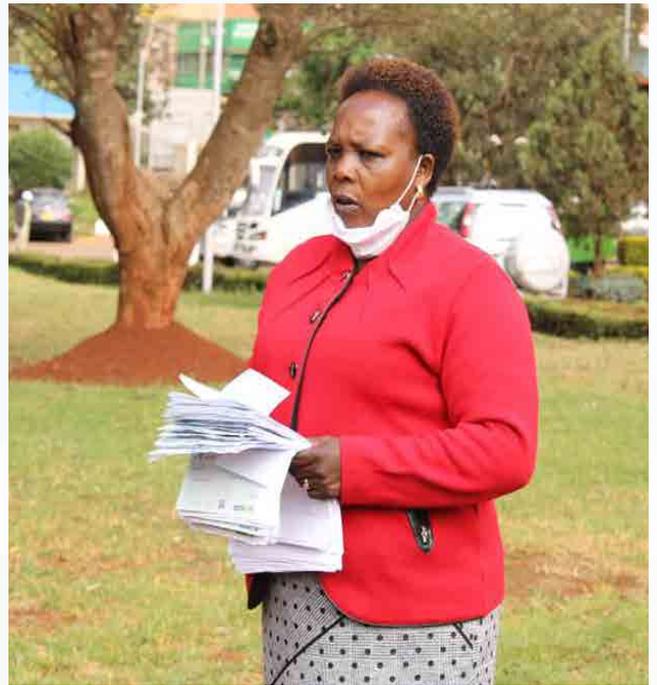
Story & Photo | Jane Baru

Employers around the world complain that youth lack the soft skills needed for success in the workplace. In response, the County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services partnered with Help Self Help Centre to organize a two-day training for 250 youth in Nyeri County on employability soft skills. The training hopes to empower young TVET/VTC graduates to build skills and opportunities through social innovation and social entre-

preneurship. By the end of the training, the youth are expected to have acquired relevant skills for the job market, self-confidence, awareness and self-actualization, and to also identify unique innovations. The training which commenced on 29th September will run concurrently in all the eight sub counties and is being funded by the Finnish Embassy. Upon the successful completion of the training, the participants will be a certificate in recognition of their added skills.



Education



Over 200 students benefit from Elimu Bursary

Story & Photo | Zipporah Mwangi

Education and Sports CEC Margaret Macharia disbursed over 200 cheques to beneficiaries of Elimu Bursary Funds ahead of schools re-opening. The needy students were some of those who missed the funds during the last disbursement of the Kshs. 40 million where over 11,000 students benefitted. After the disbursement in July, the Department of Education and Sports came up

with a list of the most deserving cases that missed in the programme and have now been brought on board. The students drawn from various secondary schools, colleges and universities were handed the cheques by the CEC at the Governor's Office. The parents and some students thanked the governor for considering their needs and responding positively in the nick of time.

GOVERNOR'S PRESS UNIT



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Security

Training of the enforcement officers

Story | Njambi Mugo & Photo | Kennedy Karanja

Nyeri County Secretary Ben Gachichio on behalf of H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga officially opened induction training for the newly recruited enforcement officers at MoH offices in Kamakwa ward, Nyeri Central sub-county. The seven newly recruited officers were derived from various sectors including DoDs, Police service, NGOs, NYS, private investigators among others hence will be a great addition to the enforcement team due to the expertise they will bring to the force.

Together with the eight existing sub-county enforcement officers, they will undergo a seven-day training on the following topics: Public Service code of conduct, Human Resource Management, Enforcement Directorate structure, Ethics and integrity of public officers, HIV/AIDS awareness, drugs & substance abuse, terror-



ism, revenue collection, rules and regulations, first aid and fire prevention among others.

Some of their responsibilities will be:

- Ensuring compliance with county laws in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies;
- Conducting preliminary investigations and recording statements

- Liaising with relevant Government agencies to arrest people breaking the enforced laws;
- Giving evidence in court, marking and preserving exhibits;
- Hoisting of flags;
- Performing customer care desk duties such as receiving and directing visitors to the relevant offices;
- Responding to distress calls

from the public;

- Guarding and securing County Government buildings and vital installations.

The CS urged the officers to serve Nyeri residents diligently, to maintain professionalism as they discharge their duties as well as to shun away from vices like corruption.

CHVs receive facemasks courtesy of Council of Governors

Story & Photo | Muthoni Kanja



The County Government of Nyeri received a donation of facemasks for Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) from the Council of Governors. Each CHV will receive 50 pieces of masks to aid in their protection as they discharge their mandate.

Nyeri County has a renowned reputation for strong and cohesive network of CHV's that are evenly distributed across the county. A total 2,510 CHVs spread across 251

community units play a vital role in primary healthcare. As part of their duty, each CHV is assigned 10 Households where they ensure their wellness and make necessary arrangements in the cases that require a referral.

From the on-set of the COVID-19 pandemic, CHVs have been creating awareness at the community level and ensuring they do a follow up of the COVID-19 patients under Home Based Care.

The County Government spearheaded by H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga has continued to ensure that CHV's operate under conducive work environment through frequent capacity building platforms, issuing them with of tools of work, engaging them in community mobilization and ensuring that they are part of health activities organized by the department.