

KISUMU COUNTY

The County Review

Nyong'o Gets Thumbs Up from Embassies Over Investment Fete



Preparations for the Kisumu Investment Conference 2021, kicked off in earnest early this week when Kisumu Governor, Prof Peter Anyang' Nyong'o and members of his Cabinet met the



Diplomatic community at the Serena Hotel in Nairobi.

Addressing the guests at the first breakfast meeting which is part of the conference preparations, Prof Nyong'o was upbeat about the Investment Conference slated for September 26 to 29, 2021 at the Jomo Kenyatta International Stadium, which will also be the venue of the much awaited Africities Summit due in April next year.

He said he was happy with the support from the Ambassadors.

"We feel encouraged and emboldened by the overwhelming support from the embassies and our National Government," said the Governor.

Kisumu has witnessed renewed business growth over the last three years as it positions itself as a regional investment hub.

Over 3,000 investors are expected to attend the conference, seen as build up to the Africities meeting.

Kisumu is no doubt the business hub for the Lake Region Economic

Continued on page 2

Contracts for 195 Casual City Staff



At an event held at the Mama Grace Onyango Social Hall, the workers finally received 3-year contracts presented to them by the Acting City Manager Abala Wanga on the Governor's behalf, after months of uncertainty.

MCK in Talks With Kisumu on Need to Improve Communications

The Acting Chief Officer of Public Communications and Information John Oywa this week hosted senior Media Council of Kenya officials over talks on collaboration, adjudication, monitoring of content and capacity building of county officials and journalists in the county.



Continued from page 1

Bloc (LREB) and in the East African region.

“We want to involve every one as we journey towards the Investment Conference. We want to present investable projects in Kisumu. We want to have dialogue about Kisumu,” said an upbeat Prof Nyong’o.

He added: “We have prepared a handbook on Kisumu’s investment landscape and we want everyone on board.”

The breakfast meeting was attended by ambassadors from at least Six Foreign Missions in Kenya.

The Governor also met Senior Government officials and the CEOs of various State Agencies including the KenInvest whose officials praised his plans for the Investment Conference.



Update on Covid-19

Boost for Fight Against Covid-19 as CBO Donates 18 Oxygen Equipment

By Kevin Omollo

A Non-Governmental Organization has donated 18 Oxygen Concentrator machines to the Kisumu County Government.

The Ubuntu CBO, through its Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Truphosa Atieno Orimba-Lutz handed over the medical equipment to the Governor, Prof Peter

Anyang’ Nyong’o at his office on Wednesday. Ms. Orimba-Lutz who lives in Germany said she decided to donate the equipment, sourced from friends to the County to help save lives in local public hospitals, especially those battling Covid-19.

“I felt bad when I heard how Covid-19 is killing our people and decided to act. I

will return to Germany and source for more live saving equipment,” said the CEO.

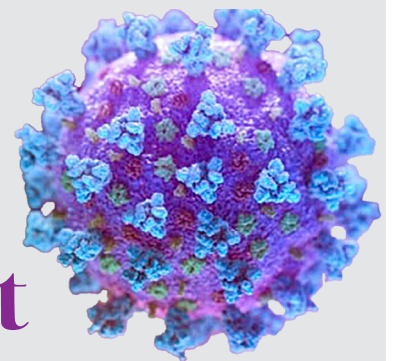
She said her CBO which is based at Ahero in Nyando Sub County will also donate assorted dental equipment to

the County help in the Oral and Dental health programs in the county hospitals.

“I am very happy to meet the Governor today. My CBO will from today closely collaborate with his office to help our people, more so on health matters,” She added.

The CBO also runs a Women empowerment project and a feeding program for families displaced by floods at Ombaka in Nyando. Speaking after receiving the equipment, prof Nyong’o thanked Ms Orimba-Lutz for the donations, saying they will help save lives of patients. He said the machines will be distributed to sub county hospitals.

“We will be sending the equipment to rural hospitals where a shortage of life-saving machines has been a challenge,” said Prof Nyong’o who was accompanied by his advisor on Disability issues, Ms Caroline Agwanda and the CEO of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Hospital, Dr George Rae.



Update on Kisumu County

Kisumu Picked to Pilot yet Another Key Health Project



Kisumu County has once again been picked to pilot a key national health transformation project that will see the digitization of information on community health services across Kenya.

