



WEEKLY REVIEW



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From left Thegu River ward MCA Hon Richard Kamuhia, Nyeri Agriculture CEC James Wachihi and Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga when they issued farm equipment to farmers in Thegu River ward, Kieni East sub-county.

KCSAP dairy machinery start rolling out in Nyeri

By Governor's Press Unit

For most small scale Kieni dairy farmers, the challenge of limited dairy production has been a perennial one. This has been majorly attributed to the fact that in most times, they use locally available feed resources, such as natural pastures, crop residues, cut-and-carry grass,

forage crops and local feedstuff as well as communal grazing which significantly inhibit their dairy cow's milk production.

Using supplements both energy and/or protein-rich feeds for dairy animals has been linked with increased milk production.

Upon the realization of the same, farmers from Kieni started sending proposals in order to source for donors who would fund them with capital to purchase machines for production of high quality feeds.

At the sleepy village of Gatuamba

in Thegu River ward, Kieni East sub county, Njung'wa Community Based Organisation is one of such groups which forwarded a proposal to the World Bank through the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP).

Continued on page 2 & 3

KCSAP is a programme jointly funded by the Government of Kenya and the World Bank. The programme aims at increasing agricultural productivity and enhancing resilience and coping mechanisms to climate change risks in the targeted smallholder farming and pastoral communities.

The 26 Njung'wa CBO members were overjoyed after their proposal was accepted and were funded with Kshs. 920,000 in the financial year 2020/2021 which they used to purchase a feed mixer and a hammer mill.

Feed mixers are used in feed mills for the mixing of feed ingredients and premixes. The mixer plays a vital role in the feed production process, with efficient mixing being the key to good feed production. If feed is not mixed properly, ingredients and nutrients will not be properly distributed when it comes time to extrude and pelletize the feed, or if the feed is to be used as mash. This means that not only would the feed not have nutritional benefit, it would be bad for the animals that are eating it.

On the other hand, a hammer mill is a farm machine which mills grain into coarse flour to be fed to livestock. The mill's purpose is to shred or crush aggregate material into smaller pieces by the repeated blows of little hammers. These machines have numerous industrial applications including: Ethanol plants (grains).

The members, whose targets go beyond eight litres per cow per day, have significantly benefitted from the equipment provided which they now use to produce high quality feeds for their animals subsequently increasing



both quality and quantity of milk produced. Additionally, the equipment which was purchased

and installed after they rented a room at Gatuamba trading centre, has been of great help, as

the feeds produced have been extended for use in other value chains including poultry, goats and pigs increasing production in the same.



The group's chairman Michael Ndiritu and secretary David Gitonga expressed their gratitude to Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga and area MCA Hon. Richard Kamuhia for making their dream a reality.

"We are grateful to the governor, the MCA and the KCSAP team for facilitating the purchase of the equipment for us, as they have been of great benefit. We were also provided with rabbits for rearing and Hash Avocados for nutrition improvement for which we are thankful for," noted the chairman.

"The group will start arrangements of settling in our own plot so that we can expand our work and use the project commercially to ensure our project is viable. This is a dairy mechanization



Thegu Community Driven Development Committees worth about Kshs. 27.35 million and Kshs. 23.61 million respectively. He also issued out knapsack sprayers and hose pipes to members of Common Interest Groups and Vulnerable Marginalized Groups in Thegu and Gakawa wards.

In this financial year 2021/22, about Kshs. 8.88 million has been allocated for the upgrading of water intake, conveyance and distribution of irrigation pipes (7km) of Mureru Irrigation Water Project. The project will benefit over 566 farmers with coverage of 87 acres.

project which will notably transform this area as well as create employment opportunities for local youth," added Gitonga.

A member, Gerald Warui said that this is a great milestone since the machinery has empowered the group members, the local farmers and created opportunities for youth who will be employed to handle the machines.

The farmers have also been trained by Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization (KARLO) which is a service provider based in Naivasha.

David Mbugua, an official from KARLO noted that the farmers have been trained on innovation practices, feed formulation, where to source feeds, how to grow and store quality forages for their livestock to ensure availability of feeds throughout the year, how to ensure quality milk and reduce cost in production among others.

