



# Nyerians to reap big as year 2021 unfolds



In his New Year's message, the governor expressed his intentions to the great people



ple of Nyeri County towards the commissioning of the two mega flagship projects to ensure that they enjoy the benefits which will aid in transforming the county and also creating thousands of jobs.

The two projects which are over 90 per cent done are the

Nyeri Town Main Transport Termini in Nyeri Central sub-county and Naromoru Level 4 Hospital in Kieni East sub-county which were initiated by the Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga about two years ago.

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**CGN sets aside Kshs. 17 million for coffee revitalization**



The governor expressed his commitment in supporting coffee farmers to ensure they reap maximum benefit from the crop. *Pg 4*

**One on one with Revenue Director Rehema Salim**



The directorate is charged with the collection and accounting of all revenue payable to the County Government of Nyeri. *Pg. 5,6&7*

**CEREB consultative meeting**



The bloc has further developed a Post-Covid Economic Recovery Plan *Pg. 10*

“2020 has been a tough year that has severely tested our resilience and mettle but like the phoenix, we shall rise again from the ashes and declare victory upon Nyeri and its great people. We have been severely tested due to the global Covid-19 pandemic but our trajectory this far fills us with hope that a brighter future lies ahead. Our perseverance and commitment is the beacon that illuminates our path towards greater accomplishments for the people of Nyeri. We remain anchored in our desire to transform lives and create a greater, mightier Nyeri for us all,” said Governor Kahiga.

The two state-of-the-art projects have been constructed in partnership between the County Government of Nyeri and the World Bank.

## Nyeri Town Main Transport Termini

Nyeri Town Main Transport Termini (*below*) whose ground breaking was done by the governor on 19th June 2019 will be done in two phases. The first phase of the project which costs Kshs. 600 million is almost complete.

It is funded by the World Bank under the Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP) in partnership with the County Government of Nyeri.

The Municipal Board in collaboration with the Department of Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urbanization is currently constructing the Nyeri Town Bus Termini, a mega flagship project situated at Asian Quarters, Nyeri town.

The bus park, set to be one of the largest smart termini hubs in Kenya, will create an affordable and efficient transport mechanism which a truly inclusive society needs access to. Not only will it reduce traffic and human congestion within the Central Business District but it will also create job opportunities to thousands of area residents.

Governor Kahiga has termed the multi-million project as transformational noting that it will bring about an economic turn around and progression for the people of Nyeri, taking it back to its lost glory as an ideal place to live and work in for generations to come.

“We are committed to reviving the town’s infrastructure and our plan is to approach the outskirts of Nyeri. With the Asian Quarters Bus Termini, we will have a very robust economy which is the real outcome of devolution,” governor Kahiga said.

This is in line with the dream of making Nyeri town the cleanest and most beautiful city to increase our tourist numbers and build a thriving local economy.

Once complete, the termini will have 800 business stalls, six restaurants, 240 matatu stages, taxi bays, Tuk Tuk bays, 98 booking bays, 51 lorry bays, 94 passenger waiting bays and ticket offices.





Other amenities will include a fire sub-station, a police post, a power sub-station, a garage, five sanitation blocks, an open air market, shops and block of offices and an ICT hub.

Rehabilitation of access roads in the neighbouring estates has also been done to ease traffic movement and street lighting projects to enable a 24-hour economy. The project which started in June 2019 has already created jobs for hundreds of youths per day who have been involved in construction.

The termini will employ approximately 7,000 people on a daily basis and also have daily movement of over 20,000 passengers once operational.

By early last month, the project was at various stages of completion; the main works are 90 % complete, the Cluster 1 road are 70 % complete, the Cluster 2 are 45% complete and the Rehabilitation of Addis Ababa & Kartar Singh has been completed.

## Naromoru Level 4 Hospital

The other mega project is the Naromoru Level 4 Hospital (*above*) in Kieni constituency, which is in its completion stage.

The laying of the foundation stone of the medical facility was done by the governor on 22nd August 2019. The cost of construction is Kshs. 329 million and a further Kshs 300 million for equipping the facility.