The Ministry of Health has settled on Kisumu to test the ambitious Electronic Community health Information System (eCHIS) which will cost Sh 5.2 billion once completed across the country.

The project expected to revolutionize the delivery of health care deep in rural parts of the country. Kisumu become the first County in Kenya to pilot the project. After the pilot phase, It will be rolled out across the 47 Counties and will see Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) supplied with electronic devices such as mobile phones to help eliminate the costly and rigorous paper work in public health facilities.

Speaking during a Breakfast meeting held at a Kisumu hotel last week during the launch of the pilot project, senior Ministry of health officials said the project was anchored on the National Strategy for Community health digitization which seeks to strengthen health data management systems.

Kisumu Governor, Prof Peter Anyang' Nyong'o who presided over the function, said

the project was a big boost to the primary health care in Kenya as it will help address the inefficiencies that has dogged the Primary health care.

"You cannot successfully provide health care without real-time data and accurate information from patients. This project will eliminate the use of exercise books by patients seeking treatment in health facilities," said Prof Nyong'o.

He added: "As a Chair of the Council of Governor's Health Committee, I fully support this initiative and we will soon meet the Ministry of health officials to discuss its smooth implementation.

Prof Nyong'o thanked Afya House for choosing Kisumu to pilot the project, adding that the County has just recently piloted the Universal Health Care Program, alongside Five other Counties.

"Universal health care can only succeed with date driven sound health care system. Without data harvested through a sound health care system, it will be like climbing a tree from the top," said the Governor. The Kisumu County Chief Officer, Dr Gregory Ganda said Kisumu has been chosen to pilot the project because of its robust health care infrastructure and interest to invest in Community health.

The County recently launched a health insurance scheme known as Marwa Kisumu Solidarity Health Cover for close to 90,000 indigents (Vulnerable families).

Presenting a justification for the project, a senior Ministry official Dr Maureen Kimani said the paper based old system was cumbersome, adding that the Community based information tools were often out of stock.

"There has been inefficient data collection, analysis and reporting. The paperbased tools have also been costly, resulting in delay in timely data submission," said Dr Kimani. She said the roadmap for the projects starts immediately and will peak in 2025. Through this system, which the officials said will be easy to use, a Community Health Volunteer will register family members in his or her locality and their data and medical records will be available at local health facilities should they fall sick.

In an executive summary to the National Community Health Digitization Strategy 2020-2025, the Acting Director General of Health, Dr Patrick Amoth says the ministry was responding to the gaps identified in Community Health service delivery and data management.

Update on Kisumu County

Entrenching Sign Language in Public Service Delivery

By Emily Mikua



Ms Evalyne Akinyi, a County sign language interpreter communicates to guests during a county event at Mama Grace Onyango centre,

Kisumu residents with hearing impairment can now access public services with ease after the county Government recently employed seven Sign Language interpreters who were strategically deployed to assist them with access to information and public services.

The recruited staff have since been deployed to JOOTRH, KCRH, City, Governor's office, Inspectorate section, and the Public Service Board respectively.

The move was in adherence to the guiding principles outlined in the United Nations convention on rights of persons with disabilities article 3 and Constitution of Kenya 2010 article 6(3)- reasonable access



County Sign Language Interpreter Ms Judith Omino communicates to a client at the Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy section of JOOTRH,

to its services, coupled with the Governor's Manifesto on service delivery to everyone leaving no one behind.

The Constitution of Kenya further recognizes sign language as official language for communication, hence the deaf must be incorporated in citizens participation without discrimination.

The Governor's Chief Advisor on matters PWDs, Madam Caroline Agwanda noted that it is a great stride by Governor Nyong'o's administration to employ Sign Language Interpreters and to incorporate the deaf in various county committees.

She recalls how in the recent past those with hearing impairment had to bring along their own Sign Language interpreters or put into writing their service requests which she said was a challenge in accessing public information and services.

In reference to Kisumu County Act on PWDs, Madam Caroline emphasized the need to have sign language taught in ECDE which according to the ECDE Director, Mr. Michael Adar the Curriculum development is in the pipeline. At the moment, they have made a recommendation to recruit teachers

7 Sign Language interpreters employed



Sign Language Interpreter Beatrice Opi communicates during a county event at the Mama Grace Onyango Centre,

with Sign Language skills.

