



WEEKLY REVIEW



ISSUE 67 | 15TH - 19TH MARCH, 2021



Gender, Youth & Social Services CEC Esther Ndung'u (centre) together with some of the beneficiaries during the official launch of the 16 Days of Activism at Town Hall grounds, Nyeri town. The programme fights against Gender Based Violence in Nyeri County. On the extreme right is Nyeri County Secretary Ben Gachichio.

Why Nyeri won the Gender Equality Award

The County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Gender, Youth & Social Services started an initiative in July 2020 dubbed 'A better tomorrow for teenage mothers and SGBV victims' which sought to address the challenges of teenage pregnancies, teenage mothers as well as victims of SGBV from poor backgrounds.

By Governor's Press Unit

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused great havoc and disruptions not to mention the social and economic upheavals across the world. In Kenya, to stem its spread, schools, religious institutions and businesses were closed abruptly while curfews and lockdowns were imposed. The resultant effect

of this was massive job losses, loss of livelihoods, economic constraints, increased poverty and unattended adolescents as parents struggled to make ends meet. A notable spike in Gender Based Violence (GBV) and in particular Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) directed to girls and women

who are more vulnerable to exploitation was evident. Nyeri County experienced a similar upsurge in GBV cases, with most of them going unreported. The number of teenage pregnancies escalated mostly due to sexual violence. Girls between the ages of 12-18 years were the most affected as many of

them got pregnant as a result of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and also out of curiosity (as is the case with all adolescents) and idleness.

Continued on page 2,3&4



The outcome threatened their future in education and economic well-being. The county has over 500 reported cases of teenage pregnancies during the COVID-19 pandemic while the youngest reported case of defilement was a 4 month old infant.

As such, the County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Gender, Youth & Social Services started an initiative in July 2020 dubbed '*A better tomorrow for teenage mothers and SGBV victims*' which sought to address the

challenges of teenage pregnancies, teenage mothers as well as victims of SGBV from poor backgrounds. Most of these teenage girls and young women were victims of SGBV before, during or after Covid -19 lock downs from all the eight sub-counties of Nyeri County.

For this noble initiative, the County Government of Nyeri under the leadership of H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga scored another first by winning the National Gender Equality and Wom-

en Empowerment Award. This award was announced by the First Lady Margaret Kenyatta, in recognition of the county's outstanding achievement and contribution in advancing the gender equality and women empowerment agenda.

In close collaboration with the National Government, the department identifies these girls and their guardians or parents. Later, it holds sensitization, empowerment forums, psychosocial support, counseling sessions with the girls and their parents and supports them with food and non-food items like dignity kits envisioned to last them for over six months, support with mama care packs among others.

The initiative also received support from other stakeholders such as AMREF Health, UN Women, Center for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW), Ministry of Education, Department of Health, State

Department of Gender, State Department of Youth, the Judiciary, the Civil Society, CITAM church and other Religious leaders.

Key activities included the following:

- Data collection of the pregnant teenagers, teenage mothers and victims of SGBV. This was done with support of the Deputy County Commissioners in the sub-counties, the administration, Community Health Volunteers, GBV champions among other stakeholders.

- Tuandamane forums: these are Sensitization and Mentorship forums aimed at encouraging the girls and young women by restoring hope into their lives while counseling and encouraging them to accept to go back to school. During these sessions the girls are accompanied by their parents or guardians who are also counseled and encouraged to support the girls and their babies they have delivered and look after their grandchildren as their daughters went back to school. Four sub-county forums have so far been held bringing together close to 200 girls who had either delivered or were pregnant and a further four forums are planned during the April holiday targeting the remaining unreached girls.

- Creation of local social peer to peer support groups for girls who are linked to the nearby health facilities for psycho-social support and medical reviews. These support groups are also set to be meeting during school holidays.





- Economic empowerment of the girls and their parents/ guardians through training on various forms of economic empowerment which includes soap and mat making among others.

- Twenty seven pregnant and teenage mothers, SGBV survivors from very vulnerable homes were selected and are set to benefit with Ksh 20,000 each being payment of their school fees. This is in partnership with AMREF Health who donated Ksh 540,000.00 towards the cause.

