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# NYERI COUNTY WEEKLY REVIEW

ISSUE NO. 19

2<sup>ND</sup> - 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2020.

## Upclose with

*Lands, Physical Plan-  
ning, Housing & Urban-  
isation*

**CEC  
Dr. Kwai  
Wanjaria**

*He takes us through the  
Department's mile-  
stones.*

*Page 2 & 3*



***Affordable housing is among President Uhuru Kenyatta's Big 4 agenda legacy plan. How has the department actualized this to the common mwananchi?***

We have identified approximately 20 acres of land within Nyeri town for development of affordable housing. The feasibility studies and designs are done and ready. We have further engaged key stakeholders and are now at financing stage with the assistance of the National Government.

***The County Government of Nyeri in partnership with the World Bank has come together in construction of the Nyeri Town Bus Termini set to be one of the largest termini hub in Kenya, could you tell us more about this flagship project and its benefits;***

The termini will be done in two phases during which 200 workers are set to directly benefit from the project including; casual labourers, experts and professionals such as foremen, engineers, quantity surveyors, architects, planners and environmentalist. Once it's complete, the termini will have; 240 matatu, taxi and tuk tuk bays, 1,000 business stalls (kiosks), 98 booking bays, 51 lorry bays, 94 passengers waiting bays, five sanitation blocks, high capacity water tanks, refuse collection points, fire station, police post, power sub-station, garage, open air market, shops and offices and street lights. It will decongest the Central Busi-

ness District (CBD), create job opportunities, create a healthy working environment for the transport industry and other small-scale businesses and increase quality service delivery for the citizenry.

***With the County Spatial Plan (CSP) scheduled for 10 years to fully implement and actualize, what measures has the department undertaken to attain full success over the last two years?***

Success of the County Spatial Plan is informed by the process on how it is prepared and its implementation will be easier when the public champions the process. As such the following have been undertaken;

a) Public participation and sensitization forums- Nyeri residents have been actively engaged in the preparation of CSP with over 60 public forums held in every ward. The forums have also been undertaken within the county government's departments and the county assembly. b) Capacity building- The department is in the process of increasing the technical work force by enrolling more physical planners to help in implementation of the CSP and other lower level plans which will help in realizing of its vision which is "Transforming lives through advancement of infrastructure, economic prosperity, food security and environmental conservation." c) Establishment of Geographic Information System (G.I.S) Lab- A G.I.S lab has been setup to support effective analysis and management of data gathered during the preparation of the C.S.P. The lab will be of great importance when updating the data as well as when the county systems like approval of development applications go online.

***Is Nyeri County a hidden gem in terms of mining? Recently kaolin was discovered in Mukurwe-ini and carbon dioxide in Mwireri village. Can the county government outline its full potential in terms of mining?***

Mining operations are still under the national government. As a county government, we are only involved in county business permits and community engagement. We work with the ministry in terms of monitoring and environmental compliance. For kaolin, the county has had meetings with locals, organized for a meeting with the State Department of Mining and proposals for funding to know extent of kaolin, quantity and subsequent mapping of the same from the same state department on which we are following. We have assisted in the carbon dioxide testing and stated that commercialization was not viable from the drilled borehole.

***What are the key set of standards (procedures) ought to be taken if an individual decides to put up a structure within Nyeri County? (Be it residential or rental).***

Firstly, submission of a building plan which should be accompanied with a dully filled PPA 1 form, a copy of a receipt signed by the County Public Health Officer, a copy of the current practicing certificate for the architect and engineer and an up-to-date registry Index Map (R.I.M)/ Survey Plan from the relevant survey office. On matters invoicing, the amount depends on the floor area of the proposed development, which is charged as per the fees stipulated in the Nyeri County Financial Act (s). Payment of the fees are made through the revenue accounts designated for the same after which submission of the payment receipt coupled with the invoice to the revenue office is done, whereby the payment is input into the system and the client receives an official receipt from the Finance Department. The client should then submit the development application/proposal alongside all the requirements to the receiving desk at the physical planning and urbanization, where they are received, vetted and booked into the development register -giving each development a unique registration number to which it will be referenced to in all matters approval. The third stage is the processing of the development proposal which include site visit and is conducted by the physical planner. Where necessary, circulation of the proposal to all the relevant departments and other government agencies for comments is done. The vetted development application is then forwarded to the Physical Planning Department. Lastly, application is forwarded to PPDAAC committee and once considered by the PPDAAC committee and having met the necessary standards it is approved with or without conditions through a PPA 2 form.