Judith Omino, a newly employed Sign Language Interpreter stationed at the JOOTRH, said her interactions with the deaf seeking medical services has made them happy and that they appreciate the seamless communication and services accorded to them at the hospital.

Agribusiness

Harnessing Agribusiness to Boost Food Security and Income to Households

By Emily Mikwa



Increased capacity to
34 Million
litres

Milk production in Kisumu County has increased by 10% after a total of 336 in calf high quality dairy cattle breeds were procured and distributed to 336 farming households from 2018 to date.

Previously, the County realized an annual production of 31 million litters of milk and currently it has increased capacity of 34million litters against the market demand of 127million litters annually.

The initiative by County Livestock Sector is expected to address food and nutrition security, provide sustainable increased family income and livelihood development through employment opportunities in the sector.

This is in line with the Governor's strategic development agenda of revitalising Agriculture and promoting Agribusiness, which is a key socio-economic development tool to realize vibrant domestic regional and international development and engagement for the community of Kisumu County.

The County Livestock Sector in partnership with ILRI has facilitated the formation of

five dairy cooperatives: Seme, Seke, Kajulu, Ahero and Osiepe Practical Action CBO, equipped with milk coolers and processing equipment.

These dairy milk managements actualize value addition, expanding the milk products, increase milk shelf life, create employment opportunities and increase income for farm families

In creating self – employment for women and youth, along the Chicken Value Chain, the sector has partnered with World bank through the Climate Smart Agriculture program to establish a Poultry Hatchery and Business Incubation Centre in Seme Sub County. The exercise is considered a fast return to capital enterprise.

The centre is expected upon completion to produce 1000 Day Old Chicks for white meat and eggs production, stock/ manufacture veterinary curative and disease prevention, medicine and chicken feeds for quick access by farmers.

The Poultry Value Chain program is envisaged to transform the Chicken Value

Chain Industry into significantly increased supply of ingredients for poultry feed manufacture by local farmers, modern poultry carcasses processing equipment at Mamboleo slaughter houses, creating direct employment opportunities to 20,000 people.

In mainstreaming women and youth into sustainable agribusiness, the county government through Livestock Production Directorate procured and distributed 568 goats to 568 beneficiary farmers.

Dairy goat milk is quite nutritious and has medicinal economic value hence the high pricing which makes it a lucrative business to venture into.

Commercialization Dairy goat of has picked up in the county with more farmers embracing the business of goat milk production.

The sector is also considering mainstreaming the youths in adopting bee keeping enterprise both individually and in groups. Its operation is less labour intensive but with quite significant output and financial value.



Excellence

Waziri Osogo's Recognition Awards Excite Staff as Roads Department Embraces New Technology

By Matilda Atieno



It was a sweet surprise for employees at the County Department of Roads, Transport and Public Works after they were invited for a staff meeting, only to be showered with good service awards

In a trail blazing exercise in Human resource management, Executive Committee Member-Dr Joyce Osogo alias Bensouda, walked into the meeting last Monday with bags of goodies in a surprise development which is now the Talk of town.

The breakfast meeting held at the department's grounds near the Kisumu International Airport comes a time the department is motivating its staff as it embarks of completing work on the roads across the 7 sub counties.

Dr Osogo said the rewards also came amid reports by the Kenya Roads Board (KRB) that about 90 percent of the roads ear marked for repairs in the county have been done in the 2020/2021 financial year.

The County is currently implementing the Machine Based Road maintenance program.

The department also recently launched the new Claycrete technology in roads repair which will help the County save at least Sh 2m per km of roads budget.

The staff members were honored for their achievements in the calendar year 2020/2021 for exhibiting exemplary commitment towards the pursuit of the departmental goals.

The recipients got cash awards and recognition certificates.

The Awards were given out honoring the best performing staff in Roads, Transport, Public works, in administration and in successful completion of the Claycrete training by the engineering staff.

The individuals received awards for demonstrating the departmental values of Dedication, Responsibility, Respect, and Results.

The event that brought together all employees from the department culminated with the prayer breakfast, bonding session, annual issuance of departmental uniforms, declaration on work

expectations and sharing of the overview of the departmental achievements.

Dr. Osogo said she hosted the ceremony to recognize and thank her staff for a job well-done in the 2020/2021 Financial year.

