STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT POST KACHOK.

Kisumu Governor, Professor Anyang’ Nyong’o has called for a decentralized waste management system to innovatively deal with its disposal.

The developments will see the County Government through the Environment department set up sub county waste management committees to tackle the issue.

The Governor was speaking at Acacia Premier Hotel, Kisumu during a stakeholder consultative meeting on solid waste management.

After previous unsuccessful attempts to relocate the infamous Kachok Dumpsite, the County Government and the City directorate through development partners have already made significant steps in waste management.

As outlined in the Governors Manifesto, the relocation of the eyesore landfill has entered its final stages another indication of the Governors commitment in fulfilling his promise to Kisumu residents.

Giving their remarks, City Manager Doris Ombara and Environment CEC Hon. Salmon called for a multisectoral approach for effective waste management.

Among the presentations included demonstrations on waste recycling, they include, widespread use of community jikos, producing biogas from waste among many others.

INTEGRATED APPROACH NEEDED TO BOOST HEALTH PROVISION.

The County Government has announced plans to boost primary health services by constructing state of the art theatres in all sub counties, to ease burden on the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital (JOOTRH).

Speaking in Kisumu during a stakeholder meeting on Sexual and Reproductive health in the era of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Deputy Governor, Dr Mathew Owili expressed confidence in the County Government’s ability integrate different modules to tackle sexual and reproductive issues, sentiments echoed earlier by Health CEC Dr Rosemary Obara.

According to statistics from the County health department, adolescents and young women account for more than 50% of all HIV infections in Kisumu and Kenya alone.

To reverse this trend, the Health department is already implementing several programs that will expand access to sexual and reproductive health.

Eight adolescent centers have already been opened in all County health facilities. The department has also developed an adolescent health policy and is in the process of adopting the National Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health strategy for local implementation.

The stakeholder meeting was organized by Africa Advocacy Foundation, a community led initiative with roots in the UK.
Over time, countries and organizations across the world have been working on cost-effective approaches in disaster reduction not only to save lives and secure livelihoods but also save money against economic risk. In Kenya, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) has been vital in supporting disaster based initiatives across the country. Kisumu is one of the 5 African cities and 20 cities globally implementing the “Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready!” Campaign that addresses local risk governance, urban risk and resilience.

Led by Madam Mami Mizutori - Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction, the UNISDR team accompanied by the Kisumu City Department paid a courtesy call to the Deputy Governor Dr. Mathew Owili to brief him on some of the activities being implemented under the Programme. Madam Mami is also interested in seeing Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies by the City of Kisumu as well as visit Kakoth Bridge, Kachok Dumpsite and Auji River to assess the progress made so far.

Madam Mami said that one of their key priority areas is making disaster risk reduction more practical. This she said would need strong political leadership both at the national and county level that will enable locals become more resilient. She added that proper interventions will ensure more sustainable development that will result in saving money and more lives at the end of the day noting that Kisumu is at the top in terms of implementation compared to other cities globally.

While making his remarks, Dr. Owili assured the team of the county’s support by creating a conducive political environment as well as re-affirming the county top leadership commitment to support the initiatives. “As a county, we will fix our end and make contribution in creating a safer world”. He said adding that it is crucial to mainstream disaster reduction in all activities.

The City Manager Madam Doris Ombara said the county will put more focus on preventive measures thus will work towards mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in day to day activities including integration into the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) for budgetary implications. She also noted that they will decentralize the activities to the Sub-Counties, making it more practical.

EQUIPPING COUNTY SPORTS CLUBS

County Minister for Tourism, Sports and Culture, Achi Alai donated Sports uniforms to Lela, Ayaro, Deaf Social Counselling and HIV/AIDS Education Program football clubs in an effort to boost sports within the County.

The Minister was flanked by the Chief Officer for Sports Culture and Tourism, Mr Thomas Ouka, Deaf Social Counselling and HIV/AIDS Education Program PRO David Ogero, Chemelil sitting volley ball Club Treasure, Rosemary Wanjiku, Lela FC’s Harrison Otieno and Mr Gahk Capistran from Chiga Football.

This comes amid plans by the Ministry of to redefine and reshape the Sports Sector at the grass root by supporting various tournaments organized by local teams and Scouting for extraordinary talents to be nurtured in all games such as hockey, football, rugby and even indoor chess and scrabble.

“I look forward to the day when the sports men and women from all games in the County will unite and share ideas on how we can mentor one another through our God given talents. Currently, the County set to start the upgrade of Moi Stadium this year to International Standards that will incorporate indoor gymnasium and a Swimming pool with firm consideration being put on sports per sons with disabilities,” said Hon. Achi.

COUNTY TO SCALE UP DISASTER RISK REDUCTION INTERVENTIONS

The campaign supports activities that promote resilience, sustainable urban development and increased understanding of disaster risks by stakeholders in their respective localities. Other present at the meeting included County Minister for Lands Dickson Obungu, City Board Member Ken Akoko and Manyatta B MCA Joseph Olale.
THE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT CONSULTATIVE PROGRAM

The county department of youth and gender in collaboration with World Vision and Ecumenical Center for Justice and Peace (ECJP) held a consultative youth forum to empower youths across the County at the Jumuia Hotel in Kisumu.

The meeting deliberated on the various challenges that the youth face, the issues are not only unique to the youths within the County but also nationally. These challenges include Unemployment, un-employability, rape, school drop outs, early marriages drug and substance abuse among others.

Youth Champions from Nyakach and Seme sub counties were brought on board to work out an action plan that will mitigate the challenges outlined and if successful, the plan will be replicated in all other sub counties up to the grass root levels.

Through this action plan, there are high expectations that the youth will be exposed to information about employment opportunities, access to information as well as help elevate their attitudes towards a development oriented mindset.

The county government promised to work closely with the youth leaders who were encouraged to act as the bridge between the larger youth population and the county leadership.

RE DEVELOPING FLOODED HOMES IN NYAKACH SUB COUNTY.

County Department of Special Program in collaboration with Plan International have issued local breed and a hybrid goats from Tharaka Nithi County to 220 families that were affected with floods in Nyakach Sub-County.

The program comes as a boost to the families who lost their herd to floods in the previous year. The families also benefited from house reconstruction aided by the Kenya Red Cross hence, they are to each receive Ksh. 12,000 from the Special Program Unit in 2 disbursements of which the first batch, has been issued.

The department has also sensitized the families on Disaster Safety Routines and Farming Methods of the Togen Burg Goat breed as a source of economic empowerment. The Program is set to be completed by end of March, 2019.

The program was initiated by Special Unit Director, Hon. Ruth Odinga who coordinated the redevelopment of over 400 homes in collaboration with UNICEF, World Vision, Kenya Red Cross and Plan International.

In attendance were, Kisumu County Chief of Staff, Dr.Ouno, Plan International Officials, Nyakach Sub county agricultural officer, and national government administrative officers.