

Nyewasco shines yet again!



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Covid-19 vaccination continues in Nyeri

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N Y E R I C O U N T Y



WEEKLY REVIEW



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Nyeri ranked 3rd in aquaculture

By Governor's Press Unit

Nyeri County has once again shone nationally after the county delivered impressive results during the first national stakeholders annual review workshop held recently in Kirinyaga County.

The objective of the workshop held on the 29th and 30th June 2021 was to review programme implementation progress attained by the Aquaculture Business Development Programme

(ABDP) so far, review the challenges encountered and to find solutions to the inherent challenges faced during implementation.

During the review workshop, Nyeri County ABDP was ranked position three out of the 15 implementing counties after Busia and Meru.

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Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries CEC James Wachuhi (bending right) with other officers restocking fish at one of the dams in Nyeri county recently.

Nyeri is now among the best run devolved units, having tied at Position One with three other counties in the World Bank rating (Makueni, Nyandarua and Elgeyo Marakwet).

The 15 programme implementing counties were ranked as follows:

1. Busia
2. Meru
3. Nyeri
4. Homabay
5. Kirinyaga
6. Siaya
7. Kakamega
8. Kisii
9. Machakos
10. Kajiado
11. Kisumu
12. Migori
13. Embu
14. Kiambu
15. Tharaka-Nithi

The parameters used to evaluate the annual performance during the forum were:

- Prudent absorption of funds.
- Timeliness and good quality of reporting.
- Timeliness and quality of Statement of Expenditure (SOE).
- Quality and excellence in

extension services

- Proper coordination among county staff.
- Support in the procurement function.

The ABDP is a programme jointly funded by the Government of Kenya and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Its geographical scope is the 15 select counties with high aquaculture, potential, high production, existing sectoral infrastructure (processing, marketing and research), adequate water, resources and high marketing potential.

The overall goal of the programme is to reduce poverty and increase food security and nutrition in rural communities.

This success can be traced back to H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga's commitment towards the promotion of

aquaculture in Nyeri County, the collaboration of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries with the ABDP Nyeri faction and the resilient county staff who are always at hand to serve the people of Nyeri.

The county government has been aggressive in promoting fish farming with the main aim of enhancing fish production.

The county government has distributed over 945,000 fingerlings to over 1,400 fish farmers across the county at a cost of about Kshs. 14 million. It has provided both mixed sex and mono sex fingerlings which have been stocked in dams and ponds respectively over the last few years.

In the financial year 2019/2020, the county government undertook stocking of 30 public dams each

with 7,000 tilapia mixed sex fingerlings, stocked 45 fish cages each with 1,000 Tilapia monosex fingerlings.

Further, through the department, it has supported fish farming through provision of fish farming inputs, pond liners, cover nets, fish cages, rehabilitation of ponds for individual farmers as well as offering extension support to fish farmers through fisheries officers located in all the eight sub-counties.

So far, fish farmers have harvested over 89 tonnes of fish earning a total of about Kshs. 35 million. The county government also uses Wamagana Fish Factory in Tetu sub-county as a fish bulking/ collection center. Further, the county is indirectly involved in fish value addition.

For the last four years, the county government has continued to bag commendable victories in a show of dedication and devotion through its leadership under the stewardship of Governor Kahiga.

The county government is a tight ship that is run with diligence and its stellar performance this far is evidenced through the streak of wins under its belt. Despite the hurdles faced in 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic, this is the year that Nyeri County rose to the top position in the World Bank's Kenya Devolution Support Program (KDSP) rating. The KDSP program is financed by the World Bank and seeks to support capacity building and institutional strengthening.

Nyeri is now among the best run devolved units, having tied at position one with three other counties in the World Bank rating (Makueni, Nyandarua and Elgeyo Marakwet). In 2019, the county government was ranked at position two before emerging at position one in 2020. The tranche of money awarded is what the Governor Kahiga led administration is using to construct a Level 4 facility in Naromoru, Kieni East.