"I wanted to thank the staff and motivate them to work harder. We will do this ceremony every year," said Dr Osogo.

She added: "We will be using such occasions to bond and share our challenges."

The keynote speaker for the event was Mr. Gilchrist Okuom who is the CEC member for Agriculture, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries.

Mr Okuom congratulated Dr Osogo for organizing the Award ceremony saying it was the best way to motivate employees.

Dr. Osogo who was accompanied by her Chief Officer, Eng Daniel Okia and directors, also applauded and appreciated everyone who received the awards, saying the next ceremony would be bigger, with even hefty awards.

The CEC said that the pilot project on Machine-based program was on course.

The meeting was marked by special prayers led by Pastor Vincent Onunga who encouraged the staff to seek inspiration and clarity of thought in their daily work.

The event is an HR service vital to making sure the employees feel properly recognized for all the hard work they do day in and day out.

Kisumu county is currently exploring the claycrete technology and the Kisumu county roads maintenance project set to be operationalized.



Empowerment

Why Women, Youth and PWDs are Laughing all the Way to the Banks

By Nancy Juma



A total of 659 Youth, Women and Persons with Disability groups across Kisumu County have benefitted from the Ksh. 24,260,000 Revolving Fund set up to promote their enterprises at an affordable cost.

The fund, a product of the County Youth, Women and Persons with Disabilities Enterprise Development Fund derived from the Kisumu County Youth, Women and Persons with Disabilities Act 2015 aims to empower the vulnerable groups by offering them affordable loans to allow them engage in income generating activities.

It was song and dance as the beneficiaries received their checks from Governor Peter Anyang' Nyong'o during the ceremony at the Mama Grace Onyango Social Center last week.

Prof Nyong'o said the loans will support 39 groups of People Living with Disability, 328 Youth groups and 292 Women groups spread across the seven sub counties.

"My government is blazing the trail in addressing issues affecting vulnerable groups, specifically



**KSh 24,260,000
Revolving Fund set
up to promote their
enterprises at an
affordable cost.**

those living with disabilities. This is just the beginning of better things to come," said Prof Nyong'o

He said the Loans were part of his government's strategy in empowering vulnerable groups who have been missing out in the sharing of the national cake.

Nyong'o says the fund is not only designed to support entrepreneurship and alleviate poverty, but also an avenue to empower the neglected groups of the society facing obstacles in accessing affordable loans.

According to the Public Finance Management Act 2012, microloans are expected to attract an interest of 3% for the people living with disabilities and a 5% interest for women and youths. They will have a grace period of Two months to start paying the loans.

According to the Cabinet Executive Committee Member for Education John Awiti, the beneficiaries have been taken through a rigorous training process and will be able to handle the loans as required.

Back in June, the beneficiaries were taken through a capacity building programme that honed their skills in key areas such as positive attitude change on revolving fund, improved adherence to positive financial culture and enhanced socio-economic well-being at family and county level.

The loans, coming at a time when the world has greatly been hit by the Covid – 19 Pandemic, the fund offers a huge relief to the youth, women and persons with disability who have been affected deeply by the dwindling economy due to the pandemic.

Kisumu County prides itself as one of the first counties to employ sign language interpreters in line with the constitution of Kenya and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Prof Nyong'o said the 7 recently employed sign Language interpreters have been strategically deployed to the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital, the Kisumu County Hospital, the City Hall and the Public Service Board.

Milimani ward MCA Seth Kanga (Adui Nyang') and his colleague Mourice Ngeta praised the governor for the loans.

Travelling With...

By Harriet Chausiku

The Beauty of Kisumu's Dunga Beach

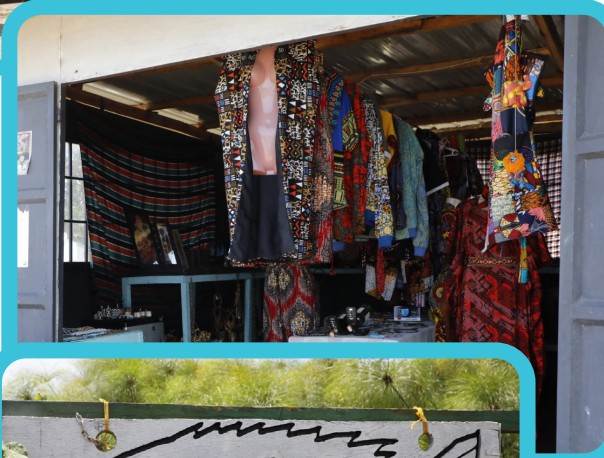
Dunga Beach sits at the elbow of Winam Gulf, and is one of the greatest tourist destinations along the shores of Lake Victoria. It is one of the stop overs for all budgets and is on a beautiful location with about 10-15 minutes drive from Kisumu town CBD.