The Chairman of Thegu Community Driven Development Committees (CDDC) Githaiga Muchemi

said 55 micro projects in Lusoi and Lower Karkuret have been funded with a total of Kshs. 40 million in the last two years, in the value chains of Irish potato, beans, indigenous chicken, dairy and natural resource management, which has notably transformed the lives of Kieni farmers.

Meanwhile, courtesy of KCSAP, the Governor issued 14 chaff cutters, 10 forage choppers and three

bean threshers to Gathathi-ini Men Self Help Group in Thegu River ward, which will help in boosting food production and livestock farming in the area. He also commissioned and handed over a water project site for the proposed rehabilitation and upgrading of the Lower Kakuret Irrigation Water Project to the contractor.

Further, Governor Kahiga presented cheques to Gakawa and

Governor Kahiga has urged Nyeri residents to form more community groups so that they can benefit from such projects in order to enhance their lives wholly. The County Government of Nyeri is committed to continue collaborating with KCSAP to increase agricultural productivity in the county seeing that agriculture is the backbone of our economy.



Members of Njung'wa CBO, service providers and officers from KCSAP during the commissioning of the mix feeder and hammer mill machines at Gatumba, Thegu River ward, Kieni East sub county. TOP: A hammer mill machine belonging to Njung'wa CBO which is now operational.

Flagship project

World Bank KUSP team lauds Bus Termini Project

Story | Joseph Wambugu & Photo | Peter Wangari



From left: Nyeri Municipal Board Chairman Jeremiah Ichaura and Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP), Eng. B.K. Njenga, the team leader from the Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing & Urban Development and other officers including Nyeri Municipal Manager Perister Kigwa during the inspection tour of the Nyeri Main Bus Termini. BELOW: Part of the new perimeter fence which has been erected at the bus termini.

With less than 5% remaining for the completion of the Nyeri Main Bus Termini, the County Government of Nyeri under the stewardship of H. E Governor Mutahi Kahiga was lauded by a team from the Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP) for the smooth implementation of the project and his great oversight role.

The Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP) is a World Bank funded programme that aims at establishing and strengthening urban entities in a bid to improve infrastructure and service delivery in counties that qualify. Nyeri County, having met the requisite parameters, joined the list of participating counties that fall under the umbrella of KUSP. It is evident that rapid urbanization is accompanied by economic growth and prosperity and this is

an outcome whose fruition will be witnessed in Nyeri once the Nyeri Bus Termini project is completed. The County Government of Nyeri is continually working with the World Bank cordially by meeting expectations and adhering to set guidelines, protocols and procedures to maximize on the gains of this partnership.

The World Bank through KUSP has been granting the County Government of Nyeri funds to finance the construction of the ultra-modern bus termini, which is being implemented by the Department of Lands, Housing, Planning and Urbanization together with the Nyeri Municipal Board. A total of Kshs. 600 million have been budgeted for the first phase. Eng. B.K. Njenga, the team leader from the Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing & Urban

Development (State Department for Housing & Urban Development) lauded the leadership of Nyeri County for the progress made in the construction and implementation of the bus termini,

a multi-tier project running for three financial years and is almost complete for the first phase.

Continued on the next page
The termini is a good investment



that is going to turn around the economic empowerment of the Nyeri citizenry and control management of traffic as well as decongest Nyeri town while expanding development to the larger urban area of the Nyeri Municipality.

Nyeri Municipal Board Chairman Jeremiah Ichaura noted that through collaboration with the Department of Lands and also guidance from the governor, they have been able to successfully implement the construction of the bus termini which is now almost done.

“Further improvement should be done to ensure that the area is attractive, in particular greening of the area. Pedestrian walkways, holding grounds for leisure with-



in the park will be quite critical hence should be strengthened,” said the chairman.

Governor Kahiga has since termed the multi-million project as transformational noting that it will bring about an economic turn around and progression for the people of Nyeri, taking it back to

its lost glory as an ideal place to live and work in for generations to come.