The hospital is being constructed using funds that were awarded to the County Government of Nyeri by the World Bank through the Kenya Devolution Support Program (KDSP) after attaining position two and subsequently, position one.

Despite the many challenges in the year 2020, the County Government of Nyeri emerged at the top of the World Bank Kenya Devolution Support Program that evaluates counties on financial integrity and accountability among other parameters. The funds gained were channeled into the completion of the level 4 hospital.

The construction of the three-storeyed 175-bed capacity hospital will host key departments including; two operating theatres, general OPD, Casualty, Pharmacy, Laboratory, Maternal and Child Health unit, specialized clinics, maternity and inpatient wards (medicine, orthopedic, surgical).

The hospital will also guarantee provision of surgical and inpatient services and ultimately contribute to decongestion of the Nyeri County Referral Hospital as well as be of great relief to Kieni residents who travel very long distances to seek medical attention.

# CGN sets aside Kshs. 17 Million for coffee revitalization

*Governor Kahiga expressed his commitment and that of the County Government of Nyeri in supporting coffee farmers to ensure they reap maximum benefit from the crop.*



The County Government of Nyeri has set aside Kshs. 17 million for coffee revitalization in this current financial year. H. E Governor Mutahi Kahiga said the funds will support the coffee production activities in the county.

The governor was speaking during a public participation exercise on the Coffee Revitalization Programme for Coffee Bill at Ruring'u area near Nyeri town.

Governor Kahiga threw his weight behind the Bill saying it will benefit local farmers immensely as well as ensure good governance in coffee management.

"I'm sure that farmers will be paid over Kshs. 100 per Kg of Cherry if the Bill is passed," added the governor.

Agriculture CS Hon. Peter Munya, who was visiting Nyeri County for the bill's public participation exercises, said that the new reforms will ensure coffee farmers take home good payments.

The governor had earlier hosted the CS who had paid him a courtesy call in his office.

They deliberated on the Coffee Revitalization Programme for Coffee Bill which has been introduced by the ministry with an aim of addressing coffee issues within the country.

The CS noted that he is committed towards addressing the challenges being faced in the coffee sector adding that the ministry has also introduced other reforms geared towards revitalization of coffee including paying more focus on

coffee value addition.

He also committed to looking into coffee cooperatives and unions, which are mostly mismanaged, noting that auditing of the same will be done and he will ensure the apprehension of corrupt managers who are exploiting farmers by taking up hefty loans.

CS Munya also called upon farmers to take advantage of the Coffee Cherry Advance Fund which was unveiled by the National Government last year, through which farmers can borrow as many times as possible at an interest rate of just 3 per cent.

Governor Kahiga expressed his commitment and that of the County Government of Nyeri in supporting coffee farmers to ensure they reap maximum benefit from the crop.

He further noted that the county government is continuously training the societies' management on proper governance as well as supporting farmers by providing them with subsidized fertilizers and soil testing facilities.

Nyeri Agriculture CEC James Wachuhi reiterated the importance of the bill which will address a lot of challenges faced by the farmers in the coffee sector. The bill is currently in the public participation stage to which the CS is engaging with coffee farmers and other key stakeholders to gather their feedback.



# One on one with Revenue Director Rehema Salim



*What are the functions of the Revenue Directorate?*

Under the Nyeri County Revenue Administration Act 2014, the directorate is charged with the collection and accounting of all revenue payable to the County Government of Nyeri.

*Apart from Nyeri Town office based at Town Hall, do you have any other office within the county?*

Yes, we do. For easier management and provision of services to the citizenry, the directorate has established offices within the county, stationed in every sub-county as listed below:

Sub-County	Office Location
Nyeri Town	Nyeri Town Hall
Mathira East	Karatina Town Hall
Mathira West	Karatina Town Hall
Kieni East	Narumoru
Kieni West	Mweiga
Mukurwe-ini	Mukurwe-ini Town
Othaya	Othaya Town
Tetu	Nyeri Town Hall

*Which are the major Revenue collection fields?*

The directorate is mandated to collect revenue from multiple areas that include: Business Permits, Construction fees, Land Rates, Coffee movement and Licensing, Cess Fees, Parking Fees, Advertisements, Building Approvals, Medical certificates, House Rents, Market Fees, Veterinary services etc. The major revenue collection areas are:

