



# GOVERNOR KAHIGA: *My three year score card*

**N**yeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga has made public the County Government of Nyeri's score card for the last three years.

The details were contained in the third State of the County Address which was delivered at the floor of the County Assembly of Nyeri last Wednesday.

"The status of our county is good and even though we have been severely tested this year by the Covid-19 pandemic, our trajectory gives us hope that the future can get better," noted the governor.

These are some of the major gains which have been achieved per department.

## Department of Health Services

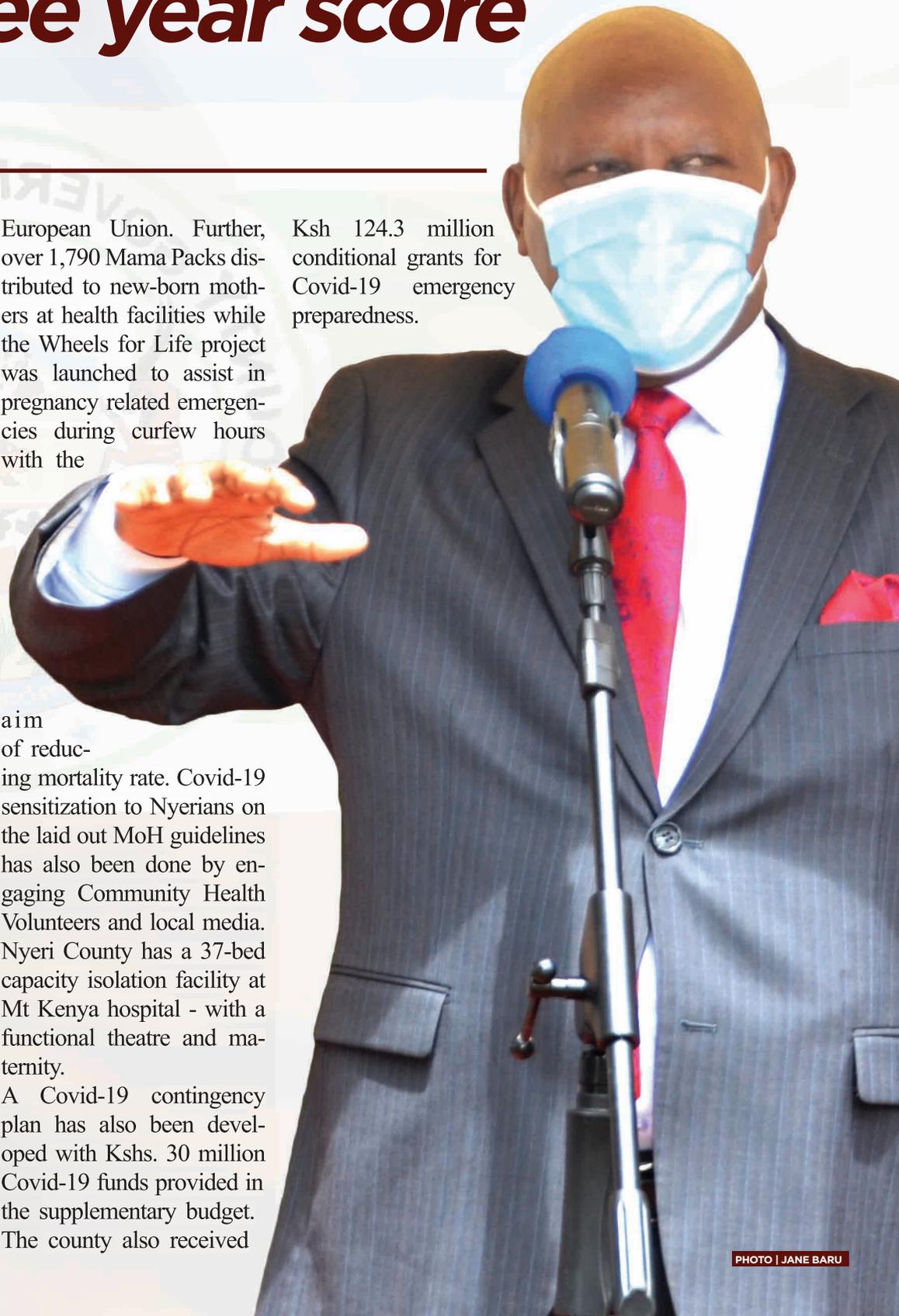
In the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic, the county government in partnership with Amref Health Africa launched the Covid-19 Emergency Response Project funded by the