The Bus Termini is a flagship project by the County Government of Nyeri in partnership with the World Bank through KUSP. It is located at Asian Quarters in Nyeri town. Once complete, it will be the

biggest transport termini upon its completion in East Africa.

The project will include 1,000 trading stalls, 98 booking bays, bus parking spaces, ticket offices, fire post, police post, sacco rooms, taxi bay, market, revenue offices, an ICT hub, a block of offices among others.

Health

Nyeri County marks 2021 world Mental Health Day

Story & Photo | Muthoni Kanja



Through the Department of Health Services and various partners, Nyeri County marked 2021 World Mental Health Day in a colorful event at Whisper's Park. The theme for this year's Mental Health Day was 'Mental health in

an unequal world'. The participants benefitted from services which included COVID-19 vaccine, blood pressure and diabetes screening, counseling, first aid referral and mental health assessment.

Former Health Chief Officer, Newton Wambugu thanked the partners for their support and noted that the department will continue channeling efforts toward curbing the stigma. Gender, Youth and Social Services

Chief Officer George Mwangi, called for an initiative to end mental health discrimination. He added that people should take personal responsibility in taking care of their mental health this week and beyond.

Edwin Githinji, recalled his journey to recovery from alcohol addiction and thanked Karia Rehabilitation Centre which is under the County Government of Nyeri. The partners who supported were: Amref Health Africa in Kenya, Medtronic Labs, HERAF, Outspan Medical College, KMTC-Nyeri, Ujamaa, National Council for Person's with Disability, Rotary Karatina, Consolata Mathari Hospital, St. Joseph Brothers CBO and Caritas.



Nyeri County Development Assistant Wambaire finally retires after three decades in service

When did you join the government as a guard and how many governments have you served?

I joined the defunct local authority in 1990 as a Council Askari and I have served four governments.

What customer care duties do you perform?

While this job calls for one to enforce the rules, it is important to note that how you treat the people in the open air market that I am stationed at is quite important. I have found myself having to treat those that I serve with dignity and respect regardless of their character. Learning to listen to the complaints of the customers and empathizing with them is also something that one has to do. When we practice these things it has far reaching benefits.

Are you usually involved in arresting and prosecuting any wrong doer?

Yes, I have been involved in arresting those who flouts the rules in the open air market but I have to involve the Market master who is my supervisor. If the issue involves violence then it is then taken to a court.

What inspired you to have passion in enforcing security?

Growing up I did not think that this would be a career path for me. When I was done with my secondary education I did not have the means to further my education. For a period of eight years I had to do some manual jobs and tutoring. Then I got a chance to apply for a job as a council askari in the Nyeri Municipal Council and got recruited. That is how my career as an enforcement officer began and I have come to appreciate and even love it.

How do you balance work and family?

After working for 31 years, with time you learn to adjust and strike a balance between work and the family. The fact that I reside with-in the area that I work in has also made things a lot easier for me.

What lessons have you learnt

Over the years through interacting with different people I have learnt that for one to thrive at the workplace then respect, teamwork, patience, self-control and hard work is paramount. There is always need to be kind and humane to anyone that you meet because in the end people will always remember how you made them feel. The welfare of the staff is what Governor Kahiga has emphasized.

Has he also improved your working conditions including training?

Our working conditions have greatly improved especially since H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga took the reins of power. When working for the defunct local authority, I worked without being promoted for many years but since the county government came in I have since been promoted and now I truly feel that this government minds the welfare of its employees. We have always received



our salaries and the working environment is also conducive.

What are the major challenges you have encountered during the period you have worked?

The major challenge that I have faced is that sometimes traders look down upon me for the simple reason that I am woman. Some don't believe that I can do a very good job as an enforcement officer but over time people have come to respect me and my profession.

When will you retire? Are you retiring voluntarily under the

Voluntary Early Retirement programme or just the normal government retirement after attaining 60 years?

I will be retiring next year in October and it will be the normal government retirement.

What are you planning to do after retirement?

I have always been passionate about counseling. In the course of the years, I have trained in counseling and trauma care. I have been volunteering in institutions to offer counseling services and I plan to do it full time after my re-

tirement.

What is your parting shot?