- Distribution of food and non-food items during the sensitization forums in support of the vulnerable families.

- Distribution of sanitary towels to over 4000 girls and women who are victims or are at high risk of experiencing GBV. This was during the commemoration of the '16 days of activism against GBV' held from 25th November to 10th December 2020. These girls were also sensitized on various forms of GBV, preven-

tion, menstrual hygiene etc during the distribution each received over six months of supplies. They were encouraged on *"Masomo kwanza"* and *"ending teenage pregnancies."*

- Training of 30 Gender Based Violence (GBV) champions at the community level.

- Negotiation and Lobbying for the establishment of a county-run safe house for GBV survivors from Amref health to support victims of Gender Based Violence in the County.

- Drafting the Nyeri

County Gender Policy to guide in gender mainstreaming activities in the County.

- Wheels for life program in partnership with Amref health and department of health. This program is aimed at supporting pregnant women who would experience pregnancy related emergencies at night during curfew hours by offering free transport into a health facility.

- Advocating for justice for the victims through partnership with the judiciary

Impact of the Innovation on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

- Many of the pregnant girls went back to school to complete their education giving them an equal chance as their male counterparts hence promoting Gender equality.

- The parents who were adamant about taking care of their grandchildren as their daughters went back to school agreed to support their daughters.

- Increased awareness of various forms and harmful effects of GBV among the women and girls with emphasis on prevention of GBV in Nyeri County.

- Increased reporting of GBV cases in the county's rescue center, the police gender desk, through the GBV champions. This is due to the sensitization and encouraging the victims to speak out and speak up against GBV.



- Promotion of economic empowerment through soap and mat making which can be used as an income generating activity.
- Reduced mortality rate of pregnant mothers and newborns through the wheels for life program.
- Decrease in the number of girls who miss classes due to lack of sanitary towels during menstruation.
- Continuous mentorship for the girls and young women through the formation of peer to peer support groups.
- Promotion of Gender Responsive Services through drafting of the Nyeri County Gender Policy to ensure that all departments in the County incorporate gender issues into their activities and programs legislating on gender issues and women leadership. Increased collaboration with the county



assembly.

- Promotion of Women leadership and Decision making by training the 30 GBV champions to assist in identification and reporting of GBV cases at the community level, and also in mentorship of girls and women in the Nyeri County.
- Creation of synergy and strengthened partnerships with other policy makers, civil society, women's organizations, young people,

religious leaders, the judiciary and other key stakeholders in creating awareness on the need to end this global pandemic of GBV and also of teenage pregnancies.

- Training of GBV champions have increased awareness on prevention, control and referral for management of GBV.
- Increased timely referrals of cases for justice due to the efforts of the duty bearers and expedition

of criminal justice in addressing SGBV incidences to ensure accountability for perpetrators and justice and safety of survivors.

- Decrease in cases of fear of being believed, ridiculed or stigmatized on GBV reporting hence
- More GBV victims are more bold in telling their stories, giving hope and encouragement to other victims.

Sensitization on Covid-19 data management

The Department of Health Services organized a sensitization forum on Covid-19 data management. The forum targeted Health Records and Information Officers (HRIOs) representatives from the 8 sub-counties and representatives from both public and private hospitals. The participants were taken through the use of various reporting tools on Covid-19, vaccines storage and clients' eligibility for the vaccine. The sensitization is timely with the introduction of the Covid-19 vaccine which has



a whole new aspect of registering and reporting the data collected. HRIOs are the custodian of records hence

important to bring them on board in order to ensure what they report is free from discrepancies.

Hospital HRIOS as well as those in private practice were also given credentials for registering and reporting.

KCSAP conducts farmer appreciation visits

Officers from the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP) Nyeri conducted an activity that had them visit a number of farmers who are part of beneficiary groups of KCSAP in Kieni West sub-county.

Lillian Akinyi of Mugunda ward, chairlady of the Jipange Kimuri Group who are beneficiaries of the KCSAP potato seed bulking and chick programmes, was pleasantly surprised and grateful not only for the visit but also for the support that KCSAP has accorded them in their journey through trainings and technical support.

