



The Coffee Bill, 2020 set to benefit over 80,000 Nyeri coffee farmers



By Joseph Wambugu

The new reforms by the national government as detailed in the proposed Coffee Bill, 2020 is set to immensely benefit over 80,000 small scale Nyeri coffee farmers.

The farmers are optimistic that the Bill will cascade an overhaul in the coffee sector after radical changes

are implemented. This will help the farmers potentially earn more than Kshs. 100 per kilogram of cherry.

The Bill is in the public participation stage before it is returned to the National Assembly. Once passed, it will be assented into law by H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta.

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3rd phase internship programme unveiled

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ty Government of Nyeri for the next one year.

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Governor Kahiga lauded for excellent services at PGH



The residents of Kirichu in Kiganjo/Mathari ward, Nyeri Central sub-county have applauded Nyeri Govern-

or H.E Mutahi Kahiga for the incredible work his government is doing for Nyeri citizens.

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H.E Mutahi Kahiga (left) with Agriculture CS Hon. Peter Munya during a public participation exercise on the proposed Coffee Bill, 2020 at Ruring'u area, Nyeri town. BELOW: A farmer sorting out cherry coffee.

Radical changes will be done in the Coffee Research Institute while new amendments have been introduced in laws of licensing provisions, registration provisions, production and processing, coffee trading and marketing, quality assurance, financial provisions, audit and report and saving and transitional provisions.

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga has fully supported the new reforms in the coffee sector saying this is the only way the local farmers will benefit directly as well as ensure good governance in coffee management.

The governor expressed his commitment and that of the County Government's in supporting coffee farmers to ensure they increase production.

He said that his government has set aside Kshs. 17 million for coffee revitalization in this current financial year which will support the coffee production activities in the county. Next year, the county government is planning to set aside Kshs. 50 million for coffee revitalization.

"I'm sure that farmers can earn over Ksh. 100 per Kg of Cherry if the Bill is passed. I encourage the farmers to bring forward their proposals so that they can be considered," added the governor.

Governor Kahiga further noted that

the county government is continuously training the societies' management on proper governance as well as supporting farmers by providing them with extension services, lime, subsidized fertilizers and soil testing facilities.

During the recent visit in Othaya, Mathira, Mukurwe-ini and Nyeri Central sub-counties, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Co-operative Development CS Hon. Peter Munya said the national government is also planning to modernize machines and drying beds in all the coffee factories to ensure quality coffee.

The CS expressed his commitment towards addressing the challenges being faced by the farmers 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 promised that more extension officers will be hired soon in the new programme in order for farmers to improve on quantity and quality.

Nyeri Agriculture CECM James Wachuhi reiterated the importance of the Bill which will address a lot of challenges faced in the 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.

Already, many farmers have started receiving part of the Kshs. 3 billion Coffee Cherry Advance Revolving Fund which was unveiled by the national government last year at a low interest rate of 3%. Cooperative societies are also set to benefit from the Commodity fund that will be administered at a rate of 5% and will aid in the running of the cooperatives.

The new KPCU Chairman Henry Kinyua said that two coffee societies in Nyeri County have already started to benefit from the cherry fund with farmers receiving Kshs. 16 million.

New Gikaru Farmers' Cooperative Society farmers in Mukurwe-ini received an advance of over Kshs. 3.3 million and Kshs. 12.5 million funds have also been disbursed to Othaya Farmer's Cooperative Society members.

From the farmers, all that is needed is for them to deliver cherry coffee in their



societies and fill in the forms available. They will later receive Kshs. 20 per kilogram as an advance before the marketing of their coffee is done.

Kinyua has since encouraged the farmers to apply for the funds since this is a continuous process and farmers can borrow as many times as possible. The money is usually released in a few days and sent directly to the farmer either via a bank account or mobile money.

On the other hand, Nyeri County is among the eight pilot counties under the Coffee Revitalization Programme. The programme aims at increasing production and productivity, improve the

efficiency of coffee farmers' co-operative societies, support research development and technology dissemination and develop alternative coffee market.

Nyeri Trade, Tourism and Cooperative Development CECM Diana Kendi noted that the County Government of Nyeri has been committed to supporting the farmers using extension officers and use of lime to improve soil in order to double their production.

Nyeri county produced 24 million Kgs in year 2019 while last year the county produced 20 million kilograms which was a shortfall of 4 million kilograms.

