



WEEKLY REVIEW



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The newly opened Simba Corporation branch in Nyeri town. Simba Corp is a company in many countries advancing its capabilities in diversified fields such as motor sales and service, hospitality, investment and social services.

Why Nyeri County remains a business hub for investors

By Governor's Press Unit

Nyeri County offers unique opportunities to investors because of its strategic location at the center of the country and a gateway to the Northern Corridor through the LAPSET Project.

The infrastructure offers Nyeri connectivity to the Port of Lamu in just six hours via Isiolo and

with the Dual Carriage from Kenol to Nyeri; the opportunities will be endless. This makes it superior to investors because it is at a vantage point and serves as a one stop shop in industrial requirements.

The county provides investors access to the 10 Central Region

Economic bloc counties where the counties cooperate and work together and are well interconnected by road and air.

There are proposals of reinvigorating the Central bloc railway interconnectivity project.

Nyeri has positioned and aligned

its strategy and budget with the Big Four Agenda. We are at the verge of a major industrial take off and that is evidenced by international companies that have set up shop in the county.

Continued on page 2 & 3

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H.E Mutahi Kahiga (right) with officials from Davis & Shirliff during the opening of the branch in Nyeri town. BELOW: The new NCBA bank Karatina branch.

The County Government of Nyeri under the stewardship of Governor Mutahi Kahiga is committed to a peaceful and harmonious existence in the face of political upheavals.

It is important to note that the county offers the most predictable business environment that is

not disrupted by electoral cycles and other industrial unrests or political activity.

The Nyeri Executive and Coun-

ty Assembly of Nyeri have also maintained a good working relationship to accelerate the pace of development and lower political temperatures to allow the business space to flourish.

The County Government of Nyeri has endeavored to create a conducive business environment to make it an attractive investment destination by developing an open door policy to make it easier for investors to navigate the county bureaucracy and cutting the red tape.

To further support this, CGN has developed a raft of policies like investment policy and the Financial Act in making Nyeri County have a stable and palatable business environment for investors.

This gesture speaks to our ambitions and aspirations as a county to create a conducive environment for doing business and attracting new investment into the county.

This is a testament that the County Government of Nyeri is committed to showcase and market Nyeri County as the place to do business and expand your horizons.

“We also have a budding youthful and very well educated population served by two universities and many technical colleges and TVETs. This talent pool offers a solid labor base that is very critical for an industrial revolution,” noted the governor.

Dedan Kimathi University's Industrial Park in partnership with the county government promises the requisite infrastructure and support system for both new and upcoming industries.



The Department of Trade, Tourism and Cooperative Development has already compiled all the investment opportunities available in Nyeri and the simple steps to actualizing those opportunities.

For the last four years, CGN has partnered with private investors which have led to many branches, some of which are international brands, being officially opened in Nyeri County by Governor Kahiga. These businesses have created jobs, transformed lives and raised the economy of the county.



H.E Mutahi Kahiga (second left) with officials from Toyota Kenya during the opening of the new branch in Nyeri town. BELOW: Governor Kahiga and MultiChoice Kenya MD Nancy Matimu during the official opening of MultiChoice Kenya Regional Office in Nyeri town.



Some of these businesses and entities include Davis & Shirtliff Company, Diamond Trust Bank, Cytonn Investments, Toyota Kenya, NCBA Bank (both Karatina and Nyeri town branches), Simba Corporation Company, MultiChoice Kenya.

Davis & Shirtliff deals with equipment in the water and energy sectors such as pipes and pumps and also offers services such as drilling of modern boreholes and

advanced irrigation.

Simba Corp is a company in many countries advancing its capabilities in diversified fields such as motor sales and service, hospitality, investment and social services.

CGN invites investors to explore the opportunities in Nyeri and join us in our common goal of making Nyeri a great county to live and work in.