European Union. Further, over 1,790 Mama Packs distributed to new-born mothers at health facilities while the Wheels for Life project was launched to assist in pregnancy related emergencies during curfew hours with the

aim of reducing mortality rate. Covid-19 sensitization to Nyerians on the laid out MoH guidelines has also been done by engaging Community Health Volunteers and local media. Nyeri County has a 37-bed capacity isolation facility at Mt Kenya hospital - with a functional theatre and maternity.

A Covid-19 contingency plan has also been developed with Kshs. 30 million Covid-19 funds provided in the supplementary budget. The county also received

Ksh 124.3 million conditional grants for Covid-19 emergency preparedness.





The county government has embarked on major infrastructural development including; Naromoru Level 4 Hospital, a mega flagship project which is 70% complete that will serve the larger Kieni constituency, isolation ward at Mt Kenya Hospital, renovating the County Referral Hospital and various health facilities.

### Department of Transport, Public Works and Infrastructure

To improve road network connectivity, upto 300 km of roads have been opened up,



660 km graveled and 13 km upgraded into bitumen standard. To accord village connectivity, seven-foot bridges and eight box culverts were constructed. Good parking management has been developed in Mukurwe-ini and Mweiga towns and high masts flood lights rehabilitated as well as street lights installed in 95 trading centers. On renewable energy, 40 solar-powered street lights were installed and efficient biogas energy constructed in Aguthi-Gaaki ward to ensure security and longer working hours for small scale traders in the town centres.

### Department of Trade, Tourism

### and Cooperatives

The department has constructed and rehabilitated 34 markets, 15 market sheds, 151 stalls, cabro-paving, perimeter fencing and construction of six ablution blocks. The Enterprise Development Fund (EDF) has been availed to 87 enterprises and has created employment through business



expansion and technology acquisition, asset finance and has promoted self-employment. Prof. Wangari Maathai Monument and Field Marshall Dedan Kimathi Monument have been installed as a way of honouring Nyeri heroes and heroines.

### Department of Public County Service & Environment

The county government has engaged 528 youth through the annual internship programme, an initiative started by H. E Mutahi Kahi-

ga geared towards giving unemployed graduates a chance for hands-on training as well as 571 attaches who have benefited from the industrial attachment program. The department continues to pay its staff in a timely manner, a key motivator in enhancing efficiency. It also strives to ensure that its staff members have a medical cover and a work-injury and group life cover. The department has embarked on adop-

tion of ICT in its processes to enhance management of County Public Service with about 70% of the files digitized. Mapping, identification and rehabilitation of community forests has been done as well as purchasing 29 skips, three skip loaders, litter bins and fencing of dumping sites to conserve the environment and manage waste. To address the challenge of garbage collection the board has also developed a Solid Waste Management plan & policy.

### Department of Youth, Gender & Social Services

In partnership with NAC-ADA, the department has constructed Ihururu Drug and Rehabilitation Centre at Ihururu, Dedan Kimathi ward with a capacity of 85 patients. Two states-of-the-art fire engines have been procured to support disaster management in the county which has improved disaster response time. Through the social safety net programme, the department offers disaster victims food stuffs, clothes, blankets, mattresses and household goods among others. The county government plans to establish a leather training center and a hub in Rukira Vocational Training center for the county. Trainers of Trainers (TOTs) have already been trained and it is envisaged that youth in the county will be able to produce leather products competitive even in the international markets. The county government also implemented a youth empowerment program in Iria-ini ward, Othaya sub-county, where youth groups benefited from business startup merchandise worth Ksh 1.5 million.