Some of the radical changes in the proposed Coffee Bill 2020

1

Payments for all coffee shall be done through the Direct Payments System (DSS) from which direct payments will be made to all those who have offered a service for the coffee: millers, marketing agents, coffee factories, estate accounts, and individual farmers.

2

The Bill also re-establishes the Coffee Research Foundation as the Coffee Research Institute which will be autonomous in its operations, implementation of programs, and in the allocation and management of its resources.

3

The Bill proposes in the inclusion of the Nairobi Coffee Exchange into the law to bring a solution on price discovery. Coffee offered for sale through direct sales will also be subjected to auction to enhance better buying prices.

4

The Coffee Bill also prohibits millers and marketing agents from lending to farmers.

5

The miller and marketer licenses have been collapsed into one license instead of two separate licenses.

6

Factory management will also find it hard to borrow money as the Bill prohibits them from using farmers' assets as collateral for any reason. They also won't be allowed to borrow money at interest rates of more than 5% interest rate.

7

Coffee factories will now involve the members in the appointment of their own miller/marketer. This will be done annually from a list of at least three millers.

8

The Bill seeks to reduce the cost of milling to \$40 per tonne and capped the milling loss at 19%.

3rd phase internship programme unveiled



H.E Mutahi Kahiga (centre) with some of the 200 interns after unveiling the third phase of internship programme. On the fifth right is County Public Service Management CEC Beth Karimi. On the extreme right is County Public Service Board Chairman Paul Kimondo. BELOW: Some of the interns following proceedings.

By Njambi Mugo

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga officially launched the third phase of the internship programme where 200 interns have been hired to work in the County Government of Nyeri for the next one year.

The colourful launch was held at Town Hall grounds, Nyeri town.

Nyeri County Public Service Board received over 1, 400 applications when the positions were advertised. The applicants underwent two rigorous interviews until 200 were selected, 187 have so far reported.

25 of the interns have been selected from outside Nyeri County coming from as far as Kisii, Marsabit and Samburu achieving the requirement for 30% of recruitment of persons not from the dominant community in the county. This is in line with the provisions of the Kenya Constitution and the principles and values of Public Service of promoting national cohesion and affords opportunities for appointment, training and advancement to members of all ethnic groups.

The success of the internship programme is evident as over 40 interns from the previous two cohorts have been able to secure employment in the county government.

Governor Kahiga lauded the Nyeri County Assembly for passing the budget of the cohort in order for them to have an opportunity to be mentored by seasoned public servants.

He urged the interns to remain dedicated in their work, and take full advantage of this platform which not only gives them a chance to bridge gap between theory and practical but also to network. He further encouraged them to remain FAT- Faithful, Available and Teachable.

MCA's present led by the Majority Leader Hon. James Kanyugo lauded the programme aimed at mentoring the youth and promised to continue providing budget for the same.

Nyeri County has provided a benchmark for other counties.



WE ARE TRANSFORMING NYERI ONE STEP AT A TIME

Exclusive interview with Karatina Firewoman, Catherine Kariithi

By Governor's Press Unit

What are the duties and responsibilities of a fire officer in your unit?

The main responsibilities of a fire officer are to save lives, prevent more destruction of properties and humanitarian services.

For how long have you been in the service and what mentored you to join the fire service?

I have been in service from April 2019. The passion for working with the fire department grew strong after one of my neighbour's houses was burnt down to the ground and all property destroyed.

What is your experience working in a male dominated area? What challenges do you face?