In Brief

H.E Mutahi Kahiga met with officials of markets from Kieni West sub-county who paid a courtesy call to him. The committee members led by the team leader Moses Maina were drawn from the major markets in the sub-county which included Kiawara, Nairutia, Endarasha and Mweiga. The officials lauded the County Government of Nyeri for improv-

ing the working conditions of the traders. So far, a new market shade has been constructed at Kiawara and also fenced using the chain link fence. At Mweiga town, a new open market has been upgraded using cabro paving blocks at the bus stage. Stalls have also been constructed for the traders. Governor Kahiga assured them that his government is commit-

ted to improving services for the traders who are involved in selling

merchandise like clothes, shoes and fresh farm produce.



Business

Governor Kahiga officially opens Simba Corp Nyeri branch

Story | Joseph Wambugi & Phiso | Peter Wangari



H.E Mutahi Kahiga (centre), Konyu MCA Hon. Eric Wamumbi and other officials from Simba Corporation after opening the new Nyeri branch recently. BELOW: Governor Kahiga (centre) with the board of Simba Corporation and officials from the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce & Industries (KNCCI) Nyeri chapter. On the extreme left is Nyeri Transport CEC Muthui Kariuki.

Story | Njambi Mugo & Photo | Kennedy Karanja

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga officially opened the new Simba Corporation branch in Nyeri town. Simba Corporation is a 73-year old organization with controlling interests in diversified fields such as motor sales and service, hospitality, investment and financial services. The company through the Simba Foundation also addresses urgent community needs under the three pillars of Education, Health and Disaster Management.

It strives to minimize communities' vulnerability to road safety disasters through the creation of proactive intervention programs that reduce or prevent accidents; partners with health institutions to implement sustainable health programs aimed at saving lives and improving the well-being of communities and provides technical, hospitality and entrepreneurship skills training to

underprivileged youths so that they can become productive members of society.

Governor Kahiga extended his welcome to Simba Corp management noting that Nyeri is delighted to be part of the portfolio of counties where the company has a presence. He further added that the county's leadership has continuously created a conducive environment for doing business and attracting new investors into the county.

"I pledge my commitment to maintaining a peaceful and harmonious existence even during political competition so that the business environment is not disrupted," said the governor.

The County Executive and Assembly have maintained a harmonious and collaborative working relationship which has not only accelerated the pace of development but also lowered political temperature giving business space to flourish.

Further, he lauded Simba Corp for hiring local residents ensuring they have a source of livelihood and called upon them to explore the opportunities in Nyeri like a responsible corporate partner, thus ensuring that the common goal of making Nyeri a great county to live and work in is achieved.

The Board of Simba Corporation also paid a courtesy call to the governor's office ahead of the opening of their new branch.



Games

KICOSCA team selection

Story & Photo | Zipporah Mwangi

The Department of Education and Sports held a segregated county team selection in light of preparation for the 8th edition of the Kenya Inter- Counties Sports & Cultural Association (KICOSCA) games set to be held from 14th to 21st of November 2021 in Embu County.

In a bid to curb the spread of Covid 19, the Department together with the organizing committee de-

ecided to hold the team selection without a County Sports day.

The disciplines to be represented will be: Squash, Scrabble, Volleyball, Netball, Chess, Pool, Darts, Table tennis, Badminton, Tug of War and Athletics.

Staff from various departments availed themselves and participated in a bid to be selected so as to represent the County.

This forum plays a critical role in enhancing national cohesion and integration as well as promoting patriotism.

The games also enhance team building among the county staff as they function together as a team.



Prayers

Nyeri County youth prayers meeting

Story | Faith Hiuu & Photo | Kennedy Karanja



H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga joined Nyeri youth drawn from all the sub-counties for an inter-denominational prayer meeting which was held at Old Municipal hall, Nyeri town.

The meeting was organized by a

youth group - Nyeri Peace Ambassadors with efforts to bring the youth together and promote peace and unity in the region; as well as offer free Covid-19 vaccination to the residents, free diabetes and blood pressure check up through the Department of

Health Services.

The meeting was also held as a way of incorporating and utilizing the youth in peace building processes which will facilitate transformation from agents of violent conflict, to agents of peace in the

county.