Bank	Account No.	Purpose
Kenya Commercial Bank	1140760319	Revenue Account
Kenya Commercial Bank	1177001608	Health Sector Revenue Account
Cooperative Bank of Kenya	01141666594400	Revenue Account

*Enlighten us on the payment methods either through the bank or mobile phones.*

Revenue within the county is payable and collected under 3 bank accounts and 1 mobile payment alternative. The bank accounts and their purpose are:

The USSD code provides an easy option for non-smart phone users to conveniently pay for parking, cess and market fees. The directorate has also provided an android application for easier payment of county services.

*Tell us about the NyeriPay App and the services currently available for payment on the app.*

The NyeriPay (Ecitizen) application is available on Google Playstore. Once downloaded and installed, the user needs to register using their mobile number and they will receive a validation message for confirmation. The next step is to login and pay for the desired service. The app is easy to use and the services currently available for payment are: Daily Parking Fees, Bus Park Fees (PSV), Cess Fees, House Rent, Market Stall rent, Land Rates, Invoice Payment, Enforcement Charges, ATC (Wambugu Farm Services) and Veterinary Services.

In order to safeguard our customer's information one is required to visit our offices for registration and validation of your phone number to be able to view customer statements through the App.

*With the improvement of technology, what can you say about it, has it curbed corruption?*

The automation of services and the move to a cashless system of payment has indeed curbed corruption. This is clearly evidenced by the increase in revenue collected as from the financial year 2018/2019 when the NyeriPay system commenced. The technologies implemented by the directorate have also improved the level of service delivery to the convenience of both the citizenry and the County Government. The directorate is open to the use of technology to further improve its efficiency and service delivery.

*Do we have deadlines for those who pay on monthly or yearly basis such as rents, vehicle stickers, stall rents, land rates, business permits, market fees, cess fees among others?*

Yes, there are deadlines that citizens are obligated to meet. Deadlines are clearly outlined in the Nyeri County Revenue Administration Act as follows:

Service	Deadline
SBP Permits	31st March every year
House and stall Rent	10th of every month
Land Rate	31st March every year
PSV Stickers	10th of every month
Lorry Stickers	15th of every month
Banda	15th of every month

It is important to note that after the deadline is passed, a penalty is applied and should be paid along with the service fee.

*The County Government of Nyeri is targeting Ksh. 1 billion as revenue in this financial year. Will this be achieved and if not, what are the challenges hindering it?*

The directorate is fully committed to achieving the KShs. 1 billion target in revenue collection with some of the strategies employed being: the cashless payments of revenue, increased enforcement on defaulters, introduction of land rate waivers, multiple payment options and implementation of the customer service charter. There are challenges along the way to the realization of this goal, the major one being the Covid-19 pandemic which saw many businesses close down and have not yet recovered as well as the culture of tax payers not wanting to pay

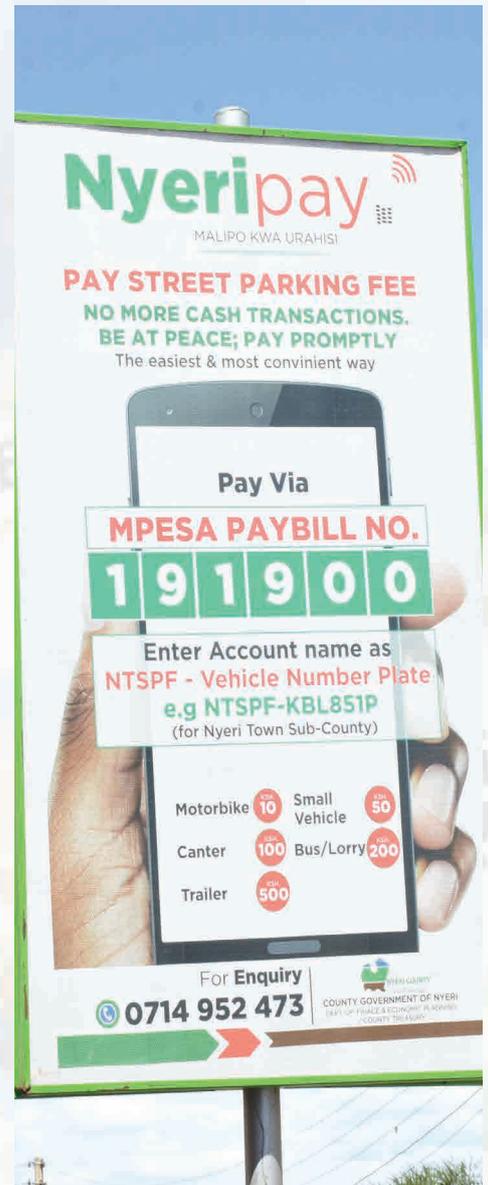
*How did the Covid-19 pandemic affect revenue collection during the last financial year? Did you hit the target? Did this affect your service delivery?*