The group, which consists of 26 members first, received 12 bags of potato seeds which they proceeded to plant in a 3/4 acre piece of land which later brought in 188 bags in harvest. The group, motivated by the harvest, went ahead to increase their potato farming acreage to 2 acres through which they hope to harvest not less than 500 bags in this year's harvest. The group has also recently benefited from KCSAP's chick project which has seen each member receive 40 one-month-old chicks, chicken coop building materials and feeds for their chicks. The group which is now a KEPHIS certified Irish potato producer,



lauded these efforts to diversify their trade and hopes to have quality produce in the chicken industry too.

In Gatarakwa ward, Elizabeth Wairimu of the vulnerable and marginalized (VMG) group Eliezel Widow Group and her daughter Esther Njoki of the Gitegi Muiganania Group are also both beneficiaries from KCSA. The Eliezel Widow Group members each recently received 28 chicks and 250g of onion seeds for the purposes of promoting quality and diversity in their farming practices.

The Gitegi Muiganania Group consisting of 20

members in turn each received 93 chicks with which they've proceeded to rear to adult size and now engage in egg and chicken sales. In an effort to curb exploitation and to increase sales, the group has created a cooperative society dubbed Mukeni Cooperative Society which they are in the process of implementing.

Felicia Muthanji of the Happy Mothers Group in Gatarakwa ward and her fellow members each received 40 one-month-old chicks which gradually made them a significant entity in the egg and chicken trade in the area and in Nyeri County at large. Fe-

licia expressed gratitude to KCSAP for not only availing this platform to them but also offering vegetable and onion seeds for their kitchen gardens which in addition to providing food, also gives them an alternative source of income.

Speaking to the farmers, Alice Gichuki, the KCSAP Nyeri Program Coordinator commended the farmers for their respective efforts in their different trades. She urged them to embrace chick hatching in order to ensure sustainability and value addition in their practices.

Celebrating Africa Scouts Day

Following the partnership MoU signed between the World Scout Parliamentary Union Kenya (WSPU) and the County Government of Nyeri, the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services joined youths from five counties to commemorate the Scout movement in Africa at Baden Powell Memorial Park.

Representing the governor was the Gender, Youth and Social Services Chief Officer George Mwangi.

Speaking during the event, the CO appreciated the efforts made by the WSPU in bringing together 100 youths



from Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Murang'a, Kiambu and Nyanjiru Counties.

He also urged the youth to be innovative in ways that can bring Kenya forward. Ideas such as how drones can be

incorporated in fighting the locust invasion in Kenya are one of the ways he suggested the youth to venture into. "By developing technology, by developing home-grown solutions to problems all

over the world, then this country has the potential to be a great country in the world," he added.

Theme: 'Building Resilience among Communities in Africa'

Contractor at Nyeri Bus Termini given two weeks to finish work



Nyeri Governor H.E. Mutahi Kahiga has given the contractor doing road works within Nyeri Town Bus Termini a two-week ultimatum

to complete work, failure to which the contract will be suspended.

Governor Kahiga noted that the contractor has been dil-

ly-dallying in the completion of the cabropaving works despite regular extension of his contract. Most of the main works have been completed and what is remaining is cabropaving blocks which is 85% done.

Speaking during a routine inspection of the project, he noted that the traders have been conducting their businesses at Kamukunji stadium un-

der harsh weather and so the contractor should pull up his socks before the start of the long rains.

This is a flagship project of the County Government of Nyeri and the World Bank under the Kenya Urban Support Program (KUSP).

It 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, a police post and a market.

The project aims at reducing congestion within Nyeri CBD and boosting Nyeri's economy.

Narumoro Level 4 Hospital to be operational by end of this year

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga did a routine checkup of the Narumoro Level 4 Hospital in Kieni East sub-county.

The hospital is 95% complete with main works almost done and has remained with furnishing and equipping.

Governor Kahiga noted that he was impressed with the works done so far by the contractor saying that they are only minor delays.

A road leading to the hospital is also being redesigned and will be tarmacked as part of the project.