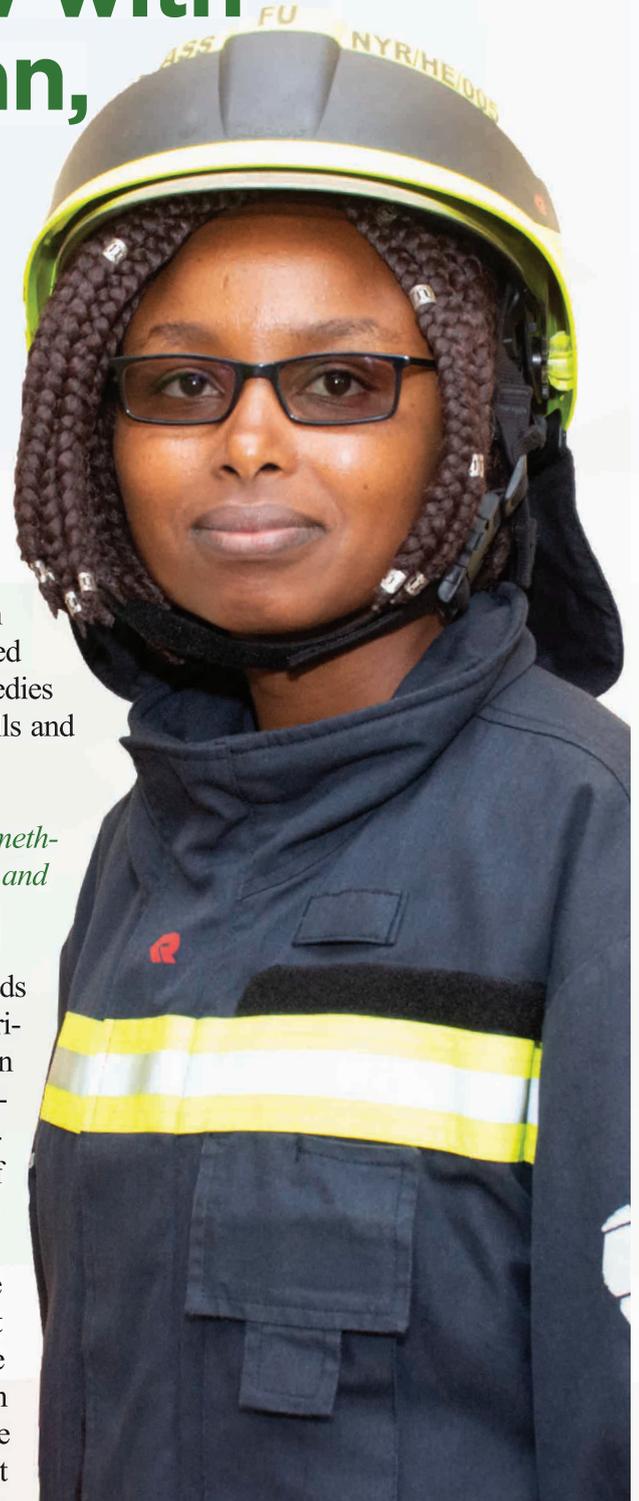
I am honoured to represent a minority group in the workforce and so far, I have gained a lot of skills through several trainings and from my fellow colleagues. However, I face some challenges including distrust and discrimination due to gender as well as lack of psychological support.

When you talk of disaster, what does it entail? Which common disasters are usually reported in the county?

Disaster is a calamitous event that disrupts the functioning of a society causing human, material and environmental losses that exceed the society's ability to cope using its own resources. The most reported disaster cases are fire tragedies and drowning in rivers, wells and man-made dams.

Enlighten us on the various methods of extinguishing the fire and the steps need to be taken.

Fire extinguishing methods are determined by the fire triangle i.e. for the fire to burn it consists of three components, Fuel, Heat and Oxygen. If you remove one of the above fires goes off. The method of removing fuel is known as starvation. The method of removing heat is known as cooling. The method of removing oxygen is known as smothering. The above is done by different types of extinguishing agents



“I am honoured to represent a minority group in the workforce and so far, I have gained a lot of skills through several trainings and from my fellow colleagues,” Catherine Kariithi



What efforts has the County Government of Nyeri done to improve your working conditions? And what more is needed to reach international standards of disaster preparedness?

The County Government of Nyeri has supported the fire department through the following ways; purchasing of two state-of-the-art modern fire engines and providing firemen/firewomen with Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs). For the department to achieve international standards in matters of disaster preparedness, we need to set up modern fire stations, establish a command centre where all county disaster calls will be dispatched to and a toll free line.

Tell us about the famous disaster you once faced that you will never forget.

The most famous disaster I can never forget was one I responded to at Kiangoma village in Mathira East sub-county where two kids died and burnt into ashes in an inferno.

How do you balance between your family and work?

It's not very easy but open communication and respect in the family has made my work easier.

What advice would you give to your fellow youth who are jobless or staying idle at home waiting for white collar jobs?

I would advice my fellow youths never to choose the type of job to do because at the end of the day what matters is providing for your daily needs irrespective of the vocation you are in.