The governor lauded the Nyeri Peace Ambassadors for this noble initiative saying that it has impacted other youths and sparked an important conversation that we all need to have; the role of the youth as peacekeepers as the country gears up for the election-eering period in 2022.

The County Government of Nyeri is committed to promoting the participation of youths in peace building processes and continues to support youth initiatives which actively contribute to the youths' engagement with decisions and activities that affect their well-being.

Covid-19

Nyeri rolls out Covid-19 mass vaccination

The governor also expressed gratitude to all the front-line health care workers who have worked tirelessly and risked their lives in ensuring the residents of Nyeri are safe

Story | Njambi Mugo & Photo | Kenneth Ngatia

In the spirit of Mashujaa Day celebration, the County Government of Nyeri in partnership with Amref Health Africa and University of Maryland rolled out a mass vaccination exercise that took place on 20th of October 2021.

The exercise targeted anyone above the age of 18 years and took place in the following areas:

Nyeri-Central Sub County: Lower Matatu Stage (It included clients within Mudavadi Market, Soko-Mjinga, Gakere and the surroundings), Upper Matatu Stage (Served clients in the middle matatu stage, Kamakwa and its environs), G. K Prison King'ong'o, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Grogon Majengo, F. K Resort and Bantu-Africa Resort-Nyeri.

In Tetu sub-county vaccination was done at Giakanja Market/Tumus eatery, Muthinga Market, Unjiru Health Center while in Othaya sub-county it took part in Mathenge Institute, Mahiga Shopping Centre and Othaya main Stage.

In Mathira-East sub-county: Ihwagi Market, Giakaibe Market, Karatina Market, Karatina Main Stage while in Mathira-West sub-county: Kiawairigi Market, Kiamariga Market and Ngorano Health Centre.

In Kieni-West sub-county: Kiawara Market, Nairutia Market and Nairutia Polytechnic and in

Kieni-East sub-county it took place at Chaka Market, Naromoru Market and Warazo Health Centre. In Mukurweini Sub County the exercise took place at Ichamara Market, Mukurwe-ini Stage and Gakindu Shopping centre.

The County Government has adopted various strategies aimed at increasing vaccination coverage from the current to reaching 50% of our target population by December 2021. Some of the strategies include: gradually increasing the number of fixed vaccination sites from 35 to 67, vaccination outreaches in markets, bus-stops and slums, churches and institutions of higher learning, continued advocacy and risk communication on Covid-19 vaccine among others.

Governor Kahiga called upon all Nyeri residents to visit the aforementioned sites as well as the 35 fixed posts for Covid-19 vaccination and urge them to continue observing the protocols put in place by MoH in a bid to curb the spread of Covid-19.

The governor also expressed gratitude to all the front-line health care workers who have worked tirelessly and risked their lives in ensuring the residents of Nyeri are safe and those admitted in our infectious disease units are given the best care.



Opinion piece

Who shall fix our healthcare system?

When a county places an order it is not a guarantee that they shall get the stock available as many hands are being “dipped” into the same pot... as in all government entities are also ordering.

KEMSA supplies on first come first serve basis.

Looking at the latest scenario in Nyeri it is important to note that the County Government of Nyeri had made an order of supplies worth Ksh 91 million.

KEMSA supplied commodities worth 43 million shillings, half of the order Nyeri had placed.

KEMSA did not have some of the supplies ordered like Gloves. Nyeri had placed an order of 10 million which was not delivered.

For the County to order from another approved supplier, KEMSA must draft an official letter stating that they don't have the specific item.

CGN has already placed an order to Mission for essential drugs and supplies (MEDS) for gloves.

KEMSA also lacked some NCD drugs, steroids, 2nd and 3rd line antibiotics as well as some injectable pain killers. It also lacked some lab reagents, dental supplies and other non-pharmaceuticals.

As I write this some of what was

previously unavailable in KEMSA is now available and a back order has been done. Is it an issue of KEMSA lacking capacity?

SOLUTIONS

With the free model being a challenge, Nyeri County has now created the Nyeri Health Service Fund Act 2021 to ringfence monies collected from health facilities.

This Act allows health centers and dispensaries to come up with cost sharing methods and they retain 100% of those funds.