Nyeri's rise is due to having accomplished set parameters in five key areas; Public Financial Management, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Human Resource and Performance Management, Civic Education and Public Participation and Environ-



mental and Social performance.

The county government has also been hailed for being the third best out of the 47 counties in the County Budget Transparency Report 2020. This is an annual survey conducted by International Budget Partnership Kenya since 2015.

Previously, the County Government of Nyeri's Finance Team was recognized by the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) as being in position one among all counties in Kenya for its adherence to procurement laws and regulations with a

75% success. The Finance department also put Nyeri on a pedestal for being among only 12 counties that were hailed by Treasury CS Ukur Yatani for clearing their pending bills.

On another score, Nyeri was awarded Kshs. 236 Million by the Kenya Urban Support Program (KUSP). Through this funding, the county government has put up a state-of-the-art Modern Bus Termini in Nyeri town that will cost Kshs. 600 Million. This enormous facility that is now settled on what was previously an illegal garbage site, will tremendously decongest

Nyeri Town Central Business District as well as create new opportunities for businesses and traders.

Last year, Nyeri emerged position one in the implementation of the Kenya Climate Smart Agricultural Program (KCSAP) activities. This is a program that aims

at increasing agricultural productivity and building resilience to climate change, reduce/remove greenhouse gases and enhance achievement of national food and nutrition security as part of the Big Four agenda.

Nyeri County through the Department of County Public Service Management was also awarded by the County Pension Fund as the best county in timely payment of employee pension and member affiliation.

The county has also been selected among the pilot counties for the coffee revitalization program which will be undertaken through the National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Project funded by the World Bank with an aim of reforming the coffee sector.

The County Government of Nyeri will continue being dedicated in serving the interests of you, our esteemed stakeholder in Nyeri County.



ABDP Nyeri environmental assessment meeting

The assessment started with the Central/Eastern region from the 5th to 31st July 2021.

By Brian Kanyungu



The Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP) is an 8-year joint Government of Kenya and International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) funded programme implemented under 2 mutually related components; promoting production of

small aquaculture farmers and developing producer public private partnerships (PPPP) along the value chain.

The Social Environmental and Assessment Procedures (SECAP) outline how IFAD addresses the social environmental and climate impacts

associated with its projects and programmes. As such, SECAP requires that ABDP conducts an environmental assessment and an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) be developed in line with IFAD's and GOK's legal frameworks and climate and environ-

mental practices.

The ABDP has thus onboarded Safe Environment Consultancy Ltd to conduct the environmental assessment and develop an ESMP. The assessment and ESMP will guide implementation of the project and primarily focus on mitigation of potential environmental and climate risks, monitoring and evaluation and communication with stakeholders. The assessment started with the Central/Eastern region from the 5th to 31st July 2021.

In reference to this, an environmental assessment meeting was held at the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries headquarters chaired by the CEC James Wachihi.



In brief...

Part of the 18 recently opened Mweiga stage stalls at Mweiga bus park, Kieni West sub-county.



PHOTO | JANE BARU

NGEC public education forum

● *The forum purposed to enhance the capacity of organizations and groups representing SIGs and county level duty bearers*

By Jane Baru

The Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services CEC Esther Ndung'u joined the Chairperson for the National Gender and Equality Commission Dr. Joyce Mutinda, for a public education forum at Dedan Kimathi University Conservancy.

The forum purposed to enhance the capacity of organizations and groups representing SIGs and county level duty bearers to effectively promote legislative,

policy and administrative actions, geared towards promoting and protecting their rights during emergencies, with a focus on Covid-19.

The County Government of Nyeri, being one that pursues progressive laws and policies focusing on mainstreaming inclusion and participation of vulnerable persons and groups in the county, also supports gender equality at leadership positions with five male CECs and five female CECs.

The Department of Gender narrows down the advocacy for gender equity and equality, women empowerment, by mainstreaming gender equality concerns into the county development concerns through the Gender and Development Policy.