Marafiki FC VS. Rware United FC derby

Governor Kahiga called upon Nyeri sports team to take advantage of the county bus which is at their disposal.

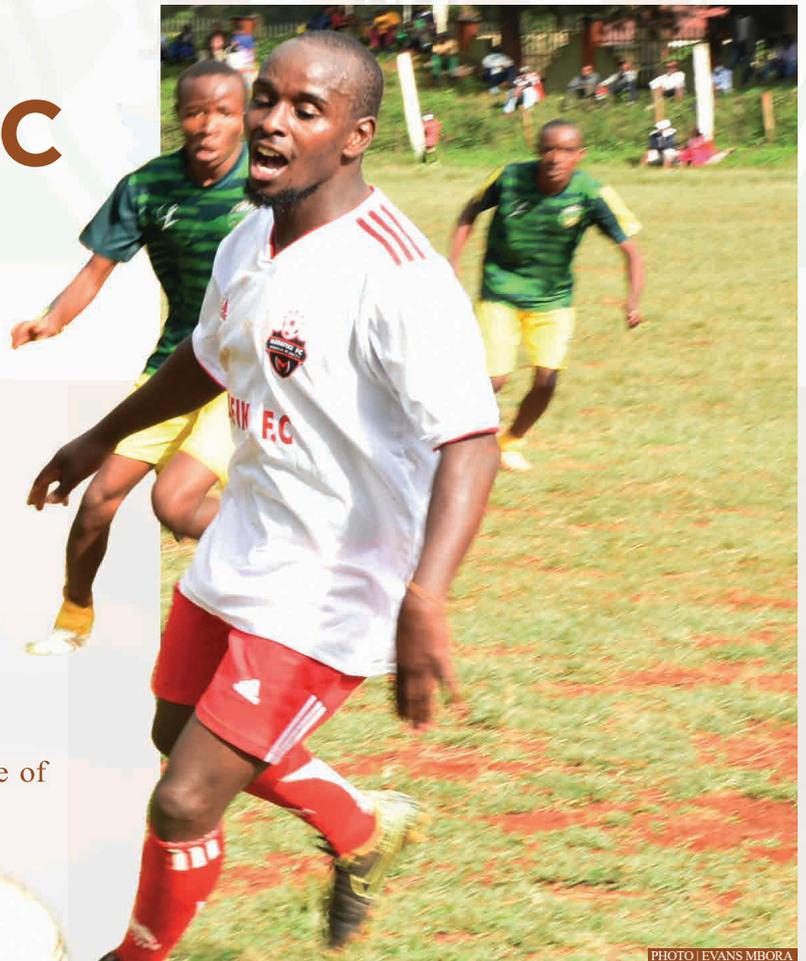
By Evans Mbora

H. E Governor Mutahi Kahiga joined soccer fans in witnessing the Division 2 game between Marafiki FC and Rware United FC at Ruring'u Stadium, Nyeri Central sub-county.

Governor Kahiga noted that the County Government of Nyeri has remained committed in supporting all sports activities

including improving sports facilities in the county to ensure we nurture talents.

He also called upon Nyeri sports team to take advantage of the county bus which is at their disposal.



Governor lauded for excellent services at PGH



PHOTOS: PETER WANGARI

H.E Mutahi Kahiga (right) inspecting the cabros which have been used to upgrade part of the Nyeri Referral Hospital. BELOW: One of the upgraded wards in the hospital.

By Faith Hiuhi

The residents of Kirichu village in Kiganjo / Mathari ward, Nyeri Central sub-county have applauded Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga for the incredible work his government is doing for Nyeri citizens.

They expressed their gratitude for having a leader who is development oriented, further, acknowledging the great work done particularly in the health sector.

One of the area residents Charles Nduhiu Gathemia, who has had a first-



hand experience at the Nyeri County Referral Hospital (PGH), lauded the top notch services he received at the facility.

“My wife recently delivered our last born at the Nyeri County Referral Hospital and compared to other medical facilities that we have visited before, I must say I was happy with the services offered,” he said.

He also commended the medical personnel at the hospital adding that they were very professional, friendly and served diligently as well as the support staff who were zealous in the way they carried out their duties.

“I wish to commend the hygiene and sanitation at

the hospital as well as their observation of Covid-19 protocols which was outstanding and could not go unnoticed,” he added.