***The recent revival of the Nairobi-Nanyuki highway will see opportunities sprout within the Mt. Kenya region. Has a consensus been met with the land encroachers along the way?***



With three stages at Naromoru, Chaka and Karatina we envision a lot of development in Nyeri. Traders who had occupied railway reserves have since moved out to areas identified by the county government. At the moment there is no grabbing of rail reserve land.

***Garbage disposal has been a key challenge in Nyeri County with several areas being sorted to serve as a dumpsite. Has there been a headway with acquisition of land to serve as a dumpsite, or are alternative measures being sort such as a recycling plant?***

The county government has proposed to develop an integrated waste management system which aims at improving solid waste management through construction of a Waste Transfer Station (WTS) and composting facilities. Environmental Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report for the proposed project is at an advanced stage to ensure identification of potential risks and impacts and to recommend mitigation and monitoring measures. We have also been rehabilitating existing dumpsites.

***There are many landless Nyerians mostly those living in the colonial villages. Any process so far being implemented to ensure they are settled with their own title deeds?***

Since the Presidential directive in 2017, the county government has issued over 3,000 title deeds to various colonial villages. We are processing another 1,000 this month and may issue them as soon as next week. We are also working with the national government to develop a resettlement

scheme for the landless.

***Nyerians have been complaining of high charges of land rates. Any efforts to address this?***

We have engaged citizens on this issue and have received memoranda on the same. We are committed to fairness in payments and have come up with a motion where plots outside CBD should not be paying more than those within, which will be implemented soon so as to boost businesses and development in Nyeri. Remember that rates are only paid on lease properties not agricultural land.

***What steps are you taking to ensure all grabbed public land in the county is reverted back to the government?***

By working with relevant government agencies like Provincial Administration, Ministry of Housing, National Land Commission, Police and the Judiciary we have identified lands previously grabbed and are in the process of reverting these properties back to government. The department is also not consenting to development of all lands suspected to have been grabbed.

***Where do we see Nyeri town in the next ten years with all the congestion and no land for expansion? This also goes to other major towns in the county which does not have land for expansion. Do we have permanent solutions?***

In the next 10 years Nyeri will have taken a big steady step in development since there is enough land for expansion. Through urbanization, citizens are embracing development of ancestral land from agricultural to housing and commercial uses. Nyeri is expanding in all directions, towards Gatitu, Othaya, Mweiga and king'ong'o whereby we now have fully functional satellite towns around Nyeri. Also, with the new Transport Termini at Asian Quarters, congestion will reduce. We also hope for expansion of roads by the national government like duelling Marua to Kiganjo road. Other towns have are also growing at a very fast rate like in Chaka.

# 6th Nyeri County prayer breakfast

*This is the 6th annual prayer breakfast meeting in Nyeri since the idea was birthed in 2014.*



PHOTOS | PETER WANGARI

*From left: Nyeri Catholic Archbishop Rev. Anthony Muheria, County Commissioner Loyford Kibaara, Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga and Nyeri Town MP Hon. Ngunjiri Wambugu during the 6th annual county prayer breakfast. Below: Members of the clergy during the event.*

By Jackline Gikunju & Allan Mugo

**N**yeri leaders, clergy, business community and representatives from the National Government convened for a prayer breakfast meeting organized by the Nyeri Ecumenical Bishops Council whose theme was “Let us come together before the Lord, our trust and help.” This is the 6th prayer breakfast meeting in Nyeri since the idea was birthed in 2014. H.E Mutahi Kahiga in his statement “Rededicate Nyeri unto Jesus” urged all to humble themselves before God. He urged the leaders to be united for the benefit of Nyeri people. He reaffirmed that he will continue to support BBI for the benefits it will yield to Nyeri people. He said BBI is a gateway to getting 30% of the national revenue on agriculture in a bid to drive Guaranteed Minimum Return, equal sharing of resources and 45% allocation of national resources to counties. He called for the one man, one vote, one shilling basis of allocating funds to ensure equitable sharing of the national cake. The Governor



noted that if implemented, BBI will not only unite Kenyans of all political divides, but also benefit the people at the grass root levels by ensuring counties get adequate funds hence optimal service delivery.