The hospital, which will serve the larger Kieni that has lacked such a medical facility before, is expected to be completed and equipped by the end of the year.

The governor also visited the Narumoro Health Centre and was happy with the manner in which services were being offered at the facility.

He lauded the medical personnel led by the facility nursing officer in-charge Eustace Murigu, for the exemplary work they are doing.

The County Government of Nyeri has also recently built an incinerator at the facility to aid in the disposal of medical waste.



Social response in Mukurwe-ini and Kieni East sub-counties

Officers from the Department of Gender, Youth, and Social Services work tirelessly in identifying vulnerable cases at the grassroots level. They follow-up these visits with donations from the County Emergency Kit, which includes food and non-food items.

In Mukurwe-ini, the case entailed a fire incident from Mbari ya Gitu village, Gikondi ward in Mukurwe-ini sub-county, where



a four-roomed corrugated house and a one-room wooden house belonging to Paul

Irungu got completely burnt. Leading this exercise was Hannah Wangechi- Social

Welfare Officer-in-charge of Mukurwe-ini.

In Kieni East, the case entailed a home in Aguthi village, Ndiriti sub-location. The owner has been trying to rebuild her home after she and her family were evacuated from Naromoru town. Her current house is partly made of iron sheets and Manila paper. Leading this exercise was James Mwangangi-Social Welfare Officer-in-charge of Kieni East.

Governor reminds Nyerians to remain vigilant of Covid-19

Nyeri Governor H.E Muthi Kahiga has called upon Nyeri residents to remain vigilant of the Covid-19 pandemic which is currently in its third wave. Speaking during a routine inspection of the Naromoru Level 4 Hospital, he urged the citizenry to observe the stipulated MoH protocols and the president's directives in a bid to curb the further spread of Coronavirus.

He urged them to continue wearing masks, to sanitize and wash their hands regularly as well as to maintain

social distance. So far Nyeri County has recorded 1,326 cases with 50 deaths.



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COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, PUBLIC WORKS, INFRASTRUCTURE & ENERGY

TENDER NOTICE

Bids are invited from eligible and qualified firms for the following works:-

ITEM NO	PROJECT NAME	WARD	TENDER REFERENCE	BID BOND (KSH)	ELIGIBILITY
1	PROPOSED UPGRADING OF KIAMWATHI-NYERI ROAD (P-54 NYERI) AND KIAMWATHI-NYERI ROAD (P-55 NYERI)	RWARE	CGN/TEND/INFRA /042/2020-2021	300,000	OPEN
2	PROPOSED UPGRADING OF STORM WATER DRAINAGE AT RURINGU MEETING POINT.	RURINGU	CGN/TEND/INFRA /043/2020-2021	180,000	OPEN

Interested bidders must meet all the conditions as indicated in the tender document for each category and can view and download the documents free of charge from the County website www.nyeri.go.ke

Bidders **MUST** submit a hard copy of their bid in plain sealed envelopes with the tender number clearly marked and bearing no indication of the identity of the tenderer and should be addressed to:

**THE COUNTY SECRETARY
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI
P.O Box 1112-10100
NYERI**

And placed in the **Tender Box** located at the **Governor's Office Ground floor of P.O. Box 1112 – 10100, Nyeri** sent by post to reach the above address on or before **30th March 2021 at 10:00 AM.**

NB: Bidders with ongoing contracts with County Government of Nyeri which are incomplete and/or stalled, and the validity of reason for such stoppage is not documented with the County Government will not be considered. Submitted tender documents shall be opened publicly soon after the above stated closing date and time in the **County Secretary's Boardroom**, in the presence of tenderers or their representatives who choose to attend , in **adherence to measures put in place to stop the spread of Covid-19.** Late bids shall not be accepted or opened.

**County Secretary,
County Government of Nyeri.**

Governor receives Covid-19 vaccine

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga received the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine at the Nyeri County Referral Hospital, Nyeri town.

The County Government of Nyeri has received 6,000 doses and an additional 3,000 doses which have been distributed to Othaya Hospital- Kenyatta Annex. The doses will be administered first to the health care workers and teachers across the county.

