



Relocation of Nyeri town street children to Thunguma Children's Home

Pg 5



Karima hill rehabilitation and tree planting

Pg 6



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The pictorial is published weekly

NYERI COUNTY WEEKLY REVIEW



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Up close with Nyeri Central sub-county Administrator, Nelson Mbekenyia

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Pg 3 & 4

Finding a long-term solution to solid waste



PHOTO | PETER WANGARI

The long-term goal is that the area will not remain as a garbage disposal centre but rather upgraded to a refuse management centre where trash can be sorted and the organic waste left be land-filled. To ensure this is done, the process will kick-start with youth of the community being involved in the venture. Plans are also underway for further planting of trees to reduce the carbon emissions. Part of the trees should also be fruit trees.

Story on page 2

Nyeri County long term solutions to solid waste management



In a bid to find a long term solution to solid waste management, the County Government of Nyeri is finalizing a plan to acquire four acre piece of land.

H.E Governor Kahiga has further added that the county government will be rolling out a programme in the next financial year which will focus on waste management through sorting of garbage in the county.

This will create more jobs for the youth who will be involved in the work. Tens of youth in Nyeri have been relying on these sites as a source of income in sorting out the refuse and selling raw materials such as plastics, papers, cartons, metals among others to dealers.

He noted that fencing is ongoing in the four county dumpsites which are Karindundu, Mweiga, Blue Valley and Gikeu in Othaya as a way of upgrading dumpsites to waste management sites as per legal requirements that dumpsites ought to be fenced.

Nyeri County produces approximately 150 tonnes of garbage per day of which 75 tonnes is organic matter.

At the same time while heeding to the call by Karima MCA Hon. Reuben Wahome, the Governor paid a visit to Gikeu garbage disposal site in Othaya to assess the 25-year-old site and what can be done through concerted efforts by stakeholders.

The residents, who through a committee led by their MCA had passed their appreciation for the efforts that have been put at the dumpsite, such as fencing around the area to prevent spillage and improvement of the road had also raised a few concerns about the area and these were presented to the Governor Kahiga.

These concerns include the threat of malaria infections, production of a smelly watery substance from the mostly organic waste and the smell from the area.

Terming this concern as important, he committed to making arrangements with the fire department to have insecticides sprayed over the area. Other than this, the residents will be

provided with mosquito nets for further prevention.

The long-term goal is that the area will not only remain as a garbage disposal centre but rather upgraded to a refuse management centre where trash can be sorted and the organic waste left be land-filled. To ensure this is done, the process will kick-start with youth from the community being involved in the venture. Plans are also underway for further plantation of trees to reduce the carbon emissions. Part of the trees should also be fruit trees.

Further, the Governor highlighted that other waste management measures that the county government has taken is the purchase of the four-acre-land which is awaiting approval by NEMA before it is put into use.

Hon. Wahome assured the residents that his office was working in close partnership with the County Government of Nyeri to find lasting solutions.

By the end of this discussion, the residents were more at ease and looked forward to the implementation of the discussed strategies to manage the waste.

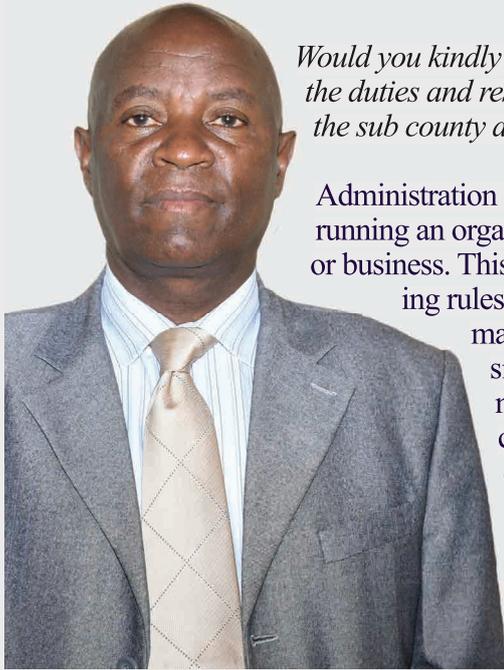
At the Nyeri County Assembly, the county assembly's Environment Committee chairman Hon. Watson Weru said the refuse collection could be privatized which is another move that will streamline solid waste collection in the county.

