THIS WEEK @ A GLANCE

- One billion radiotherapy center to benefit Kisumu residents
- Climate change training comes to close in Kisumu
- New dawn for pediatric healthcare system in kembewa
- “I am Kisumu talent search” crowns winner
- The 3rd UHC national conference in Kisumu
- Market cartels put on notice

ONE BILLION RADIOTHERAPY CENTER TO BENEFIT KISUMU RESIDENTS

Cancer patients in Kisumu and other neighbouring Counties will soon be able to access radiotherapy services at the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital following the launch of construction for Kisumu Radiotherapy Centre by Kisumu Governor, Professor Peter Anyang’ Nyong’o.

For a long time, cancer patients within the western circuit have had to travel long distances to access radiotherapy sessions at the Kenyatta National Hospital, the only public hospital offering radiotherapy management.

Speaking at the ground breaking ceremony held at the hospital grounds, Governor Nyong’o who was accompanied by his deputy Dr. Mathew Owili said that Phase One of the project valued at Ksh350M shall commence immediately and is expected to be complete in a record two years or less.

“Our main goal is to establish a one billion centre project by end of 5 years”. He said.

Once complete, the hospital will be able to offer comprehensive oncology services such as radiotherapy, chemotherapy and palliative care to the cancer patients across the region, adding that the County will embark on comprehensive outreach programmes to inform the people on the benefits of early screening, diagnosis and risks reduction.

Currently, in Kenya alone, an estimated 40,000 new cancer cases and 28,000 cancer deaths occur each year making it the third leading cause of mortality and accounting for 7 per cent of all annual deaths.

The day also saw the Governor unveil the Sickle Cell Anaemia Clinic to help address its high prevalence among new-borns.

The Ag. Minister for Health and Sanitation Nerry Achar on his part said that the County will formulate a policy to ensure all Sickle Cell survivors are covered under the new universal health cover.

Also present at the ceremony were County Ministers Achie Alai and Salmon Orimba, the Hospital Board of Management, Members of the County Assembly, Partners Representatives: Ruth Muya- National Cancer Institute, Dr. Ogada and Dr. Ogendo from Uzima and Maseno Universities, and other County Officials.
Thousands of residents of Kisumu converged at Jomo Kenyatta Sports Ground to witness the grand finale of the I AM KISUMU Talent Search held on Saturday 11th May.

“I am Kisumu Talent Search” was rolled out in the month of February this year with specific dates of performance for each of the seven sub-counties. The grand finale brought together best performers of various categories from the sub-county level who contested in a number of acts which included dancing, singing, drama, Elocution, Visual arts creative writing and freestyle talents.

A total of 141 contestants across Kisumu were subjected to a 5-day boot camp for intensive training that enabled the participants to focus on the most important aspects of the performance ahead of the Grand Finale. The scene was set, and 25 competing performances were presented at the Jomo Kenyatta sports ground.

Speaking at the event, the Governor noted that Kisumu County stands out to be the first county in the whole republic to conduct talent search. The Governor held that the talent search makes Kisumu a benchmarking center for all other Counties across Kenya who would like to conduct the same.

“ This search has seen hundreds of undiscovered talents deep in the village being brought to light” said the Governor.

Collins Otieno from Kisumu West emerged the overall winner and best performance in a solo dance. “It was awesome and such a fun run,” Collins tells of his victory when his name was announced. The Winner was presented with prize money of Kshs. 100,000, lunch, dinner and accommodation at Ciala resort as well as free swimming at Jumua hotel.

Governor lauded the search’s sponsors for their kind gesture, stating that the success of the program was as a result of the partnership of very many business people.

The event organized by the Government, department of Arts and Culture was also graced by the Deputy Governor Dr. Ochieng’ Owili, Mama Kisumu Dorothy Nyong’o, County ministers and other officials as well as friends of Kisumu.
**THE 3rd UHC NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN KISUMU**

County Government of Kisumu gears up for the upcoming Universal Health Coverage Conference that is set to start on 15th through to the 17th of May 2019 at the Grand Royal Swiss Hotel in Kisumu.

The UHC Kisumu is the third National Conference aimed at reviewing and taking stock of implementation, innovation and thought of the 47 devolved Counties of Kenya, and is expected to bring out lessons that will be used to design or redesign the optimal path for the delivery of UHC in Kenya.

The Kisumu conference is preceded by the first and second Conferences, which were held in Makueni and Nyeri respectively.

Kisumu County being one of the 4 pilot Counties for the UHC began implementation of UHC intervention in August 2018 through sensitization, mobilization and registration of 1.2 million people who are the potential beneficiaries.

The conference will be officially opened by Kisumu Governor Prof. Anyang’ Nyong’o.

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**MARKET CARTELS PUT ON NOTICE**

The County Government has declared an all-out war on market cartels after wholesalers accused them of intimidation and harassment.

In a meeting held with the traders based in Kibuye presented their grievances to Kisumu Deputy Governor Dr. Mathew Owili who vowed to address the challenges they faced.

The market is one of the largest open-air markets in East Africa and work is currently ongoing to upgrade the market’s infrastructure.

According to Owili, markets play an important role in economy building and traders must operate within safe environs for the centers to thrive, sentiments echoed earlier by Markets and Cooperatives CEC Richard Ogendo who was also in attendance.