I have been working for over three decades now and I am so grateful for the opportunity that has been accorded to me. To my colleagues I would want to encourage them to be dedicated and committed to the work that they do. To young people who are seeking employment opportunities I just want to urge them never to give up. Also, there's always something to be grateful for in life and I love that I have put God first in everything that I have and I believe that is how I have come this far.

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Education

Governor Kahiga opens the National Early Childhood Education Committee workshop



Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga (seated centre) with ECDE implementers and stakeholders drawn from the CoG, Education CECs, Ministry of Education, UNICEF among others after officially opening a workshop convened by the National Early Childhood Education Committee. The governor officially opened the workshop in his capacity as the Council of Governors (CoG) Education Committee chair. BELOW: The governor delivering his speech during the workshop.

So far, the County Government of Nyeri has hired over 800 ECDE teachers, constructed and renovated over 39 ECDE centres and provides learning and play materials to its 436 ECDE centres annually.

Story & Photo | Njambi Mugo

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga, in his capacity as the Council of Governors (CoG) Education Committee chair officially opened a workshop convened by the National Early Childhood Education Committee on strengthening Early Childhood Education in the country.

As much as ECDE is a role devolved to the county governments with the mandate of management, co-ordination and resourcing of the ECDE function, the National Government retains the critical role of policy and curriculum development. In light of this, ECDE implementers and stakeholders drawn from the CoG, Education CECs, Ministry of Education, UNICEF among others, are holding a three-day workshop to deliberate on ways to improve and

evolve the sector through robust engagements.

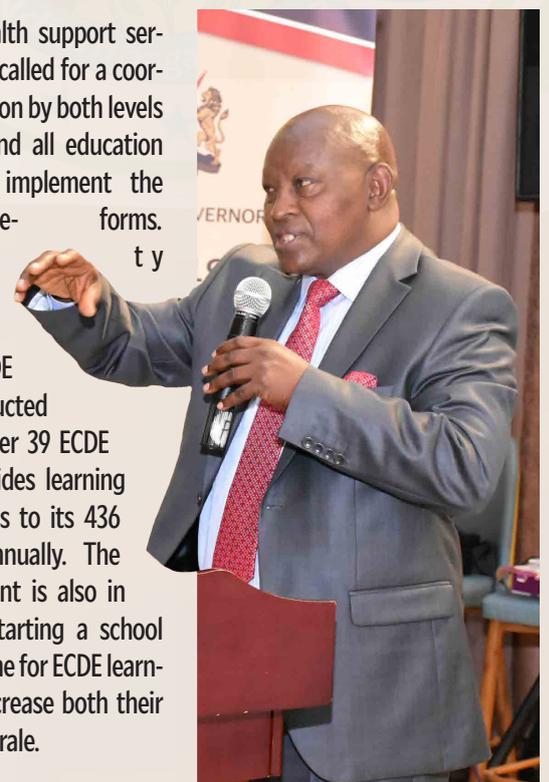
The workshop is also a testament to the strong intergovernmental collaboration the counties have fostered since the inception of devolution.

Governor Kahiga acknowledged both individual and collective efforts towards strengthening early childhood education noting that the reforms undertaken and achievements in the ECDE sub-sector have ensured quality service delivery for the children and is commendable.

However, the ECDE sector still faces some challenges such as inadequate staffing, limited availability of appropriate teaching, learning and play materials, limited community participation and inadequate

nutrition and health support services to which he called for a coordinated intervention by both levels of government and all education stakeholders to implement the much-needed reforms.

So far, the County Government of Nyeri has hired over 800 ECDE teachers, constructed and renovated over 39 ECDE centres and provides learning and play materials to its 436 ECDE centres annually. The county government is also in the process of starting a school feeding programme for ECDE learners in a bid to increase both their enrolment and morale.



Education

Launching of the TVET Academic Book

The book offers a set of simple guidelines for transforming the way technical skills are done in Kenya by implementing the Competency Based Education and Training Framework (CBET).



Nyeri Governor who is also the Council of Governors Education Committee Chair H.E. Mutahi Kahiga launching a new book on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) named 'How to Make TVET Work for Kenya.'