Nyeri town has been without a dumpsite after the one at the Asian Quarters was rehabilitated for a Sh 600 million bus termini. The flagship project is also complete. It is important to note that the Asian Quarters dumpsite was illegal and therefore not a valid disposal site.

"We are looking for a solution to this problem and we shall meet with a view of coming up with a motion that will see the privatisation of solid waste collection in towns in Nyeri county," said Hon Weru.

The chairman said they will involve Environment CEC Beth Karimi to ensure that funds are set aside in the 2020-2021 budget to cater for the garbage collection.

Up close with Nyeri Central sub-county Administrator, Nelson Mbekenyia



Would you kindly enlighten us on the duties and responsibilities of the sub county administrator?

Administration is the process of running an organization, office or business. This involves creating rules and regulations, making decisions on situations, planning, organizing, coordinating, directing, controlling, managing, supervising, monitoring, evaluating and reporting. The person who

undertakes the above is the administrator.

Public administration is the implementation of government ideas, policies, programs, projects and the implementer is the administrator. The duties include; planning, organizing, coordinating, directing, controlling, managing, supervising, monitoring, evaluating and reporting in all administrative functions, programs and projects of the county government. The two officers also help the county government to formulate, develop or change policies and regulations that guide in public management and in organization of public participation and civic education. By so doing, the sub-county and ward administrator enables the county government to deliver its mandate to the people of that county.

Is there any difference between a sub-county administrator and a ward administrator and if so, please highlight this as well as areas of collaboration between the two offices.

The area of jurisdiction of a sub-county administrator is larger than that of the ward administrator. It should be noted that sub-counties are made of several wards. The ward administrator reports to the sub-county administrator.

As the Nyeri Central sub county administrator, which areas of jurisdiction do you cover? Are all your wards covered by the ward administrators?

Nyeri Central sub-county covers five (5) wards and one municipality. These are;

- Nyeri Municipality.
- Rware ward.
- Ruringu ward.

- Kamakwa/Mukaro ward.
- Kiganjo/Mathari ward.
- Gatitu/Muruguru ward.

Nyeri central is the most complex sub-county because:

- In terms of population, it is the most populous.
- In terms of economic activities, it is the most active.
- It is the seat of both County and National Governments.

None of the five wards have a ward administrator.

What is your experience in the development of policies in the County Government of Nyeri?

- a) The transition process from local authorities to the county Government.
- b) The first County Intergrated Development Fund (CIDP) and first Annual Development Plan.
- c) The first Revenue Administration Act-2014.
- d) The first liquor act-2014.
- e) The Coffee Sector Reforms.
- f) The First Charter.

Tell us about the roles of administrators in revenue collection

Revenue collection is a county government's service and the administrator has the responsibility to ensure that the public pays for what is due to the government. The administrator also has a supervisory role over the county revenue staff. At times disputes arise between various parties involved in revenue collection process and the administrator mediates and arrives at a final decision on the matter. The administrator also educates the public on requirements of revenue administration act and ensures compliance of the same. The administrator also chairs the sub-county alcoholic drinks regulations committee during the licensing process. Alcohol is a major revenue stream/source in all counties.

What role do you play in disaster management and emergency response activities?

In times of disaster or emergencies, people report to the administrator. He/she will then collect the relevant data/information and relay them to the government for decision making and/or action. Where possible, he/she will take action which may include mobilizing resources or the public towards sorting out the disaster.

How do administrators work with other departments in the county and officers from the National Government without duplicating or contradicting roles?

Departments are set up to provide policy direction, professionalized services, guidance and financial management in the process of service delivery. The administrator is supposed to work very closely with all the departments to enable linkage between the population and the departments/government. By provision of such linkage, the administrator is able to sensitize and prepare both the citizen and the departments for the projects. The administrator is the 'eye' of the government and supervises departmental works at their level. Administrators have worked well with the Department of Education in Elimu Fund, Department of Trade in Enterprise Fund and settling of hawkers and markets, Department of Social Services in disaster management and response, Department of Roads in infrastructure maintenance and development with very good results. In relation to working with National Government, the principle is the same. The two governments serve the same people for the same purpose.

Government officers are perceived to engage in the withholding of public information. How do you handle this as an administrator while cognizant of the rights of the citizen to access information?

Under the bill of rights, the citizens have a right to access information. It is therefore a constitutional requirement that a government officer provides required information to the citizenry and also obtains information from the citizen. Withholding information is not part of modern administrative skills.

Which part do you play in actualizing development projects?