The Covid-19 pandemic dealt a heavy blow on the county in terms of revenue collection. Businesses were shutdown, hours of operation reduced and movement of people curtailed. The county introduced waivers on most charges as a way of motivating and empowering its citizenry to continue with their businesses. These waivers, as much as they were a necessity, greatly affected the amount of revenue collected. The introduction of UHC also affected revenue collection in a big way.

*How do you liaise with ward administrators and enforcement officers in matters of revenue collection, what role do they play?*

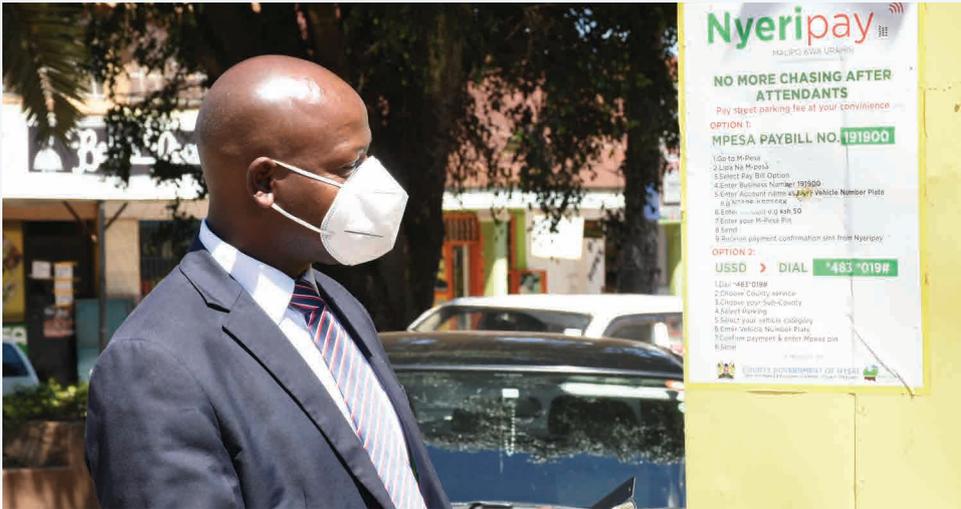
The directorate is assigned enforcement officers who are engaged in enforcement activities across the county. Ward administrators liaise with the directorate of revenue in mobilizing and

identifying revenue streams at their respective wards.



*There are times we see the county government introduce a waiver to the land owners for land rates and interests. Why the waiver is usually introduced?*

Part II of the Nyeri County Tax Waivers Administration Act, 2015 gives the power to grant waivers to the CECM in charge of Finance under specific conditions. Land rate waivers are issued to ease the financial obligations owed to the county government by land owners and also as a means of encouraging them to clear their dues.



the deficit that existed was eased by the automation of revenue collection at major revenue collection streams. The directorate has satisfied the gender requirement by having a ratio of 5:4 men against women respectively.

*As a long serving officer who has served since the era of the defunct Nyeri Municipal Council, what can you say about your personal experience and what message can you tell the tax payer?*

*Do we have land defaulters in Nyeri?*

Yes, there are numerous land defaulters in the county. As of now, the total amount owed to the County Government as land rate arrears is a lot. I wish to appeal to the land owners to meet their obligations to facilitate enhanced service delivery.