The Council of Governors is lobbying senate to amend the Act to allow counties to purchase drugs and commodities from other suppliers where KEMSA is out of stock.

These are just two issues I have highlighted considering the Nyeri Health budget is about 3 billion.

We must depoliticize the healthcare in this country considering even the pilot phase for UHC in Nyeri did not succeed as it tested a free model where patients would pay nothing even for major surgery.

We must fix our healthcare system.

Let's be honest, regardless of which political side you dance to, we still end up using the same public facilities, as “dancers.”

Politicians have private medical insurance whereas majority of their followers rely on public hospitals where a sizeable number struggle to pay NHIF monthly payments.

There are two issues I have observed; A free model for primary healthcare and the amendment to the Health Act in 2018 making KEMSA sole supplier for counties.

THE FREE MODEL GLITCH

At some point Kenya decided to implement a policy that made healthcare in dispensaries and health centers free.

In turn, National Government would give conditional grants to these facilities to keep them running under a free model. This is called user-fees-foregone.

In financial year 2020/21 Nyeri County received 13.7 million as us-

er-fees-foregone. This is to cover operations in 31 health centers and 91 dispensaries.

If we even assume this money is divided equally across the 122 facilities, that's less than 100k per facility per year.

If we further divide the 100k equally across the 12 months, then that's less than 10k per month per facility.

This is one of the reasons our primary healthcare is struggling.

THE LACK OF DRUGS

In November 26, 2018 President Uhuru Kenyatta signed the Health Laws Amendment Act which parliament had introduced and passed.

One of the outcomes was that KEMSA became sole supplier for counties.

KEMSA operates a system called Logistics Management System and updates what is available in their stores and this is the basis of ordering drugs and commodities.



Opinion piece

By Nelson Maina - Budget Coordinator, the Chapter Six Group

CoG consultative meeting

Governor attends CoG consultative meeting

The Council of Governors also initiated a process to document the devolution journey 2013-2022, focusing on the gains, challenges, and lessons learnt in the last 9 years of implementing devolution.



Story & Photo | Faith Hiuu

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga joined his counterpart governors for a full council meeting held at the Council of Governors Offices (CoG) to discuss issues affecting County Governments.

Following in-depth discussions on the issue of COG Position on the Division of Revenue for the Financial Year 2022/2023, the council rejected in totality the proposal by CRA that recommended a non-increment of the County Equitable Share which is Kshs.370 billion; and proposed additional funding of Kshs. 381.45 billion bringing the total allocation to counties to Kshs. 751.45 billion to ensure optimal implementation of devolved functions by County Governments.

Following a discussion by the CoG on additional funding to the DANIDA Primary Healthcare (PHC) Grant, from the consultative meeting held by CoG leadership and the Royal Danish Embassy, it was resolved that counties will receive addition-

al funding of Kshs. 1.2 billion in the Danida PHC Programme that will support the gradual phase out of the grant and strengthen Level 1 community health units.

On the issue of Bilateral HealthCare Partnership between the Kenyan Government and the United Kingdom, an MoU was signed between the Government of Kenya in July 2021 on workforce collaboration in healthcare aimed at facilitating Kenyan healthcare professionals to work for the National Health Services in the UK and Ireland. This MoU will open up employment opportunities for the many unemployed medical health care professionals in Kenya.

The CoG also deliberated on the issue of the Phase two of the Deployment of Cuban Doctors. To ensure smooth implementation of phase two, the council and the Ministry of Health will ensure that the challenges experienced in phase one are resolved. The doctors will