Story | Faith Hiuhu & Photo | Kennedy Karanja

Nyeri Governor who is also the Council of Governors Education Committee Chair H.E. Mutahi Kahiga launched a new book on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) named 'How to Make TVET Work for Kenya'. The book offers a set of simple guidelines for transforming the way technical skills are done in

Kenya by implementing the Competency Based Education and Training Framework (CBET). The governor who was accompanied by the three authors of the book; Ndung'u Kahihu, Prof. Charles Ondieki and Nalini Gangadharan lauded the team saying the book will help to generate youths who are productive and self-reli-

ant. The book will also help create employment and focus much on cottage industries. While embracing this effort, the Education Committee chair said he will advocate for more funds from all the counties from the current Kshs. 2.5 billion to at least Kshs. 10 billion per year so that more youths can acquire the necessary

skills in order to start income generating projects.

At the same time, he challenged presidential candidates to focus more on TVET in order to transform this nation as it has been done in other countries like Germany and Singapore.

Author Kahihu who is from the CAP Youth Empowerment Institute (CAPYEI) said the book will help the youth at TVET to learn from the industry's best, earn more money, avoid crippling in debts. The book will also train youths to have enough skills, become employers and policy makers.

Most of the ideas given here in the book are based on the experience of CAPYEI, a Kenyan NGO that works to provide employability skills training and support to help vulnerable young people. In doing this work, CAPYEI has developed and tested a model called Basic Employability Skills Training (BEST) that bears close similarity to the principles of CBET. In this book the authors describe the CAPYEI experience and explain how any technical skills provider can use the same principles of BEST and CBET to transform the results of their TVET programs and institutions.

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Tourism, Culture & ICT

An ultra-modern cinema theatre to be constructed in Nyeri

Once this project is complete it will increase annually the number of young people watching local productions from 27% to 33 % by the year 2023.



H.E Mutahi Kahiga (centre) with a team from the Ministry of ICT, KFC and officers from the County Government of Nyeri after the team paid a courtesy call to the governor in his office.

Story | Joseph Wambugu & Photo | Peter Wangari

Plans are underway to construct an ultra-modern cinema theatre at Wangari Maathai Arts & Cultural Centre in Nyeri town.

The theatre is being constructed by the County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Trade, Tourism, Culture and Co-operatives Development in partnership with Kenya Film Commission (KFC) and Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs. The County Government of Nyeri will provide land and infrastructure while KFC is to provide the requisite equipment.

The team from the Ministry of ICT and KFC also paid a courtesy

call to Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga in his office and later visited the site as a follow-up of the project.

The team led by KFC CEO Timothy Owase and Advisor to ICT CS Frida Karuri expressed their commitment in the plans to ensure more talents in the film industry are tapped in the county.

This comes barely two weeks after the visit by ICT CS Joe Mucheru at the cultural centre, as a follow up of the project.

Movies, cinema and films can help us to better understand our own lives, the lives of those around us and even how our society and cul-

ture operate. They affect many of us powerfully because the combined impact of images, music, dialogue, lighting, sound and special effects can elicit deep feelings and help us reflect on our lives.

The courtesy call was in line with Governor Kahiga's vision of development of culture and the arts as a source of income, public entertainment and education.

The County Government of Nyeri is committed to the promotion of culture, tapping talents involved in innovations and creativity. Already, the department is planning to fence the cultural centre and improve pathways ahead of the

project which is expected to start this year.

Once this project is complete it will increase annually the number of young people watching local productions from 27% to 33 % by the year 2023. It will also give movie goers premium cinema experiences at par with the best in the world.

The cinema will contribute to the local economy in terms of audience/visitors and also to the local film makers as it will expand the distribution of local films to the audiences.

Graduates training

Efforts to improve employability of youth in TVETs

Story & Photo | Jane Barua

Gender, Youth and Social Services CECM Esther Ndung'u met with a team from the Embassy of Finland and Help Self Help Centre, where they discussed areas of partnership and further collaboration regarding youth development.

This comes ahead of the 2021 Innovation Award for TVET/VTC graduates. The meeting shed light on the milestones achieved by the county government in equipping youth with skills needed to match the job market, as well as challenges that need be addressed.