The administrator, being on the ground identifies development challenges, gives a report and recommends the project to the County Government. The constitution calls on governments to obtain public approvals for both the project as well as for use of funds. These approvals come through public participation forums, which are organized by the administrator. The administrator also mobilizes people to support the project. When the project kicks off, it is the role of the administrator to oversee its progress and reports to the County Government through the relevant department.

Do you play any role in articulating the implementation of Articles 10 (on national values and principles of governance) and 232 (on values and principles of public service) of the constitution to the citizens? If so, please elaborate

Administrators are very much involved in articulating

Art.10 & 232 of the constitution during or through public baraza, public participation forums and civic education. The unit responsible for civic education is in the Governor's office and headed by Madam Naomi Mathenge. Last year, we conducted civic education across the county on the two articles for three days.

Being one of the experienced and long serving sub-county administrators in the County Government of Nyeri, what lessons have you learnt so far and what inspires you?

Through the seven years in government and as an administrator, I have learnt a few lessons which are;

1. No two governments are the same: Nyeri has had four governments under four governors. All these governments are different and they do and see things differently. It is upon an administrator or worker to adjust.
2. Be fair to all: Listen to all, never discriminate.
3. Serve god, serve your people, no matter the circumstances you are in.
4. Always stand firm and stick to the law, you will never please everybody: I am inspired to see people leave my office satisfied that I attended well to them and come back later with a success story or when we meet in the streets we relate well.

I wish to thank H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga for creating an enabling environment for staff to serve the people of Nyeri, all staff members in the County Government of Nyeri for their commitment to duty, our County Secretary who often reminds us to consult and work with others and the Communications Unit in the Governor's office for keeping us well informed.



Relocation of Nyeri town street children to Thunguma Children's Home

By Dynah Mwangi

The County Government of Nyeri successfully relocated 52 street children to Thunguma Children's Home located at Mukaro location, Gatitu/Muruguru ward, Nyeri Central sub-county.

This came at the wake of Covid-19 which necessitated a quick action to protect them against infection and to put them in a home where they will be rehabilitated.

These children will be taken through a healing process and once they recover, they will be enrolled to learning institutions, vocational training centers and for elder ones; they will be assisted with capital to start business.

Thunguma Children's Home has been running since the year 2006 as a home for street families. It is well equipped with accommodation facilities, catering facilities, a health unit and enough space for recreation activities.

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga who visited the children pledged his full support to the initiative and promised to be checking on them occasionally.



PHOTO | PETER WANGARI



Fish harvesting

Photo & story by Liz Mwangi

Fish farming in the county has numerous positive impacts that give many people the reason to invest in it. This farming also has great profits.

Rearing is usually through community dams and own fish ponds.

The County Government led by the Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga, and the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries have been dedicated to improve aquaculture in Nyeri.

Efforts have been made to encourage farmers adopt fish farming and its consumption as well. This is because of its health benefits especially in provision of Omega-3 and industrial expansion.

This being the case, there has been a positive change as far as fish farming is concerned. At least 150kg of Tilapia fish were harvested in Othaya and Tetu sub-counties meeting a high-demand for fish in the county.

Harvesting was done through the supervision of fisheries officers who encouraged farmers to apply good harvesting and post-harvesting practices.



From left; Nicodemus Were (KFS), Esther Mbugua (Nyeri County Environment Officer), Vernonical Wairimu and Stephen Ndung'u (KEFRI) during a tree planting session at Karima hill in Othaya sub-county. Hundreds of assorted indigenous tree seedlings were planted. BELOW: Stakeholders planting trees.

Hundreds of tree seedlings planted at Karima hill

Photos & story by Boniface Gichuki

The County Government of Nyeri through the Department of County Public Service and Environment in conjunction with the Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and Karima Community Forest Association (KCFA) held a tree planting and rehabilitation exercise of Karima forest in Othaya sub-county.

Hundreds of assorted indigenous tree seedlings were planted during the occasion. This follows an MoU signed between KEFRI and the County Government of Nyeri last year that will see extensive collaboration between the two bodies in rehabilitating Nyeri County hills. This is also in line with the National Government's target of 10% tree coverage by the year 2022.

Other hills that will also be rehabilitated are TumuTumu and Gatumbiro hills.

Various officers called on the community members to take advantage of the current rains and plant trees as well.