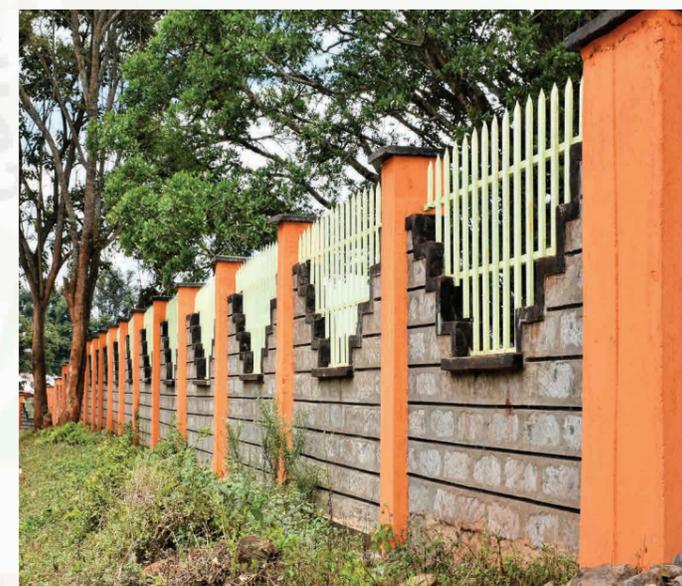
### Department of Education and Sports

The department has constructed 21 new workshops



and classrooms, renovated 13 others, fenced five VTCs, 54 classrooms built in ECDE centres and 42 others rehabilitated and 96 new toilet blocks constructed. Permanent perimeter walls have been constructed at Ruring'u, Karatina and Gichira stadia while six other playgrounds fenced using concrete poles and chain link. The department is also enhancing the infrastructure in Karatina, Gitero, Gathuthi and Nairutia VTCs as well as providing tools and equipment. The county government further allocated Kshs. 100 million for disbursement as bursary to needy learners in special schools, secondary

schools, colleges, Vocational Training Centers and Universities.





## Department of Water and Irrigation

The department has drilled 46 boreholes in partnership with various stakeholders. This has increased water supply from 65% three years ago to 80% by 2020 in rural areas and 80-90% in urban areas. Extension of pipeline works managed by community based organizations in rural areas by 234Kms, constructed 33 masonry water storage tanks and 12 intakes translating to an increase of 25,000 households with access to water. Further, two water treatments have been constructed to increase portable drinking water for Teawasco and Naruwasco as a means

of eradicating water borne diseases in Naromoro and Titie. The two are awaiting electricity connection to operationalize. The department has also been implementing projects funded under Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Program (KCSAP) and other partners.

## Department of Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urbanization

The department is constructing the Asian Quarters Bus Termini (*below*), a county flagship project under the Kenya Urban Support Program (KUSP) of World Bank.

The project aims at reducing congestion within the CBD and boosting Nyeri's economy. The project comprises of 600 market stalls, three sanitation blocks, access roads, an office block, an elevated tank, a solid waste chamber, an ICT hub, parking bays and a market.

The department has also formulated seven policies and bills that are awaiting approval and adoption as well as taken part in resolution of boundary disputes, demarcation and alignment of boundaries. In conformity with the KUSP directive and with the approval of the County Assembly of Nyeri, Nyeri town was conferred to Municipal status (Municipality of Nyeri). The Nyeri Integrated

Urban Development Plan; 20-year development plan that provides the legal framework on project planning and development control in Nyeri Municipality has also been developed.

The county government has embarked on the preparation of a 10-year County Spatial Plan whose purpose is to sustainably guide social, economic and infrastructural developments in the county. In collaboration with the National Government under Kenya Infrastructure Support Program (KISP) (lot 3 & 4), the planning, survey and registration of colonial villages has been finalized.



## Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

in two wards i.e. Konyu and Karima ward. To address acidity problem for coffee farmers, the county government has purchased 3 soil-scanning machines at

earning Kshs. 1.37 billion as well as apiculture with a hive population of 9,600 for the Kenya Top Bar, 6600 for Lang troth and 5400 for Log Hives earning farmers

Kshs.3.1million.