Penalties are issued whenever deadlines are not met by the citizenry/service requester. The Nyeri County Revenue Administration Act clearly outlines the penalties and fines for defaulted payable services under every schedule.

*Do you have enough staff for revenue collection including gender ratio and what can you say about their training?*

We currently have enough staff since

As along serving officer who has served as a junior clerical officer and risen to the office of Director of Revenue, the path has not been very smooth. However, it has been possible due to trust on the Almighty, patience, hard work, resilience and more so honesty. I wish to encourage the tax payers to ensure they meet their obligation on time to enable timely service delivery. My parting shot to the citizenry of Nyeri County is Kulipa Ushuru ni Kujitegemea.

*At what point does the directorate issue penalties?*

## >>> Its back to school

*Most of the public schools have recorded a new admittance due to closure of some private schools as well as transfers.*

Nyeri Education CEC Margaret Macharia accompanied by Nyeri Central sub-county Principal Education Officer Eliphas Mbae visited various ECDE centres following the reopening of schools to check on their readiness measures amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.



The pupils were happy to reunite with their friends and teachers after 10 month's absence.

The schools visited by the team were King'ong'o, Chania and Kirimara Primary

Schools where they ensured all health protocols such as hand washing, use of thermometers to measure temperature, wearing of masks and

maintaining of social distance is being observed by all the students.

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tance due to closure of some private schools as well as transfers.

# Over 200 students benefit from Elimu Bursary Funds



*H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga (centre) presenting a cheque to one of the beneficiaries who was accompanied by one of the parents.*

H.E Mutahi Kahiga disbursed over 200 cheques to beneficiaries of the Elimu Bursary Funds ahead of schools re-opening.

The needy students were some of those who missed the funds during the last disbursement of the Kshs. 100 million where 18,560 students benefitted. After the disbursement in October, the Department of Education and Sports came up with a list of the most deserving cases that missed in the programme and have now been brought on board.

Governor Kahiga noted that there was need for them to be awarded with the bursary funds so that they won't miss classes upon school re-sumption.

The governor reiterated the need for education and the fruits that it bears. He persuaded the parents and

students to keep their hopes alive. He further encouraged them not to focus on the hardships encountered while pursuing education.

“It doesn't matter where you are today but you can control your tomorrow. Maintain discipline in your institution and work hard. Have confidence and determination always. Your tomorrow is greater than today,” noted the governor.

The students who were drawn from various secondary schools, colleges and universities were handed the cheques by the governor during the event held at Nyeri Governor's office grounds, Nyeri town.

The parents and the students on the other hand thanked and lauded the governor for considering their needs and responding positively in the nick of time.

## Celebrating Christmas at the Nyeri Maximum Prison

The Chief Officer Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services George Mwangi represented H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga in sharing the joy of Christmas with prisoners from the Nyeri Maximum Prison.

The prison, which has a population of 1,200 inmates stopped visitation of prisoners by their relatives due to COVID-19 stringent measures and protocols to minimize the spread, hence depending on well-wishers and stakeholders for personal effects.

Part of the food items donated included; 5 bales of maize flour, 5 bales of wheat flour, 25kgs of rice, 90kgs beans, and 20ltrs cooking oil, 4 bales of toilet papers and 4 cartons of sanitary towels.

While receiving the items, the Officer in charge Martin Okoko greatly appreciated Governor Kahiga for his generous donation amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.



# Re-opening of schools consultative inter-governmental meeting

H. E Governor Mutahi Kahiga joined Interior & Co-ordination of National Government CS Dr. Fred Matiang'i, Education CS Prof. George Magoha, Treasury CS Hon. Yukur Yatani, Water CS Cecily Kariuki among other education stakeholders during a consultative inter-governmental meeting on the resumption of the 2020 Basic Education Calendar and the

reopening of schools.

The meeting held at KICC, Nairobi was convened by CS Dr. Matiang'i as the Chairman of the team, ahead of school reopening which started on 4th January countrywide.

As the CoG Education Committee Chair, governor Kahiga expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health

for the great efforts they have done to ensure smooth reopening of the schools during this time of Covid-19 pandemic.

The relevant ministries joined by others like Water, ICT, Transport have also conducted adequate preparations to ensure that schools resume.