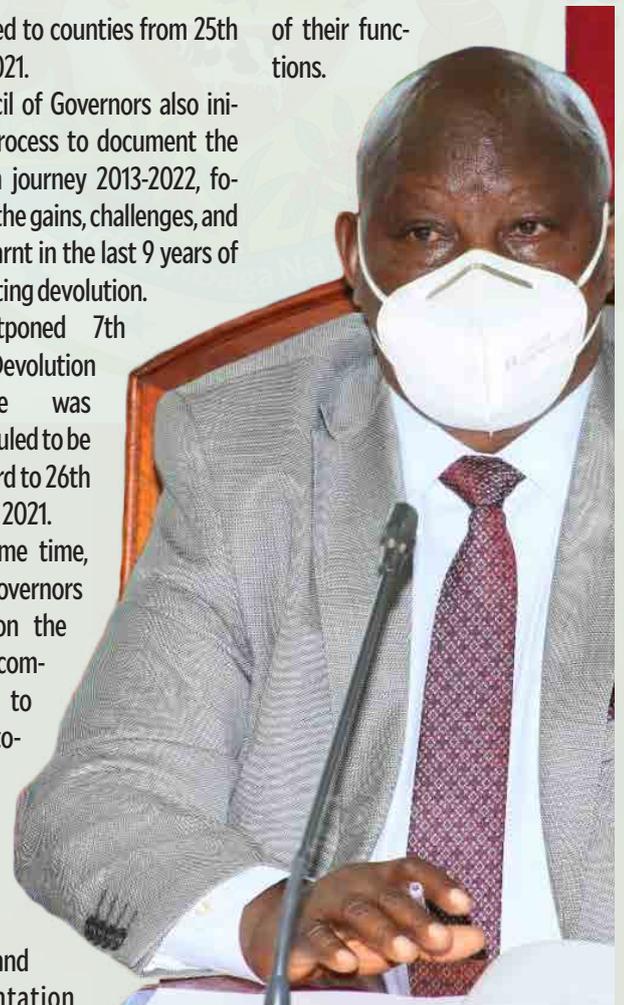
be deployed to counties from 25th October 2021.

The Council of Governors also initiated a process to document the devolution journey 2013-2022, focusing on the gains, challenges, and lessons learnt in the last 9 years of implementing devolution.

The postponed 7th Annual Devolution Conference was also scheduled to be held on 23rd to 26th November 2021.

At the same time, the governors called upon the senate committees to work together to ensure seamless coordination and implementation

of their functions.



Health

Nyeri receives Kshs. 18 million grant for health support

Story | Joseph Wambugu & Photo | Kennedy Karanja

The County Government of Nyeri has received a grant of Kshs. 18 million from the United States - Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (US-CDC) which will go towards supporting the health sector.

The funds will be used to finance a project which is currently being implemented in Kieni West Sub County covering seven facilities which were transitioned from the implementing partner (centre for health solutions) i.e. Mweiga, Bellevue, Endarasha and Karemeno Health centres, Mary immaculate hospital, Mugunda Catholic dispensary and Brothers of St. Joseph.

The two key goals of the project are:

- **To increase access and availability of sustainable, high quality, comprehensive HIV diagnosis, prevention, care and treatment services in Nyeri County.**
- **To strengthen the Nyeri County government's leadership, management and health financing of her HIV program.**

This is the second grant Nyeri County is receiving, after the same institution offered the Department of Health Services Kshs. 20 million in the last one year which ended early this month. The USCDC is running a five-year project running from 2021-2025

whereby it funds counties annually. Applications for the last funding were highly competitive whereby, out of the 13 counties that applied, only three were awarded i.e. Nyeri, Migori and Homabay. The funds were spent on laboratory support, improvement of infrastructure, training, monitoring and evaluation and human resources for health.

The CDC team led by Dr. Jonathan Mwangi who paid a courtesy call to the Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga lauded the County Government of Nyeri's leadership for the prudent use of funds which led to many people benefiting. The team added that due to the good use of the resources, this has seen Nyeri

County being awarded a further Kshs. 18 million and promised to bring other counties in Nyeri for benchmarking on how to utilize donor funds.

The department has also developed a five-year-project plan and a HRH transition plan.

Some of the key project activities involved include: supporting human resource for health components, capacity building of project staff, strengthening laboratory services and timely referral of lab specimens, support supervision and mentorship activities, support the facilities with communication and office supplies, support the field and roving staff with travel requirements.