Director
Carol Nderi

Chief-Editor
Joseph Wambugu

Sub-Editors
Jackline Gikunju
Njambi Mugo

Graphic Designer
Kenneth Ngatia

Donations from Nyeri County Public Service Board

By Njambi Mugo



Members of Nyeri CPSB led by Paul Kimondo (left) after presenting their donations to H.E Mutahi Kahiga (centre). The effort is geared towards feeding the vulnerable people in Nyeri County in the wake of Covid-19.

The County Government of Nyeri through H. E Governor Mutahi Kahiga was grateful to receive donations (food-stuffs) from the Nyeri County Public Service Board. The team led by the chairman Paul Kimondo noted that the effort is geared towards feeding the vulnerable people in Nyeri County in the wake of Covid-19.

Governor Kahiga thanked the board and called upon other well wishers to also donate in a bid to support the vulnerable ones within the society. Many entities have so far heeded the call to donate to the Nyeri Covid-19 Fund. He also thanked Family Bank for their donation of Kshs. 500,000 which will further aid the fight against Coronavirus.

He further urged Nyeri people to stay safe, wash hands and to maintain social distancing.

The Mpesa Paybill Number is 400222, Account Number is 562706 #Your Name

You can also deposit directly to Co-operative Bank, Account Number 01141991686400-Nyeri County Covid-19 Fund.

Social visit for Othaya and Tetu mudslide victims

Story & Photo by Dynah Mwangi

The Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services in its mandate to ensure social wellbeing of the Nyeri people visited four families in Othaya sub-county where three are located in Mahiga ward and one in Chinga ward following mudslide tragedies. In the same spirit, they also visited a resident of Kahigaini village, Dedan Kimathi ward in Tetu sub-county who was affected by mudslides which are a result of the ongoing rains.

The house belonging to Peris Njeri was left at an edge which necessitated quick plans to relocate it to a safer ground on her farm. In support of the initiative by the community, the department donated some building material and food stuff. Area MCA Hon. Gibson Wahinya chipped in with monetary contribution to help with labour cost.

Mudslides have become a major issue of concern all over the county. In most cases, they destroy the house, pull down some walls, destroy property and even flood the homestead's compound with mud.

Residents have been asked to choose their construction

sites carefully when setting up a home. They are also urged to be watchful on signs of a mudslide like cracks with very loose soils and act immediately.



Ongoing County projects...



Fencing work at Karindundu dumpsite near Karatina town ongoing.



Watuka VTC workshop in Gatarakwa ward, Kieni West sub-county is now complete and ready for use once learning institutions resume classes.



Fisheries Officers and farmers harvesting fish in Othaya and Tetu sub-counties meeting the high demand for fish in Nyeri. Farmers were also advised on good harvesting and post harvesting practices.



Ongoing fencing of Gikeu dumpsite in Othaya sub-county.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, PUBLIC WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE

PICTORIAL

PHOTOS | PETER MUBARI & SOURCE



The tarmacking process of Ngangarithi Primary School- Muthaiga road in Kamakwa ward near Nyeri Town has kicked off.



Riverside Estate road in King'ong'o located past Imani PCEA church has been murramed. Culverts installation ongoing.



Preparations on progress for Mutitu bridge which will connect Rugi ward and Mukurwe-ini Central ward in Mukurwe-ini.



Completion of Classic - Ngangarithi Primary - Muthaiga Estate road to bitumen standard on progress in Kamakwa ward near Nyeri town.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, PUBLIC WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE

PICTORIAL

PHOTOS | PETER MUBARI & SOURCE



Recently upgraded Dominic road in Gakawa Ward, Kieni East sub-county.



Street lights installation at Waihara Kabebero shopping center has commenced.



Recently compacted Kiriihiga access road in Chinga ward, Othaya sub-county.



The process of upgrading Thunguri / Kanyagia roads in Rugi ward, Mukurwe-ini has kicked off.



Ongoing upgrading of Kibaara road in Aguthii / Gaaki ward, Tetu sub-county. Drainage systems have also been installed.