The county emerged top in the implementation of the Kenya Climate Smart Agricultural Project (KCSAP) among 24 counties. Under the KCSAP, through the World Bank funding, the county has been allocated Kshs.260 Million for funding Micro projects, sub projects and Producer Organizations. The county has also been allocated Kshs. 17 Million under Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP II) which is funded by Government of Kenya and Sweden International Development Agency (SIDA) for the capacity building of value chain actors along cow milk, indigenous chicken and Irish potatoes.

Nyeri County is among the pilot counties for the coffee revitalization program spearheaded by the Ministry of Agriculture and is further implementing a pilot programme on fertilizer e- voucher subsidy program

Wambugu ATC where our farmers can access timely services. To contribute towards the Greening Program, a fruit tree nursery has been established at Wambugu ATC with a capacity of over 100,000 grafted avocado and grafted macadamia seedlings with the aim of providing quality seedlings to the farmers. Potato commercial farming has attracted over 10,000 farmers

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## Third Nyeri State of the County Address

By Joseph Wambugu

**N**yeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga delivered the third statutory State of the County Address at the Nyeri County Assembly which gave him a chance to outline the county annual report card.

Governor Kahiga lauded the County Assembly for carrying out its roles with distinction and Nyeri citizens for their vigilance and upholding their patriotic duties since the onset of devolution.

He noted that the County Government of Nyeri has been keen on development programs and adopting policies which will benefit local mwananchi.

As such, Nyeri County has been recognized by external bodies including the World Bank, the Royal Dutch Embassy, the National Treasury and the Open Budget Forum among other organizations which should serve as an inspiration to Nyeri citizens.

He added that his government is working towards an upward trajectory and it shall strive towards building resilience in traditional sectors of economy while creating diversification

and new ways of putting resources in the hands of mwananchi.

On BBI, the governor noted that if the proposal to devolve 35% of the national resources becomes a reality, the story of Nyeri County will be ultimately different.

This is because the enhanced Ward Fund will be the icing on the cake as the nation will be only taking cue from what the county has already started with amazing results of devolving development to all corners without regard for political persuasions or inclinations.

“My resolve to better the lives of our people is even greater after experiencing the havoc that Covid-19 has caused our people. If we remain together working in harmony and observe the laid down MoH protocols, we shall defeat this monster and our lives will be back to normal,” he added.

The governor was hosted by Nyeri Speaker Hon. John Kaguchia and over 30 MCAs led by Majority Leader Hon. James Kanyugo.

## Dignity kits distribution to vulnerable girls and women

Over 70 vulnerable girls and women from Mathira East sub-county received dignity kits from the County Government of Nyeri. This was at an event facilitated by the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services, in commemoration of the United Nations 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence. This is part of a county wide exercise that will see over 4,000 girls and women

benefit from this support commissioned by H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga.

During the event, the girls and women were also trained on various top-

ics such as Gender Based Violence, menstrual hygiene, personal hygiene among others.



## Governor joins President during CoG function



**H**.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga joined H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta, Deputy President H.E Dr. William Ruto and colleague governors during the official ground breaking ceremony of G47 Ugatuzi Tower and Launch

of the County Covid-19 Social Economic Re-engineering and Recovery Strategy in Hurlingham, Nairobi.

This is a magnificent building which will host offices of all the 47 county governments, liaison offices

and a devolution museum named Uhuru Kenyatta Devolution Museum.

The iconic building with 50 floors, which will be the highest building in Africa, will help consolidate matters of devolution under one roof.

President Uhuru also launched the County Covid-19 Social Economic Re-engineering and Recovery strategy.

The Governor's prayer is that this strategy will support the economy of all counties to bounce back and help maintain a robust economy.

Also present were Devolution CS Hon. Eugene Wamalwa, CoG Chair H.E Wycliffe Oparanya, Speaker of the Senate Hon. Kenneth Lusaka, over 15 governors among others.

# Launching of teleconferencing facility and hoisting of Nyeri flag



From left H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga, ICT CS Joe Mucheru and Nyeri County Assembly Speaker Hon. John Kaguchia unveiling the new Nyeri County Flag before it was hoisted for the first time. Also present was Nyeri Town MP Hon. Ngunjiri Wambugu.