Governor Kahiga noted that all the 47 counties are ready

to ensure the 1.92 Million children in ECDE centres reopen as well as students in Vocational Training Centers. He reiterated the counties' support towards this initiative and their commitment to allocating more funds to support the education sector. The governor also urged parents to release their children to the learning institutions after the long break.



*H. E Mutahi Kahiga (centre) addressing inter-governmental meeting on the resumption of the 2020 Basic Education Calendar and the reopening of schools.*

## Fish fair event in Othaya

The Aquaculture Business Development Program (ABDP) is committed towards promoting nutrition and healthy eating habits by encouraging more uptake of fish products. Following this, Nyeri County

fisheries officers led by ABDP county co-ordinator Maureen Muriuki extended a hand of gratitude to AIC Mahiga Children's Home in Othaya sub-county where they dedicated the Christmas Eve to spend time and chat with the

children in a fish fair event.

The children also participated in the fish cooking and were taught about the health benefits of eating fish.

David Mbugua, the Home's manager appreciated the County Government of Nyeri

and ABDP for the noble gesture.

Nyeri County Woman Representative's office which was represented by Mr. Mwangi, also paid a visit to the home and gifted them with a variety of packed food.

# CEREB consultative meeting

*The bloc proposes to leverage its 10 million population to create a new health system akin to Universal Health Coverage programme which is inter-county based.*



*Central Regional Economic Bloc (CEREB) Chairman who is also the Nyandarua Governor H.E Francis Kimemia (left) CEREB CEO Ndirangu Gachunia and H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga during a CEREB meeting in Nairobi.*

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga joined his colleagues from the Central Regional Economic Bloc (CEREB) on a consultative summit meeting, where they laid down various proposals from the secretariat and the council of ministers.

Among the considered and approved proposals was the CEREB budget and work plans, which will help operationalize the bloc and aid it to achieve its objectives.

The bloc has further developed a Post-Covid Economic Recovery Plan through the help of the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPR). Among the plans is the formation of a high-level committee

headed by Amref Health Africa Director and lead of Central Caucus support team Dr Githinji Gitahi. The committee will aid both in advising and leading the bloc on identifying, lobbying and attracting donors.

AfyaRekod led by the General Manager Umuhuny Zuhudi also made a presentation on Digital Health Care Patient Management and Tracking System, a digital health data platform which has three access channels- USSD, mobile app and a website.

AfyaRekod allows health institutions, partners and patients to make insightful data driven decisions that allows doctors to provide better healthcare for patients. It will also enable digitization

of Health Records making patient data portable.

The bloc proposes to leverage its 10 million population to create a new health system akin to Universal Health Coverage programme which is inter-county based.

There was also a presentation by Prof. Joseph Kieyah, who heads the Presidential Coffee Task Force, which addressed on ways of improving the coffee sector across the bloc.

Plans to hold an international investment conference are currently underway, which will help showcase the opportunities in the region to the world in a bid to attract investors to the bloc.



*From left Nyeri Cooperatives Director Peter Theuri, Economic advisor Ndirangu Gachunia, Coffee Cherry Advance Revolving Fund National Coordinator Eng. David Njogu, H.E Mutahi Kahiga, KPCU Chairman Henry Kinyua, Agriculture CEC James Wachih, Trade Chief Officer Ibrahim Aden and Agriculture Chief Officer Ruth Mwangi after the courtesy call.*

## Governor meets with top management of Coffee Advance Fund

*From the farmers, all what is needed is to deliver cherry coffee in their societies and fill in the forms available.*

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga met with the Coffee Cherry Advance Revolving Fund national coordinator Eng. David Njogu and the KPCU Chairman Henry Kinyua where they deliberated much on how Nyeri farmers can benefit much from the fund.

The governor was updated that two coffee societies in Nyeri County have already started to benefit from the cherry fund with New Gikaru Farmers' Cooperative Society farmers in Mukurwe-ini receiving an advance of over Kshs. 1 million. Funds for Othaya Coffee Farmers Society will be released soon.

This is part of the Coffee Cherry Advance Revolving Kshs 3 billion Fund unveiled by the National Government last year.