PICTORIAL

PHOTOS | PETER MUBARI & SOURCE



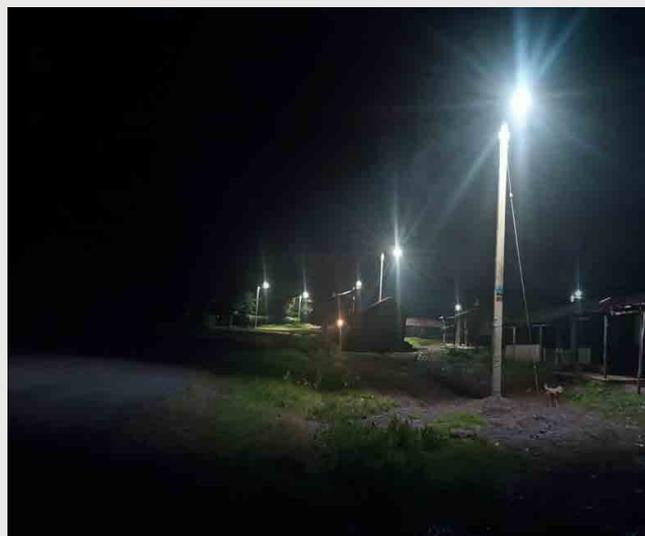
Ongoing upgrading of Nyaithee road, Aguthii Gaaki ward in Tetu sub-county.



Upgrading of Arumathi- Kiamuiru and Kahururu - Githiru roads in Gatitu/ Muruguru ward on progress.



Upgrading of Dominic road in Gakawa ward, Kieni East on progress.



Recently installed street lights at Karandi shopping centre in Sagana, Ruguru ward in Mathira.



Recently upgraded Kariguini- Kianjogu, Kariguini -Gathaithi road in Wamagana ward, Tetu sub-county.



Recently upgraded Kamunyaka-Turi and Thunguri Road, Iria-ini ward in Mathira East sub-county.



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI

P.O BOX 1112 - 10100 NYERI-KENYA TELEPHONE: 061203700 • Email: infonyericounty@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR
FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING/ HEAD OF COUNTY TREASURY



PUBLIC NOTICE

WAIVER OF 100% INTEREST ON LAND RATES FOR REGISTERED AND NON REGISTERED PLOTS WAIVER PERIOD: 19TH MAY - 19TH JUNE 2020

The County Government of Nyeri with the approval of H.E. Governor Mutahi Kahiga hereby gives notice to all Land Rates defaulters that 20% interest sums outstanding as at 19th May 2020 - 19th June 2020 will be waived on the following conditions:

That the Rate payer clears in full the total principal land rate arrears and pay 10% administrative costs based on principal amount payable.

That Land Rate defaulters are hereby **WARNED** that upon failure to pay rates, legal consequences will be instituted which include but not limited to:-

1. Compel Land Rates defaulters tenants to pay directly to the County Government until the Land Rates and interest paid in full.
2. Cancel or withdraw any license/permit granted in the premises in which Land Rates have not been paid.
3. Withhold any development approval until full payment of Land rates are received for the said Land.
4. To charge the property over-unpaid rates plus interest until the full amount is cleared.
5. Deny all other services offered by the county Government.

The County Government of Nyeri operates a **Cashless Payment System of Revenue**. All payments should be made through our County Revenue Collection A/C held at Cooperative Bank Nyeri Branch, Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) Nyeri Branch or Mpesa Pay bill.

COOP BANK ACCOUNT No.: 01141666594400 BANK CODE: 11000.

CB BANK ACCOUNT No: 1140760319 BANK CODE: 01

IPESA PAYBILL No.: 191900

Concerned property owners should make payments upon obtaining Bills/Invoices from their respective Sub-County Revenue Offices and forward the original bank deposit slips for issuance of an official receipt within the waiver period. Kindly comply. For Mpesa payment you **MUST** indicate the Sub-County, Block and plot number as your account number (e.g. for Nyeri Town Block 1 Plot no. 2 indicates NYR 1/2).

For easy and convenient payment, please download NyeriPay e-Citizen Mobile Services App from your mobile phone play store. For any enquiries please contact our customer care through Mobile No. 0714 952 473.

NB: Failure to present the bank deposit slip for receipting immediately after payment will not relieve the obligation to pay late payment penalties where applicable.

Pay your rates in time for efficient service delivery and development of our County.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert Thuo Mwangi
County Executive Committee Member
FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING/HEAD
OF COUNTY TREASURY.



H.E. MUTAHI KAHIGA
Governor, Nyeri County



NYERI COUNTY

it is all about you

COVID-19 FUND

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LET'S JOIN HANDS IN SUPPORT
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NYERI COUNTY
TO REMAIN FOOD SECURE DURING
THIS PANDEMIC.

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Direct Deposit: Co-operative Bank
Acc: 01141991686400 - Nyeri County Covid 19 Fund.



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