By Joseph Wambugu

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga joined ICT Cabinet Secretary Joe Mucheru during the launch of the Nyeri County Assembly's teleconferencing facility and hoisting of the Nyeri County flag. The governor noted that this teleconferencing facility is a game changer in this era of Covid-19 since it will improve communication. The governor was hosted by Nyeri Speaker Hon. John Kaguchia during the event which also marked the launching of the Nyota Ya Nyeri e-newsletter. Governor Kahiga lauded the county assembly for the cordial relationship with the executive which has led to the assembly passing many bills that

are beneficial to the great people of Nyeri. "This County Assembly was the first to come up with a bill on Covid-19. It has passed my bills for the last three years. They are very much committed to doing more for this county. The e-newsletter will help in publicizing what the county is doing," said the governor. The event held at assembly grounds was also attended by Nyeri Town MP Hon. Ngunjiri Wambugu and over 30 MCAs. ICT CS Mucheru noted that by being digital, communication is now easier since it is effective and efficient. He also lauded the good working relationship between the executive

and the county assembly. Health CS Hon. Mutahi Kagwe who joined the meeting using zoom technology the facility will create efficiency and convenience in matters of communication and also lauded the assembly for the good working relationship with the County Government of Nyeri. He said that his ministry is on the other hand committed in improving health facilities in Nyeri County to ensure proper medication for the residents. Speaker Kaguchia noted that the assembly is the only one which did not close down due to Covid-19 since they were using the facility which they received from the ICT Ministry.



Covid-19 since they were using the facility which they received from the ICT Ministry. The clerk of the assembly Jernard Mwiggeh said a similar Bill of the County Flag, County Coat of Arms and County Public Seal was introduced in the assembly six years ago and failed but the current assembly used only three months to pass the bill. Hon. Wambugu thanked the chair of Legal Affairs Hon. Ju-

lia Wanjiku for initiating the Nyeri County Flag and Other Symbols Bill, 2020 which was assented by the governor last month. On 21st October, 2020, the County Assembly of Nyeri passed the Nyeri County Flag and Other Symbols Bill, 2020. The County Flag, the County Coat of Arms and the County Public Seal are therein officially approved. The flag is in the county co-

lours with Blue symbolizing the vast skies and the endless abilities and high aspirations of the people of Nyeri. Green symbolizes the tranquility and ambience of our environment. White depicts peace and neutrality in our county and brown symbolizes the rich Kikuyu culture including the unique attire of the Agikuyu people. It also signifies the soil and fertility of our land.



## Social response and assistance for fire victims



The Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services visited Lucy Nyokabi from Kagongo sub-location, Chinga ward in Othaya

sub-county to offer her assistance following a fire incidence at her home. The fire which occurred recently

burned down her house fortunately; no one was injured during the incident.

They family did not call the fire brigade team but relied on members of the public to help put out the fire . Othaya sub-county Social Welfare Officer Doris Wambui, while delivering iron sheets and foodstuffs from the department, urged members of the community to always call the fire brigade on time, and have their hotline numbers saved for prompt response.

## Tree planting targeting projects

A collaborative initiative between the Department of Public Service Management and Environment, Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP) and Kenya Forest Service (KFS) as main donat-

ing partners distributed a total of 13,900 tree seedlings targeting sub projects funded by KCSAP to promote on- farm forestry and riparian conservation. Some of the projects that benefited

included; Thiha- Sagana in Mukurwe-ini, Kiria Dam, Mutitu B and Treffos Water Project in Kieni West sub county. Lusoi and Kamangura Dams in Kieni East sub-county also benefited.



*KCSAP and KFS officers distributing some of 13,900 tree seedlings targeting sub projects funded by KCSAP in Mukurwe-ini, Kieni East and Kieni West sub-counties to promote on-farm forestry and riparian conservation.*

## International Day of Persons with Disability held at Tumutumu School for the Deaf

International Day of Persons with Disabilities is an International observance promoted by the United Nations.