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## Social visit for Mukurwe-ini West and Mahiga fire victims

*The family was affected by a fire tragedy that reduced the house and other property to ashes.*

By Dynah Mwangi

The County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services visited Mukurwe-ini family that was affected by a fire tragedy at Magombe village, Mukurwe-ini sub-county. The fire burnt down the family's dwelling unit rendering the family homeless. Nothing was rescued from the house but no casualties were reported.

Still on matters fire, the Department's Social Welfare officers visit-

ed another family at Kagere village, Mahiga ward, Othaya sub-county. The family was affected by a fire tragedy that reduced the house and other property to ashes. Residents have been asked to be vigilant while choosing an electrician to do wiring for their houses as both cases were caused by electrical hitches.

In aid of these families, the department donated foodstuffs and building materials to assist them in the process of rebuilding their homes.



PHOTO: DYNAH MWANGI  
Officers from the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services during their visit to the affected Mukurwe-ini family.

## Covid-19: Nyeri County response centre is ready

By Muthoni Kanja

**H**.E Mutahi Kahiga accompanied by the Director of Health Dr. Nelson Muriu, visited Mt. Kenya Hospital where an emergency response centre has been set aside in the wake of combating Corona Virus (COVID -19). The isolation centre with a 21-bed capacity and available doctors is ready in case any cases of the virus are reported. Even though no case

of the virus has been reported in the country yet, the County Government of Nyeri has already established two monitoring committees in Nyeri North and Nyeri South. The Health Department has also hit the ground in training all the health-care workers on case definition and protective measures. Alongside this sensitization, the health workers are issued with case definition charts

and key messages which will be displayed in all the health facilities across the county.

The health workers have been urged to be safe and ensure the safety of all patients as well as joining hands with the public in educating them on the menace which has become a global crisis.

*Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga while visiting Mt. Kenya Hospital to check on Covid-19 emergency response centre. He was accompanied by Department of Health officers.*



PHOTO: PETER WANGARI

# Collaboration between County Government of Nyeri and KFC

*This will see Nyeri County come only second in this progressive move to promote film in the country.*

By Njambi Mugo & Vanessa Ngunjiri

**N**yeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga hosted the Kenya Film Commission (KFC) team led by the CEO Timothy Owase in a courtesy meeting preceding the signing of a MoU. KFC relayed its hopes to work with the county to establish an ultra-modern film theatre that would not only be a hub for creatives but would also

create massive employment opportunities for the youth who will further tell the Nyeri story committing an amount of Ksh. 20Million to kick start the project. This will see Nyeri County come only second in this progressive move to promote film in the country. The Governor welcomed this move adding the importance of Nyeri County to tell our

powerful stories headlined by the story of freedom fighter Field Marshal Dedan Kimathi in the KFC's series 'My County My Story' and of the county's annual cultural festival. He also welcomed the commission's move to train about 40 youth in the county next month and equip them with skills that will enable them generate income.

*Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga (second right) with KFC CEO Timothy Owase (second left) and a team from Konza Technopolis during their visit to the Governor.*

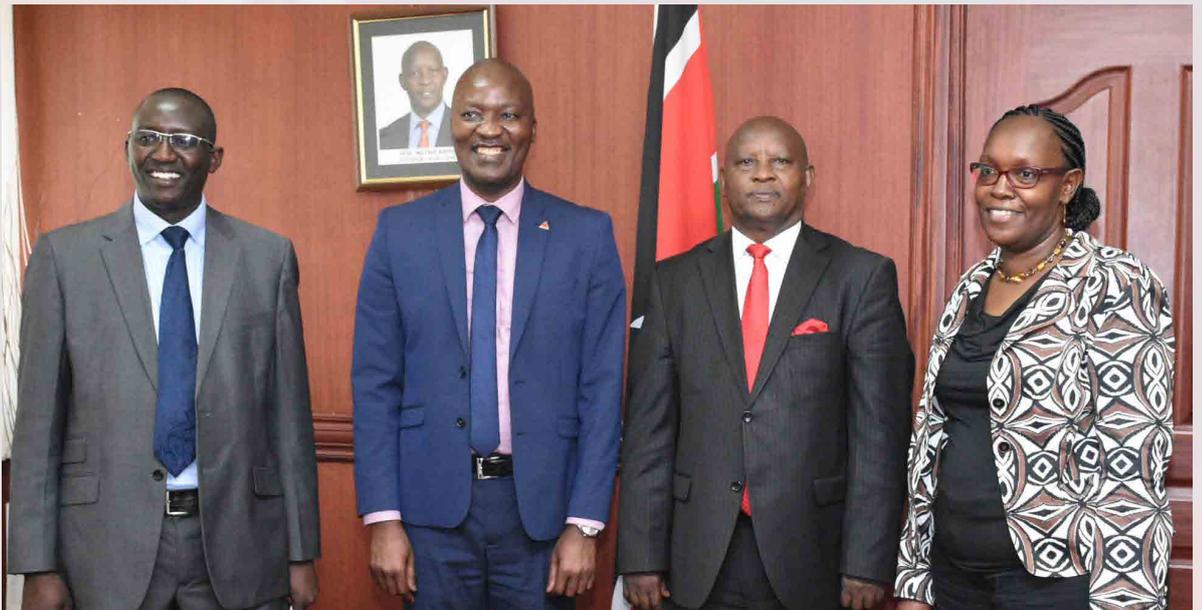


PHOTO | PETER WANGARI

## Public hearing forum on the sub-division of colonial village plots

*This comes following a Presidential directive that all colonial villages be issued with title deeds.*

By Andrew Kariuki

The County Government of Nyeri, through the Department of Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urbanization convened at Mugunda ward, Kieni West for a public hearing forum. The forum was aimed at giving an opportunity to area residents to air

grievances over the illegal sub-division of colonial village plots. This comes following a Presidential directive that all colonial villages be issued with title deeds. County Director Lands and Survey Daniel Mukiri urged residents that solving the matter was a task he would

uphold. He added that he, together with National Land Commission (NLC) and the seven-member committee formed, would oversee proceedings of the plots so that issuances of titles can be done as per the law.



PHOTO | ANDREW KARIUKI

# Aid for Rware destitute family

Officers from the department helped her move to a new residence and donated food items and clothes.

By Dynah Mwangi

In its mandate to offer relief and support to needy persons, the County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services took up the case of Mary Nyambura of Rware ward and relocated her from AP Community Church-Nyeri residence to a personal rental house. Mary is a mother of two and had been living in a rental house at Sasini-Mweiga town. Her daughter fell ill for a while which made her unable to go to work and hence could neither be in a position to pay her rent nor cater for her daughter's expenses at school. The landlord then sent her out of the house and also confiscated her household items. Mary's move to seek assistance from H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga compelled him to pay her daughter's first term school fees. In aid of the family, officers from the department helped her move to her new resi-

dence and donated food items and clothes. The housing tribunal is in the process of assisting her reclaim her household items.



PHOTO | DYNAH MWANGI

Officers from the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services during their visit to Mary Nyambura at her home.

The Seventh Annual  
**DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE | 2020**

**NYERI COUNTY**  
*it is all about you*

**1st Youth Devolution Conference**  
"Multi-level governance for Climate Action"  
16th to 19th April 2020 in Kericho County

The County Government of Nyeri  
wishes to recruit youth delegates to participate in the  
1st youth conference on climate change.