Courtesy call

Governor Kahiga lauded by KMPDU officials

Story | Njambi Mugo & Photo | Peter Wangari

H.E Governor Kahiga hosted the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentist Union (KMPDU) Central branch officials where they discussed several issues including study leaves, staff shortage, promotions and health insurance for the practitioners.

The team lauded the governor for his continued support including timely payment of salaries, personal emoluments. They also commended Nyeri under Governor Kahiga for being the only county that has promoted doctors in the recent past.

The county government is looking into promoting medical practitioners who are long overdue in the near future in a bid to boost their morale.

On the issue of study leaves, governor Kahiga noted that training is a national function and called upon the national government to take up this mandate so as to lessen the burden on the county governments.



H.E Mutahi Kahiga (centre) with KMPDU officials. On the left is Nyeri Health director Dr. Nelson Muriu while on the right is Health CEC Dr. Kwai Wanjaria.

The county government is currently rolling out an Early Voluntary Retirement scheme and transitioning staff to PnP set to address the huge wage bill issue in Nyeri County. Once this is addressed, the governor assured that staff will be hired to address

the issue of staff shortage in the hospitals.

Governor Kahiga noted that the county government, through the Nyeri Health Services Fund, is looking into carrying out monthly drug replenishes to address the perennial issue of drug shortages

in the county hospitals.

KMPDU team consisted of Dr. Githinji J.M (Chairman), Dr. Bill Muriuki (Secretary General), Dr. Caroline Mwaura (Treasurer) and Dr. Brenda Nyabuto (County Liaison Officer).

Launch of the revitalized 4K clubs

Story & Photo | Brian Kanyugu

In a visit to monitor the progress of the national roll-out of 4K clubs, the CAS Agriculture, Anne Nyaga (pictured) held a meeting with the Nyeri County Coordination unit at

the Deputy County Commissioner's office Nyeri.

The CAS insisted on the importance of reeling in the youth to Agriculture which not only brings sustainability but also could be a source of livelihood.

The roll-out process is currently at a stage where 12 teams across the country are training county staff and teachers who will thereafter translate the same to students.

Further to this, a directive has been sent out by the Principal Secretary

to the Directors of Education to start up 4K clubs in primary schools and Young Farmers clubs in secondary schools to ensure continuity.

The 4k Clubs presidential award scheme has also been introduced in the newly rebranded and revitalized 4k clubs. Clubs will participate at different levels: schools, wards, subcounty, and county levels.

The ultimate winner at the national level will be awarded by the 4k Club's patron, H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta.



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

SUBMIT TO

DIRECTOR - GENDER, YOUTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES - EMAIL: nyerigenderyouths@gmail.com or gsocialservices@gmail.com OR HELP SELF HELP CENTRE (HSHC) - Email: info@hshc.or.ke / hshcentre@gmail.com OR DROP IN THE SAME OFFICES AS MENTIONED ABOVE.

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KENYA PRIVATE SECTOR ALLIANCE

Management

Chief Officer handing over

Meanwhile, officers led by the new Chief Officer Ibrahim Adan held a staff meeting to discuss several issues that may need to be addressed within the department's sections and units at the Mt. Kenya Level 4 Hospital.

Story & Photo | Jane Baru

The Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services CEC Esther Ndung'u officially welcomed the department's new Chief Officer Eng. Mwangi Kamanja. The CO was also introduced to the staff section heads with whom he will be working closely with who pledged their support and their willingness to embrace the new change in leadership.

The officers expressed their gratitude towards the outgoing CO Mr. George Mwangi for his service and wished him the best as he moved to his new position as the Chief Officer in the Department of Trade, Tourism, Culture and Cooperatives. Meanwhile, following the appointment of new leadership to the Department of Health Services, officers led by the new Chief Officer Ibrahim Adan held a staff meeting to discuss several issues that may need to be addressed within the department's sections and units at the Mt. Kenya Level 4 Hospital. They were also appraised on the several departmental activities by the outgoing Chief Officer Newton Wambugu who has diligently served in the docket for the last four years. The functional changes were recently done within the departments by H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga in a bid to enhance quality and effective service delivery to Nyeri residents.