Together with KEPSA and the Finnish Embassy, the department successfully trained 250 youth in employability soft skills on 28th and 29th September. The meeting therefore served as a platform for collecting feedback on the training, and to also understand the challenges faced by

TVET institutions in Nyeri. This will help inform areas of support or collaboration.

To this end, the department hopes ensure the continuity of such projects by bringing on board more stakeholders and partners.

"To improve the social economic status of the youth, it is imperative that we support the youth with tools and trainings which will bridge the gap between them and the job market," noted Mr. Munyiri.

The Principal Education Officer Mr. Eliphas Mbae also emphasized the need to include soft skills as part of the curriculum within TVET institutions.

The team will also be touring one of the VTCs in Nyeri to have a better understanding of what needs to be addressed in the institutions.



SMEs



H.E Mutahi Kahiga (centre) in a group photo when he met with a team from the Confederation of Micro & Small Enterprises Organization (CMSEO)-Kenya Chapter. BELOW: Nyeri Main Bus Termini which is almost complete.

Promoting SMEs through a Trade Fair

Story | Njambi Mugo & Photo | Kennedy Karanja

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga met with a team from the Confederation of Micro & Small Enterprises Organization (CMSEO)-Kenya Chapter where they discussed areas of partnership ahead of the 21st Edition of the annual CMSEO Trade Fair to be held in Mwanza, Tanzania.

The Confederation of Micro & Small Enterprises Organization is an alliance which brings together artisans from the six EAC Partner States comprising of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda in a bid to promote industrialization and to create competitiveness and employment opportunities for East Africans

The Trade Fair will provide an avenue for supporting and pro-

motion of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSEs) across East Africa as they have proved to be strategic avenues for promoting the Small and Micro Enterprises sector's products, transfer of technologies, and promotion of the regional integration process.

Governor Kahiga noted the county government has remained committed to promoting SMEs including putting in place measures geared towards growth of their businesses. He further added that plans are underway to hasten the completion of the Nyeri Bus Termini which will host 1,000 stalls for use by small scale traders within Nyeri town.



Advertisement

Dream! Innovate! Empower!

The County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services is inviting innovators from Nyeri to participate in the 2021 Innovative Award for VTC/TVET Graduates.

The purpose of the award is to empower, promote and nurture youth innovations for employability, entrepreneurship enhancement, and wealth maximization.

Apply now and stand a chance to win cash prizes and other privileges or opportunities!

Deadline for receiving applications is 9th Nov, 2021.



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI
DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, YOUTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

INNOVATION AWARDS FOR TVET GRADUATES/ INSTITUTIONS

DREAM! INNOVATE! EMPOWER!

ELIGIBILITY:

INNOVATORS FROM NYERI COUNTY WHO HAVE GRADUATED OR ARE STILL STUDENTS IN TVETS OR VTCS

AWARD:

THE WINNERS WILL RECEIVE CASH AWARDS AND OTHER PRIVILEGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

RESPONSIBILITY:

ALL THE YOUTH INNOVATORS SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INFORMATION PROVIDED DURING EVALUATION OF THE INNOVATION

GOAL:

TO EMPOWER, PROMOTE AND NURTURE YOUTH INNOVATIONS FOR EMPLOYABILITY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP ENHANCEMENT AND WEALTH MAXIMIZATION

DEADLINE:

NOVEMBER 9, 2021

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE COLLECTED FROM MCA'S OFFICE, SUB-COUNTY & WARD ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICES SUB-COUNTY GENDER, YOUTH & SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICES AND THE OFFICE OF CHIEF OFFICER GENDER YOUTH & SOCIAL SERVICE OR DOWNLOADED FROM THE COUNTY'S WEBSITE www.nyeri.go.ke

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Internship

Review meeting for the third cohort of interns



Story | Faith Hiuu & Photo | Sam Gitonga

The Department of County Public Service & Solid Waste Management conducted a 4th quarter 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 that is set to end next month.

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

They were also taken through a session of how to package and reinvent themselves when searching for jobs in the future.

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