The CEC noted that by recognizing gender issues within the county and partnering with CREAM, UN Women and Council of Governors, the department has managed to reach to

over 500 SGBV victims and their parents through mentorship programs. It has also trained 30 GBV champions who address gender-based violence at the grassroots level.

The forum which had a representation from key groups of interest such as the youth, people with disabilities and women was able to acquire data for advisories purposes.

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Nyewasco shines yet again!

Previously, the company has been recognized globally for exemplary work performance having been awarded the Water Leaders Award which was established in 2006 by the Global Water Intelligence.

By Njambi Mugo

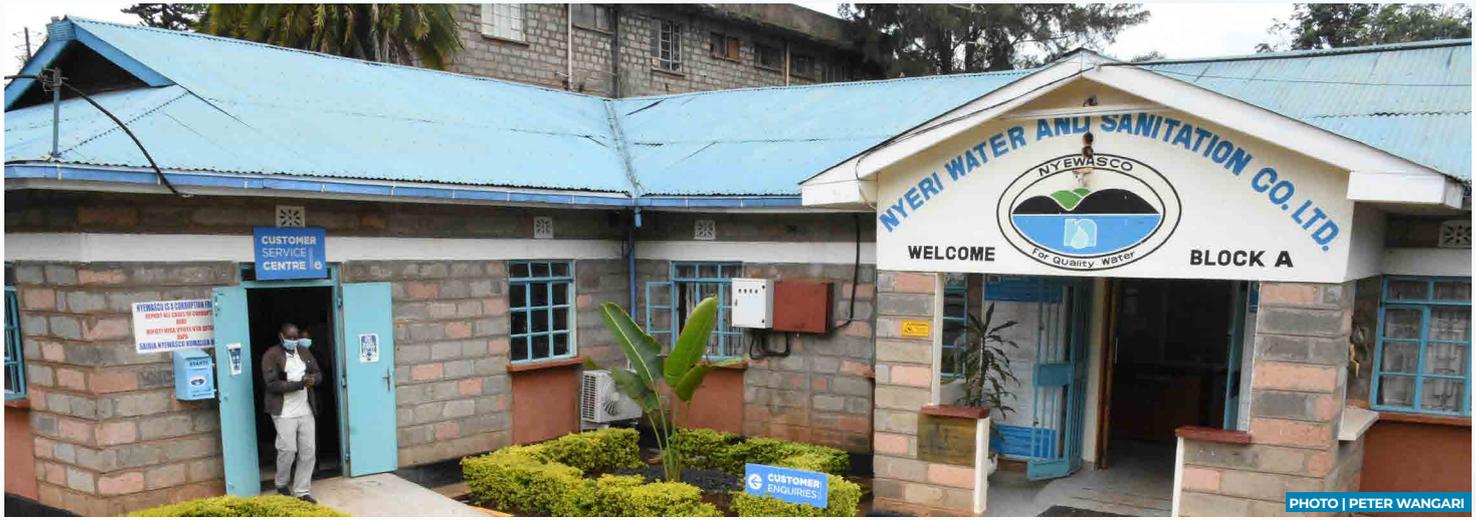


PHOTO | PETER WANGARI

The Nyeri Water and Sanitation Company Limited (Nyewasco) has been hailed yet again for being position one in the recently conducted IMPACT REPORT 13 (Water Services Utility Performance Report) among 81 utilities in the country for the 13th year in a row.

Heartfelt congratulations to all the men and women who work day and night to deliver exceptional water and sanitation services to the residents of Nyeri Central sub-county and its environs. The success is truly a result of collective hard work of Nyewasco's members of staff, management, Board of Directors, the County Government of Nyeri, the National Government and all involved stakeholders.

Nyewasco has retained low non-revenue water levels

which in turn increases the amount of water delivered to people's households. The company is also the NRW champions in the country which currently stands at 15% compared to the national average and target of 42 and 20 % respectively.

Nyewasco remains committed to maintaining excellent quality of water to the present rating of 100% and continual improvement of all their services.