Please send your application indicating why you are the best candidate and drop it off at:  
The Department of Youth, Gender and Social Services HQ offices  
The Departments Sub county offices or send it by  
Email: [nyerigenderyouthss@gmail.com](mailto:nyerigenderyouthss@gmail.com)  
**by Friday 13th March, 2020.**  
Check for Guidelines in the next page

**Youth delegates  
47 Counties  
Nominated**  
developing partners & relevant stakeholders  
300 young people across the country.

"Strengthening Sub-National governments to act on climate change and develop stronger mitigation capacities."

The Seventh Annual  
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**NYERI COUNTY**  
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16th to 19th April 2020 in Kericho County

**PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES**

1. Must be a Kenyan citizen aged between 18 - 29 years (spillover for youth aged between 30 and 35);
2. Must have a National Identity Card or a valid passport;
3. Must be fluent in English, Kiswahili or Kenya Sign Language for youth with disabilities. Knowledge of a native language is an added advantage;
4. Must be confident in public speaking;
5. Must belong to a formally registered group (economic, social or religious) of more than 20 registered members;
6. Must be involved in an economic activity within the County of residence with proof of income;
7. Must have a working self-developed innovation in relation to Climate Action;
8. Must be able to mobilize and organize follow up meetings at the community level;
9. Must have active social media presence (accounts and pages as proof);
10. Each County is to be represented by 4 youth delegates (1 male, 1 female, 1 youth with disabilities accompanied by one handler);
11. Female youth and youth with disabilities are encouraged to apply

*it is all about you*

# Integrated County Revenue Management System taskforce courtesy call

*The Governor affirmed that Nyeri is doing well especially after the introduction of mobile money payment, Nyeri Pay, which has helped combat theft of collected revenue.*



PHOTO | KENNEDY KARANJA

*Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga (centre) with members of the ICRMS taskforce during their courtesy call.*

By Jackie Gikunju

**N**yeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga hosted a taskforce on Integrated County Revenue Management System (ICRMS) following a

presidential directive issued on 7th February 2019 which required Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA), Council of Governors (CoG), National Treasury and Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) to constitute a multi-agency team to implement a single Revenue Management System for county governments. The ICRMS taskforce visited on a fact-finding mission on revenue collection in Nyeri. The Governor affirmed that Nyeri is doing well especially after the introduction of mobile money payment, Nyeri Pay, which has helped combat theft of collected revenue. He pledged to work with the team and assist where needed by mobilizing the revenue and ICT teams for the time the taskforce will be doing an audit in Nyeri. The best county revenue management systems will be adopted and integrated then rolled out at the national level.

## Signing of MoU between KFC and Dedan Kimathi University

By Njambi Mugo

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga witnessed the signing of a MoU between Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) and Kenya Film Commission (KFC). Governor Kahiga pledged the County Government's support for this partnership which is aimed at developing capacity building and technical skills programs in the film industry. He applauded the partnership noting that it will significantly reduce unemployment levels among the youth, in light of Nyeri County being rated the top county with the least level of unemployment. This is according to a 2019 analysis conducted by the Kenya Population and Housing Census data. Nyeri and Embu were mentioned in the report that indicated that only 13% of youth eligible for work in the two devolved units are lacking jobs. He urged the youth to take advantage of this opportunity noting it will be a great platform for them to tell their stories. Other partners include Konza Technology Development Authority, Kenya Broadcasting Corporation, Ministry of Education and Technical Training Institutes.



PHOTO | PETER WANGARI

*From left: Dedan Kimathi University Vice Chancellor Prof. Ndirangu Kioni, Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga and KFC C.E.O Timothy Owase during the signing of MoU at DeKUT.*

# Nyeri Supports BBI



*The memorandum was arrived at following a consultation meeting between Mt. Kenya Governors and the GEMA community at Kenya Methodist University grounds.*

*By Kennedy Karanja*

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga joined his fellow Governors from Mt. Kenya region and the GEMA community, where they handed over the memorandum which comprised of the consolidated BBI proposals from the 11 counties in the region to the BBI chairman Senator Yusuf Haji at Kinoru Stadium, Meru county.