From the farmers, all what is needed is to deliver cherry coffee in their societies and fill in the forms available. They will later receive Kshs. 20 per kilogramme as an advance before the marketing of their coffee is done.

KPCU Chairman Henry Kinyua who is one of those coordinating the funds encouraged the farmers to apply for the funds since this is a continuous process and farmers can borrow as many times as possible.

The interest rate is just 3 per cent.

The national coordinator Eng. David Njogu who is also the head of the Coffee Revitalization Programme said the team is also planning to modernize machines and drying beds to ensure quality coffee. He also noted that there is a need for more training of extension officers.

The governor expressed his commitment and that of the County Government of Nyeri in supporting coffee farmers to ensure they reap maximum benefit from the crop.

## In support of water sector

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga held a meeting with Tana Water Works Development Agency's (TWWDA) team led by the Board Chair Hon. Joseph M'Eruki and CEO Eng. Phillip Gichuki who paid him a courtesy call in his office.

TWWDA has been very supportive on matters of water and sanitation in the county, having initiated many developmental projects.

Currently, there is an ongoing construction of Othaya sewerage infrastructure project as well as last mile connectivity project. Othaya sewerage project is due to be completed by mid next month.

Governor Kahiga lauded the cordial partnership between the County Government of Nyeri and TWWDA. He also emphasized on the need for more collaboration in future projects to ensure more benefits for the Nyeri citizenry.

Nyeri Water and Irrigation CEC Fredrick Kinyua noted that there is need to expand sewerage of all towns in Nyeri County due to the fast population growth.



## Celebrating Christmas with GBV survivors, teenage mothers

The CEC Gender Youth and Social Services Esther Ndung'u joined Neema GBV Rescue Centre CEO Anne Wambui and other stakeholders in Ruring'u Ward as they celebrated their one year anniversary, and to share the joy of Christmas with the survivors.

Neema GBV Rescue Centre, a partner with the department rescues Gender Based Violence victims and ensures that survivors receive complete medical attention, counselling and justice.

The event was also graced by Nyeri Town MP Hon. Ngunjiri Wambugu who encouraged and supported the girls together with their parents.

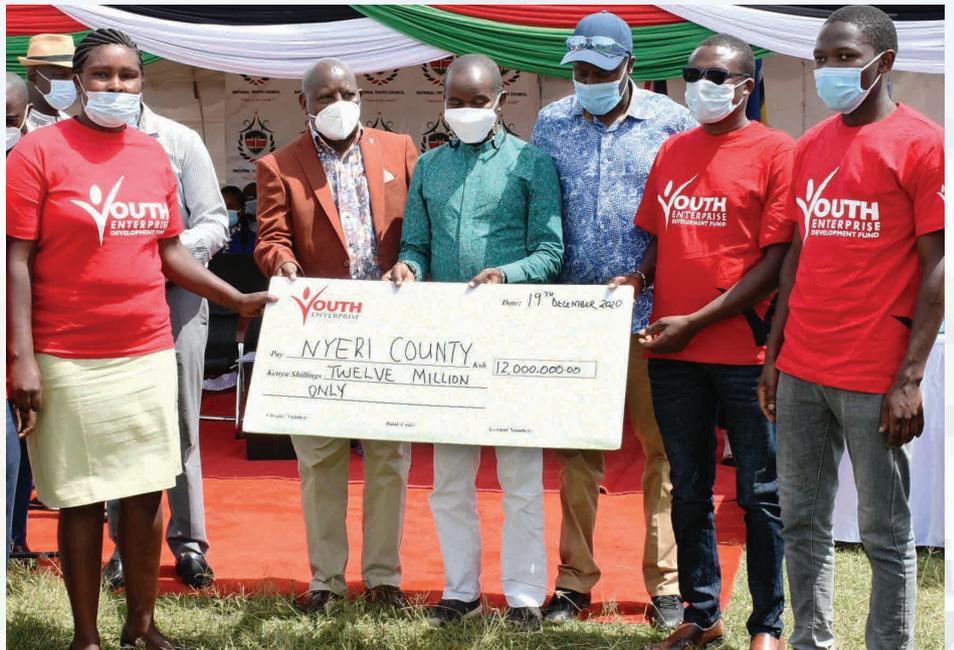
The CEC emphasized on the importance of speaking up about any form of gender based violence, and reporting to help in fighting the vice and to improve access to justice. To the victims of GBV, she encouraged them to complete their studies and empower themselves. She also highlighted on the strides made by the county Government towards addressing the vice. Rev Isaac Ndegwa of Gospel Outreach Ministry gave hope to the GVB victims and reaffirmed their self-worth, self-confidence and self-love. He encouraged them to dust themselves off despite what happened, walk with their head high and look forward towards achieving their goals and aspirations.