Governor Kahiga called upon healthcare workers in public, private and faith-based hospitals to get vaccinated in a bid to protect themselves, as they are on the frontline in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

He further assured the recipients

that the vaccine is safe, hence encouraged citizens to voluntarily get vaccinated in a bid to curb the further spread of the pandemic.

The governor reminded those receiving the jabs to continue adhering to the laid down MoH regulations. The second jab will be after eight weeks.

Dr. Nelson Muriu, Nyeri Health Services Director noted that the vaccine is a game-changer and one of the high impact prevention interventions being carried out thus encouraged people to get vaccinated, particularly the healthcare workers. So far, about 200 people have been vaccinated in Nyeri County.



Health Services Fund Bill forum

The Nyeri County Health Services Fund Bill, is a bill that was developed to improve health care service delivery in health facilities across Nyeri County and to provide for administration.

A public participation was conducted at Wambugu Farm by chairmen of health facilities, members of the Nyeri County Assembly, clinical officers and nurses unions, Nyeri Budget Coalition and the public to deliberate on the bill and give their inputs. The public participation exercise will be carried out across the County.

The proposals forwarded by the participants include:

1. There be a protection clause ensuring that the health financial allocation does not fall below the current one, so that the bill does not lose its purpose.
2. Five per cent of the health budget to be secured for mental health services.

The Bill's objectives include:

1. To improve the quality of health care services.
2. To ensure facilities have better access to financial resources.
3. Ensure health facilities are more responsive to medical and public health emergencies.
4. Ensure an amount not less than twenty per cent of the monies are set aside for disbursement and are equitably allocated to primary health services.

A fund board will be established for the bill which will be administered in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act which will comprise of nine members.

It will provide oversight of the administration of the monies drawn from the fund, mobilize the resources, provide guidance to hospital board and receive reports from the hospital boards for considerations and adoption.

Once the bill is enacted, the members of the community stand to benefit from improved delivery of quality health services.

Covid-19 measures announced

 *Since the start of the pandemic, the County Government of Nyeri with the guidance from the County Covid-19 Committee has issued several public health notices/advisories on Covid-19 prevention measures.*

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga has suspended all government meetings, trainings or any form of public gatherings for the next 30 days after the Covid-19 positivity rate in the county reached 25%, a figure higher than the national positivity rate which stands at 17%.

The governor noted that Nyeri County has witnessed an increased number of Covid-19 infections in the last two weeks; coupled with a significant increase in patients presenting with mild to severe disease which is largely attributable to the recent laxity in adherence to the prescribed protocols and public health measures.

As of 18th March 2021, Nyeri County had recorded 1,364 cases of Covid-19 disease from an estimated 5,377 samples translating to a positivity rate of 25%. Two-thirds of the Covid cases are from Nyeri Central sub-county which has continuously recorded the highest burden since the onset. 52 Covid-19 deaths have been reported since the beginning of the outbreak.

Since the start of the pandemic, the county government with the guidance from the County Covid-19 Committee has continuously issued several public health notices/advisories on Covid-19 prevention measures. In this regard the county government through the Department of Health Services advises all county departments to observe the following measures in order to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 disease:

1. All food handlers be re-tested and certified Covid-19 free.
2. All County Government Staff with pre-existing medical conditions and aged 58 years and above to be considered for the Covid-19 vaccine.
3. All county departments to undertake regular fumigation of their office premises, public washrooms and vehicles.
4. Workers to minimize walk-in visitors except by prior appointment and all staff and persons visiting government facilities/institutions must always wear face masks that covers nose and mouth.
5. The Department of Health will enhance inspection and supervision of all public premises- i.e., restaurants, churches, eateries, supermarkets, markets, among others and all departments must have functional hand-washing facilities that are well labeled.
6. Departments should have persons assigned at the entrance points to carry out temperature screening for staff and clients using a functional contact free thermometer. Any persons with elevated temperatures should be reported to the surveillance team-Tel 0717001649/ 719.
7. The front line workers are encouraged to go for Covid-19 vaccine which is being conducted at the selected hospitals in the county which include Nyeri County Referral Hospital, Outspan Hospital, Mathari Hospital, TumuTumu Hospital, Othaya Level 6 Hospital, Mukurwe-ini Hospital, Karatina Hospital and Othaya sub-county Hospital.