The Nyeri County Referral Hospital is one of the hospitals that has had a face lift since Governor Kahiga took the leadership mantle over three years ago. Other medical facilities which have been renovated include; Karatina, Mukurwe-ini, Mt Kenya and Othaya Level 4 Hospitals.

The County Government of Nyeri initiated the refurbishment of these medical facilities a few years ago to ensure quality services are offered to the people of Nyeri County.

“

My wife recently delivered our last born at the Nyeri County Referral Hospital and compared to other medical facilities that we have visited before, I must say I was happy with the services offered,”
Charles Nduhiu.



Governor officiates the disbursement of ECDE and YP learning materials

By Ivy Maruga

H. E Governor Mutahi Kahiga officiated the disbursement of ECDE Centres and Youth Polytechnic learning materials at Town Hall Grounds, Nyeri town. The consignment worth Kshs. 9.3 million consisted of plastic chairs, reading tables, reading and writing materials and will be distributed across all ECDE centres. Kaberero, Githiru and Thangathi Youth Polytechnics also received training materials such as sewing machines, salon and barber equipment. Governor Kahiga noted that the county government has employed over 800 ECDE teachers, built and renovated 39 ECDE Centres as well as built and equipped 13 polytechnics with an aim of improving the education sector and ensure a good learning environment for all the learners across the county.

He further noted that about 100 water tanks will be distributed to the centres in a bid to fight the Covid 19 pandemic by ensuring regular cleaning of hands and general sanitation.

The governor added that a good foundation in education is the key to success and thus laid emphasis on creating a good learning environment for the young learners.

The County Government of Nyeri further supports students across the county by disbursing Elimu Bursary Funds annually. So far over 51,000 students have benefited from the program for the last three years and an additional 120 students through the Governor's Scholarship Program.



PHOTO | KENNEDY KARANJA

Training of VTCs manager and chairmen



PHOTO | ZIPPORAH MWANGI

By Zipporah Mwangi

The Department of Education and Sports conducted a training exercise for Vocational Training Centres' managers and chairmen which aimed at educating them on how to account for funds, book keeping and leadership.

The training which was conducted by auditor George Karimi was held at Nairutia, Gitero and Karatina Vocational Training Centres.

Education CEC Margaret Macharia emphasized on the need for continuous trainings especially to personnel at the management level, as a way of enhancing good governance and leadership.

The CEC further urged the managers and chairmen to continue observing Covid-19 protocols and to sensitize their students on the importance of the same, now that learning has resumed.

Education...

Inspection of schools across the county

Most of the schools have observed the Covid-19 protocols however, maintaining social distance is still an issue.



PHOTO | ZIPPORAH MWANGI

By Zipporah Mwangi

Nyeri Education CEC Margaret Macharia joined National Government officers as they went around Nyeri County visiting schools to inspect on their observation of Covid-19 protocols.

Some of the schools visited were; Kangubiri Girls High School, St. Joseph Alamano Special School, Wamagana Primary School, Giakanja Primary School, Kagumo Boys High School and Muga Academy.

Most of the schools have observed the Covid-19 protocols however, maintaining social distance is still an issue due to new transfers cases as a result of closure of private schools.

In brief...

Review of Nyeri County Gender Policy

By Jane Baru

The Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services led by the Chief Officer George Mwangi, held a meeting which was aimed at reviewing the Nyeri County Gender Policy.

The County Government of Nyeri Gender Policy is an instrument for change aimed at illustrating the County Government's bold step to efforts in breaking with the past and moving on with promoting sustainable development for both women and men in Nyeri.

The Policy demonstrates high political good will and commitment by the Executive to eliminate all forms of gender-based discrimination in order to achieve gender equality for all. This policy is being formulated in partnership with the Center for Rights and Education (CREAW).



PHOTO | JANE BARU

CGN lauded by CoG team

The team also commended the efforts put in place to curb the spread of Coronavirus such as installing handwashing points and ensuring pupils wear face masks.

By Zipporah Mwangi



PHOTO | ZIPPORAH MWANGI

Nyeri Education CEC Margaret Macharia (*pictured*) was honoured to host a team of representatives from the Council of Governors (CoG) who paid a courtesy call to her office.