The guests shared a meal with the victims and also donated food items and dignity kits.



## Kieni youth graduation ceremony

*The bloc proposes to leverage its 10 million population to create a new health system akin to Universal Health Coverage programme which is inter-county based.*



Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga and ICT CS Joe Mucheru officiated a Youth Graduation Ceremony in Thegu River Ward, Kieni East sub-county after 120 students completed a one-month course on digital skills.

The governor urged the youth to utilize the internet responsibly, gain income by working online and certify their skills by use of the internet.

He said the County Government of Nyeri is committed to supporting the youth in various ways including introduction of ICT hubs at the ward level.

Governor Kahiga who was also accompanied

by area MP Hon. Kani-ni Kega, Speaker Hon. John Kaguchia and area MCA Hon. Richard Kamuhia added that an ICT Hub is being set up at the Nyeri Bus Termini based at Asian Quarters, Nyeri town which will have 50 computers to be used by the youth on regular basis.

ICT CS Joe Mucheru said a similar training of digital skills has also been done in various counties in the country including Bomet, Kericho, Embu and Meru adding that it is by training young people with soft skills that they can advance and develop the country.

In collaboration with

the efforts made by the County Government of Nyeri, the Youth Enterprise Development Fund from the Youth Ministry donated Kshs. 12 Million which will benefit over 4, 000 local youth members.

The governor also attended a mentorship program at Maragima Secondary School, Kieni East sub-county.

The three day program which involved over 200 pupils, was meant to mentor the children under the age of 18 on various matters.

It was organized by the local members of the clergy.

# Sensitization meeting on Covid-19

*The training which was conducted by Nyeri County Disease Surveillance Coordinator Lydia Njaramba focused on how to identify Covid-19 symptoms among ECDE children.*



Nyeri Education CEC Margaret Macharia led a Covid-19 sensitization meeting which was aimed at training Nyeri County Principal Education Officers and polytechnic managers on

how to safeguard against the novel Coronavirus. The training which was conducted by Nyeri County Disease Surveillance Coordinator Lydia Njaramba focused on how to identify

Covid-19 symptoms among ECDE children such as; the 3Cs-coughing, sneezing and rashes, checking of temperature, loss of taste among others.

The PEOs were also ad-

vised to observe the following measures in case a child showed symptoms of Covid-19; keep them at home for 10 days, create quarantine facilities in the school, incorporate home-based care unless a child requires oxygen or ventilation or has underlying issues like diabetes.

Njaramba also urged the PEOs to sensitize the children more on hand washing with soap and water rather than the use of sanitizers and on the use of cloth masks instead of the disposable surgical masks as well as maintaining social distance.

## Disaster response in Nyeri Central and Othaya sub-counties

The Department of Gender Youth and Social Services officers visited Jedidah Wambui's home in Kiganjo/Mathari ward, Nyeri Central sub-county, after a fire burnt down her property. The fire whose cause remains unknown occurred on 30th December, 2020 and gutted down the 4 roomed house with nothing being salvaged. During the visit, the department donated building materials and foodstuff to

the family.

Similarly, Iriaini MCA Hon. John Theuri together with Gender, Youth and Social Services Social Welfare Officer Doris Mwangi visited the family of David Hinga in Gitundu sub-location, Iriaini Ward after a fire burnt down his property. The fire which occurred on 4th December, 2020 was caused by an electric fault. All the household properties were destroyed fortunately no



one was injured during the incident. The department assisted the family with

iron sheets, nails and food items.