Plans are underway to start the exercise of Narumoru and Mweiga hospitals. The county has already received 6,000 doses of AstraZeneca Covid – 19 vaccine.

Free clubfoot treatment and management



In collaboration with Hope Walks Organization, the Department of Health Services has continued to pursue a noble course in managing club foot.

The program commenced in 2008 at the Nyeri County Referral Hospital and has successfully seen over 600 clients undergo treatment. The hospital is the sole provider of clubfoot treatment services in the Mt. Kenya region serv-

ing patients from parts of Nyandarua, Murang'a and Laikipia counties.

Clubfoot is a congenital deformity of the foot caused by the abnormal development of a baby's bones, ligaments and muscles while in the womb. The affected foot is usually twisted inwards and downwards, could be shorter than a normal foot and the calf muscles are smaller. If not treated, a child with

the deformity becomes a subject of inhibited mobility and is more likely to find it difficult to access various

opportunities. They also experience stigma and even exclusion from society.

Lawrence King'ori, County Occupational Therapist, has lauded the continued support from the County Government of Nyeri spearheaded by H.E Muta-

hi Kahiga.

He added that currently, there are 150 patients undergoing active treatment. He expressed concern on the lack of public awareness regarding this condition noting that some clients enroll for treatment at a later stage posing a challenge in management.

He called upon the public to seek medical attention as early as possible since the services are free.

Management for clubfoot is usually done in two phases — casting and bracing. The goal of treatment is to improve the way a child's foot looks and works before he or she learns to walk in an effort to prevent long-term disabilities. Once the client has successfully undergone casting, they are issued with Foot Abductor braces for free that will aid in the remaining part of the recovery journey.

Hope Walks is an international Christian non-profit organization based in Dillsburg, Pennsylvania that treats infant clubfoot in developing countries around the world.

Fish market survey visit at Chaka market

Officers from the Aquaculture Business Development Programme conducted a visit at the almost fully constructed Chaka Market to survey the location for a possible fish outlet.

Prior to the visit, the officers called on CEC Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries James Wachhi who assured them of the County Government of Nyeri's dedication to working with the fisheries officers towards promoting aquaculture in the county.

The State Department of Fisheries in close collaboration with the Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP) intends to open a fish outlet in the market consisting of a modern refrigerated container and an eatery to promote fish consumption and trade in Nyeri County

The officers and construction workers brainstormed on the most suitable locations for the project.

Nyeri youth to benefit following CGN, Jitu Technologies partnership



Mathew Turner, Founder of Jitu Technologies paid a courtesy call to Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga to deliberate on various ways to enhance technology services as well as create job opportunities for Nyeri youths in the county.

Jitu Technology is an international software company whose parent company is based in Atlanta Georgia. They set base in Kenya in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic and chose Nyeri as their location of choice due to its rich diversity and a concentration of talented young people. This is an

effort from the county to attract investors and enable technological training that will ensure young people will acquire relevant and sufficient knowledge to compete at the global level from the platform in Nyeri. The County Government of Nyeri recently signed an MoU with Dedan Kimathi University of Technology which hosts the Science Park with an aim to develop into a global technology hub. Nyeri is well served with fiber optic and fast internet connectivity which makes it very attractive for tech companies.

Governor Kahiga lauded the team for having managed to establish a business during the pandemic and more so for looking into socio-economic development in the county. The company has already hired 20 software engineers all living and working in Nyeri which contributes to the growth of the local economy through forward and backward linkages. The company will enhance technology transfer and put Nyeri in the global map as it seeks to attract more investors and make it our local silicon valley.

DID YOU KNOW:

Gloves aren't required when administering intramuscular injections.

Be assured that gloves are not needed when administering the Astrazeneca vaccine unless there is risk of exposure to body fluids which is very rare for walk in clients.

Remember all those coming for the jab are sanitized at entry to the vaccination centre. Additionally, health care workers administering the vaccine sanitize in between clients so infection prevention is sufficient under the circumstances.