Dunga being one of the few beaches around Kisumu County has an open lakefront to the public and is rife with welcoming locals and surrounded by a number of hotels selling Fish and local delicacies at an affordable price.

The beach is magnificent for people who love nature and boat rides. We have boat riders like Victor Ndong'a who can take you through a life time experience on the boat with beautiful sceneries like Dunga swamp which is a bird breeding area, hippos residing areas at hippo point, Community lifestyle of residents along the lake side, the city's view, Nyabondo plateau in Nyakach, Nandi hills, Maragoli hills not forgetting the beautiful sunrise and sunset from the east and west side of the lake.

For those whose vision of the Lake is just the water, fish and boats Dunga offers us a cultural site for the Luo Community called a boardwalk. The papyrus boardwalk is a Community Based Organization (CBO) Founded by the French Embassy in Nairobi through the social fund for development in the year 2015/2016 and is managed by the local tour guides.

The Boardwalk is a tourist attraction site constructed using papyrus tree on the lake with a mini museum showing us features of the Lake like different types fish and the Luo traditional artifacts like the nyatiti, agulu, akala among others. It also gives a cool view of the lake and the city at large on the watch tower being the top most point of the boardwalk, the beautiful Connors of the area gives



room for residents who would wish to take good photos, hold small parties or just relax because of its cool nature. The beautiful songs from the birds could tell that the area is a breeding point for different species.

My final stop for the day was at the Dunga Fish market, the lake is known for its fresh fish commonly consumed is Tilapia and Omena which is found at a very affordable price in this market. I can say this is the cleanest fish market I've ever come across. The fish mongers here are very friendly and accommodative to both the locals and foreigners.

Bereavement

Dark Clouds as County Mourns Prof. Nyunya



Dark ominous clouds gathered over Kapuonja village in the outskirts of Kisumu City on the morning of Thursday, July 29, 2021.

Elders scrutinised the skies and agreed that the clouds must have brought a sad message to the village. A prominent person must have died somewhere in the vicinity, the elders concluded.

It didn't take long before their fears were confirmed. One of their sons—Prof Boaz Otieno Nyunya, the Kisumu County Executive

Committee Member for Health and Sanitation was no more.

The Governor, Prof Peter Anyang' Nyong'o received the sad news shortly after 7 am. Heartbroken, the governor then broke the sad news to the public. Waziri had died in Nairobi as he was being rushed to Hospital following an illness.

Death had once more robbed Kisumu County of a top brain. A top medic, researcher and scholar whose works had changed and saved lives.

A grieving Prof Nyong'o said he has lost a friend and a dependable Minister who passed on at the age of 65.

The bespectacled daktari always lit up the Cabinet whenever he delivered his scientific and medical reports especially on Covid-19 in 'broad strokes' and in buttered humour.

"It is with deep shock and sorrow that I announce the death of Prof Boaz Otieno Nyunya. Prof. Nyunya has been the epitome of professionalism and hard work. He was stoic and determined in the delivery of his mandate as the person charged with the task of rebranding Kisumu's Health care," said Prof Nyong'o.

He added: "During his short stint at the department, Prof Nyunya created a brand for exemplary services."

The Governor said Prof Nyunya, his Chief Officer, Dr Gregory Ganda and the CEO of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital, Dr George Rae, had in the past few months firmly embarked on the massive overhaul of the County's health system.

We will remember him for driving the Kisumu Marwa Health Insurance Scheme which targets the Vulnerable families.

"Besides being his boss, I have known Prof Nyunya and his close family members for many years. I was in Primary school and College with his brothers," said Prof Nyong'o

As a County, we have lost a worker and a team player who instilled visionary leadership and gave real direction to the department; giving real meaning to quality healthcare provision.