The National Council For Persons with Disabilities together with the Department of Health, Department of Public Service represented by the Chief Officer Joseph King'ori and Rotary Club of Karatina marked the day at Tumutumu School for the Deaf by planting of trees.

The observance of the day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support, rights and well being of persons with disabilities.

The theme for this year is 'Building back better towards a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post Covid-19 world'.

The national celebration was to be held at Nyeri, but postponed due to the second wave of Covid-19.

## PWDs sensitized on Covid-19



*By Muthoni Kanja*

Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted vulnerability for People Living with Disabilities (PWDs) since they have more health-care needs than others.

The challenges are linked to difficulty with using basic protection measures and adhering to containment measures like social distancing hence posing an increased risk of contracting the virus. PWDs are also at a higher risk of contracting the virus as most of them have underlying conditions too.

In the face of this global crisis, the County Government of Nyeri through a partnership with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities and Amref Health Africa organized a three-day sensitization forum for PWDs. The sensitization had over 150 participants drawn from across the county as well as their caregivers.

This activity aimed at bringing PWDs at par on matters Covid-19 in the aspect of Infection Prevention and

Control (IPC) and Gender-Based Violence.

The sensitization which is one of the activities under the Covid-19 Response Project in Kenya has been funded by the European Union.

Youth, Gender and Social Services CEC Esther Ndung'u, hailed the mutual collaboration of the three entities in enhancing preventive measures to those who are vulnerable. She noted the sensitization is important in giving them a platform to express their fears and a source of credible information.

Mukurwe-ini MP, Hon. Anthony Kiai, lauded the partnership and urged the participants to ensure they stay safe. He encouraged the care givers to facilitate safety of their loved ones by ensuring they wear their masks properly. He further added that he has been able to donate over 100 assistive devices for people living with various forms of disabilities.

lance Officer Lydiah Njaramba, trained them on the importance of basic protective measures like wearing a face mask properly, proper handwashing as well as maintaining social distance. She called upon them to take part in reducing the chain of transmission.

County Physiotherapist Rahab Ngatia, noted that the county is engaging forward gear in ensuring everybody is at par on matters Covid-19. She added that the county government has continued to adopt policies to ensure accessibility of services despite any form of disability.

Amref Health Africa Project Officer Joram Onditi, appreciated the support from the county government in discharging its mandate. He noted the training will be impactful. He added that a training targeting the deaf community that was conducted before was an eye-opener in the involvement of the vulnerable.

County Disease Surveil-

# Official launch of the 16 days of activism against GBV



By Jane Baru

The County Government of Nyeri marked the official launch of the 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV) through an event that was organized by the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services.

This is an annual international campaign that runs from November 25th till December 10th where the world unites in the fight against

Gender Based Violence. This year's theme is 'Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!' which is meant to serve as a wake-up call to amplify the global action to funding gaps, ensure essential services for survivors of violence during the Covid-19 crisis, focus on prevention and collection of data that can improve life-saving services for women and girls.

During this period, the department will issue 190,000 pieces of sanitary towels to over 4,000 vulnerable girls and adult women in the county who are either GBV survivors or are at a high risk of experiencing GBV due to various factors. This event was also graced by H. E Governor Mutahi Kahiga who is championing this noble cause.

## Training on data collection tool for the Aquaculture Blue Book

The County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries conducted training on data collection tool for the Aquaculture Blue Book in Nyeri County at Wambugu ATC Farm. The Aquaculture Blue Book is one of the programmes under the Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP) which is aimed at collecting fish farmers' data to identify areas of improvement in terms of capacity building and farm inputs. Further, data

on people along the fish farming value chains will also be collected. During the 1st phase, the exercise is being carried out in all the 15 counties where ABDP has been implemented, followed by the whole country in the 2nd phase. A total of 60 youth, 2 per ward, were trained on how to carry out the data collection, which will take place next week. The training was conducted by County Programme Coordinator Maureen

Muriuki, Programme Fisheries Officer Agnes Kinyua and Technical Assistant Zachary Ogari. ABDP is an 8-year programme funded by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and aims at investing in people in rural localities, focusing on promoting production by small holder aquaculture farmers and developing producer public private partnerships along the value chains.