Previously, the company has been recognized globally for exemplary work performance having been awarded the Water Leaders Award, during the Global Water Awards 2020, an award which was established in 2006 by Global Water Intelligence. The coveted award recognized the most important achievements in the

international water industry within several categories and rewards those initiatives in the water, wastewater and desalination sectors that are moving the industry forward through improved operating performance, innovative technology adoption and sustainable financial models. Nyewasco was recognized for being a key player in

terms of governance in the water sector. The company has also won other awards for instance, in the sports category, during the 9th edition

WSPs games, it emerged third position and in 2016, scooped the MAPI award related to good governance and best practices.

TOP TEN UTILITIES 2018/19		
Rank	Utility	Score (Max 200)
1	Nyeri	177
2	Eldoret	145
3	Nakuru	144
4	Meru	142
5	Murang'a	137
6	Ruiru-Juja	134
6	Embu	134
8	Nanyuki	131
9	Thika	126
10	Ngandori Nginda	122

Africa Fire Mission pays courtesy call to Gender CEC

● *The Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services is committed towards providing the best service to humanity and consultative meetings as such offer platforms which help inform commendable areas and those that require improvement.*

By Jane Baru



PHOTOS | JANE BARU

The County Executive Committee Member for the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services Esther Ndung'u was delighted to meet with a team from the Africa Fire Mission (AFM), where they deliberated on disaster, fire and rescue management, and areas of partnership that hope to lead the firefighting unit towards better service.

The CEC appreciated the notable impact that the Af-

rica Fire Mission has had in Nyeri and Kenya at large, with their generous donations and exclusive training sessions. This meeting came as a follow-up of the training sessions offered to the firemen in Nyeri and Karatina Fire Stations.

While AFM is devoted to building and increasing the sustainable capacity of fire services across Africa, the Co-founder Nancy Moore, noted that there is potential to raise the Nyeri

Fire Stations to the standards that match the risk levels inherent to hazards in the community.

The Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services is committed towards providing the best service to humanity and consultative meetings as such offer platforms which help inform commendable areas and those that require improvement.

The two parties exchanged information on the vari-

ous components of the respective institutions, and agreed on areas of further collaboration, including regular trainings and workshops for the fire fighters as well as the community. They also proposed that a policy be drafted which would integrate and embrace volunteer fire fighters into the disaster and rescue management unit.

Embu health team on bench marking visit

By Sam Gitonga

Nyeri County Secretary Benjamin Gachichio hosted the Embu County health management team who were in Nyeri County to benchmark on the recently implemented Nyeri County Health Services Fund Act, 2021.

The two teams discussed the steps which were taken towards the successful implementation of the Nyeri County Health Services Fund Act, 2021 and how to start an amenity medical facility.

The Department of Health CEC Dr. Rachel Kamau guided the team through the major stages involved in the creation of the bill. She also emphasized on the importance of public



PHOTO | SAM GITONGA

partnership and why Nyeri County is keen on it adding that the county government has established an amenity hospital through the same, that was launched three months ago. Embu Health Chief Officer

Mary Munene thanked the Nyeri team for giving them key insights that are important in creating a similar bill.

Nyeri County Health Service Fund Act 2021 has since been gazetted in the

Kenya Gazette Supplement No. 6 (Nyeri County Acts No.1). It will benefit the county in sharing of resources and ensuring efficient service delivery in all the public health facilities.

Nyeri health workers trained on safe phlebotomy

50 health workers from the various public health facilities comprising of nurses, medical doctors and lab technicians underwent intensive three-day training on safe phlebotomy. Upon successful completion, they were awarded a certificate. This is one of the activities under the third phase of a program which was rolled out in 2008 and launched



three years ago at the Nyeri County Referral Hospital courtesy of NASCOP and Amref Health Africa in Kenya as local implementing partner.

Phlebotomy is a process of making a puncture in a vein, usually an arm with the aim of drawing blood for medical testing, transfusion or donation hence important for safety practice for those

involved in patient care and their clients.