Governor Kahiga stated his unequivocal support for BBI because of its proposal of one man, one vote, one shilling and the peace love and cohesion that it will bring among Kenyans. He also lauded its proposal for inclusivity, equality, freedom of expression and doing away with ethnicity in Kenya. The memorandum was arrived at following a consultation meeting between Mt. Kenya Governors and the GEMA community at Kenya Methodist University grounds.

## County workshop for the gender-based violence technical working group team



*By Dynah Mwangi*

The County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services in partnership with Center for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) conducted a two-day workshop for the Gender Based Violence Technical Working Group. The group is made up of representatives from societal based bodies like churches, the education sector, health sector, legal fraternity, local administration, the police, sub-county social welfare officers among others. This group was constituted to help in steering the agenda of fighting Gender Based Violence (GBV) even at the grassroots. The team is also to offer linkages to legal teams to secure justice to survivors. During the workshop, the technical working team was equipped with knowledge of their responsibilities, legal frameworks for GBV, special procedures for child perpetrators and intergovernmental framework for coordination of gender sector.

*Gender Chief Officer, Susan Kinyua pointed out that formation of the technical working team is such a noble course as it would complement the department's role of sensitizing the society and overseeing matters of GBV.*

Speaking during the workshop, the Gender Chief Officer, Susan Kinyua pointed out that formation of the technical working team is such a noble course as it would complement the department's role of sensitizing the society and overseeing matters of GBV. The department also conducts gender mainstreaming activities, coordinate gender based workshops and also acts as an entry point for other like-minded stakeholders into to the county.



PHOTOS | DYNAH MWANGI

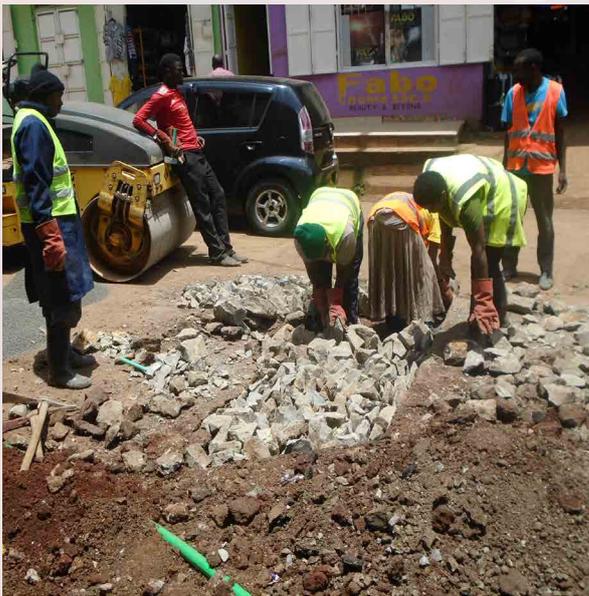
*Members of the Gender Based Violence Technical Working group during the training at Green Hills Hotel, Nyeri town.*

# Weekly pictorial

2nd - 6th March, 2020 - GOVERNORS PRESS



From left: Former Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga, Agriculture CS Hon. Peter Munya, Governors H.E Ann Waiguru (Kirinyaga) and H.E Mutahi Kahiga (Nyeri) during BBI rally at Kinoru stadium, Meru County recently.



LEFT; The process of recarpeting Gakere road in Nyeri town has kicked off. CENTRE; Ongoing clearing and unblocking of drainages in Naromoru town by officers from the Department of County Public Service, Environment and Sanitation. RIGHT; The Governor chats with one of Nyeri residents along Gakere road, Nyeri town.



Seated from left: Governors H.E Ann Waiguru (Kirinyaga), H.E Francis Kimemia (Nyandarua), H.E Mutahi Kahiga (Nyeri) and Nyeri Deputy Governor H.E Dr. Carol Karugu (extreme right) with members of GEMA community during BBI consolidation meeting at Kenya Methodist University grounds, Meru County. RIGHT; The progress of the ongoing Nyeri Bus Termini at Asian Quarters. The workers have started laying paving blocks and cabros for easy access to the stalls.