The team was in Nyeri County to assess the measures being taken in the ECDE centres upon school

resumption in the midst of Covid-19 pandemic.

The representatives lauded the County Government of Nyeri under the leadership of H. E Governor Mutahi Kahiga for employing over 800 ECDE teachers to facilitate learning at the centres as well as building and renovation of the same.

The team also commended the efforts put in place to curb the spread of Coronavirus such as installing handwashing points and ensuring pupils wear face masks. However, some of the centres are still working on social distancing.

BEFORE & AFTER PICTORIAL



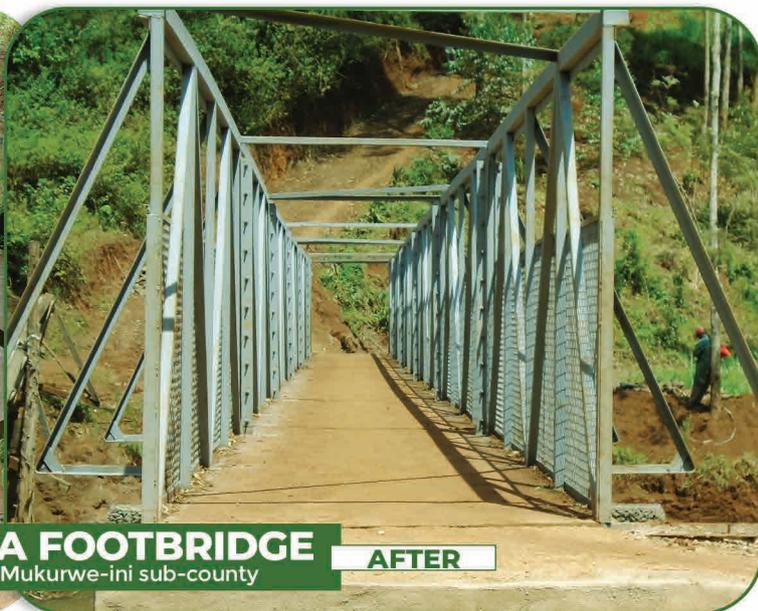
BEFORE **MWEIGA BUS PARK** **AFTER**
Mweiga ward, Kieni West sub-county



BEFORE **PGH PARKING LOT** **AFTER**
Nyeri town



BEFORE **GATTU-GATURA FOOTBRIDGE** **AFTER**
Mukurwe-ini West ward, Mukurwe-ini sub-county



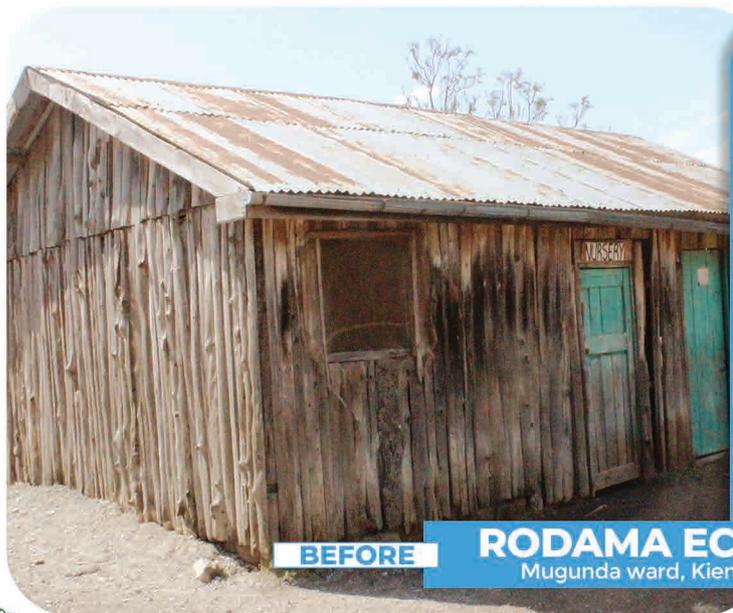
BEFORE & AFTER PICTORIAL



BEFORE **CLASSIC- NGANGARITHI ROAD** **AFTER**
Kamakwa ward, Nyeri Central sub-county



BEFORE **ITHEKAHUNO MARKET** **AFTER**
Aguthi Gaaki ward, Tetu sub-county



BEFORE **RODAMA ECDE CENTRE** **AFTER**
Mugunda ward, Kieni West sub-county