Nicholas Kimotho, program officer at NASCOP lauded the mutual working collaboration with the Nyeri County Referral Hospital enabled by the County Government of Nyeri which has made it easier to lobby for equipment and capacity building forums.

Covid-19 vaccination continues

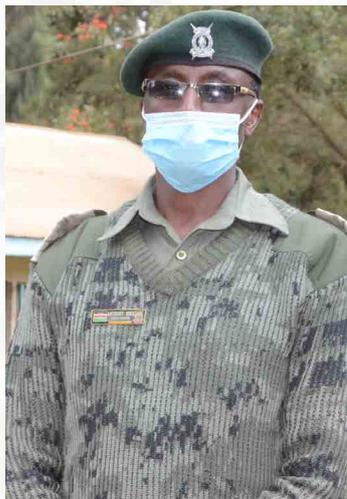
By Muthoni Kanja

Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic the Government and various stake holders have come forward and employed various interventions to help curb the spread of this deadly virus. One of the most important intervention methods is vaccination. The World Health Organization (WHO) has tested and verified various vaccines including AstraZeneca/Ox-

ford vaccine, Johnson and Johnson, Moderna, Pfizer/BionTech, Sinopharm, and Sinovac.

Nyeri County has set up 17 vaccination sites which are distributed across the 8 sub-counties. One of these sites is the GK Prison dispensary located at the Nyeri Maximum Security Prison. Due to the nature of their work, prison wardens therefore become a priority since they are involved with a lot of human interaction, and highly populated areas.

Anthony Mwai, (pictured left) prisons inspector at Nyeri GK prison lauded the mutual collaboration between the institution and the Department of Health Services which has had a positive impact since the onset of the virus in Nyeri County as well as called



PHOTOS | KENNETH NGATIA

people to take up the vaccine as prevention is better than cure.

The County Government encourages its residents to continue adhering to MOH Protocols.

In Nyeri, 37,999 people

have received their first jab and 21,415 people have received their second jab. Those who are due for the second dose are encouraged to go for their second jab at their nearest vaccine site.

In brief...



Nyeri Fire Fighters were trained by a team from the Africa Fire Mission at the Nyeri and Karatina Fire Stations. They were taken through ground ladder operation and tying of ropes and knots, which serves an essential purpose during search and rescue operations.

PHOTO & STORY | JANE BARU

Covid-19 sensitization for social services officers

● *Sensitization forums play a key role in ensuring personal safety is enhanced since the spread of Covid-19 is posing a major risk in their line of duty which involves communal services.*

By Jane Barui



Officers drawn from the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services were engaged in a Covid-19 MOH protocols adherence, Infection Prevention Control (IPC) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) sensitization forum. The officers comprised of fire station operators and social welfare officers, as well other officers from the department. The sensitization is in collaboration with Department of Health Services - Nyeri County and Amref Health Africa in Kenya. Covid-19 brought with it numerous economic and social issues, including the

loss of loved ones and an increase in gender-based violence within the community especially with the abrupt closure of schools and places of work. Sensitization forums therefore play a key role in ensuring personal safety is enhanced since the spread of Covid-19 is posing a major risk their line of duty which involves communal services. Gender, youth and social services CECM, Esther Ndung'u appreciated the facilitators for the basic training and emphasized on the importance of having informed officers in a department that regularly

engages with the community. The officers were trained on Infection Prevention and Control of Covid-19 by the County IPC Coordinator, Boniface Macharia, which involved safe practices and standard precautions during the pandemic. County Disease and Surveillance Coordinator Lydiah Njaramba sensitized the officers on gender-based violence which has been on a rampant and hence a call to address the issue. She encouraged them to be ambassadors at the community level by reporting the cases which are in major instances con-

cealed. Nelly Muiruri the County Nursing Services Director took them through Covid-19 vaccination protocols and also demystified the myths associated with the same. Amref Project Officer Mr. Joram Onditi lauded the mutual working collaboration adding that his organization is committed to support noble causes in pursuit for a positive impact. This activity has been supported by Amref Health Africa with funding from the Chicago Community Trust.