

# THE KIAMBU REPORT



Quote of the Month

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**"GREATNESS IS DEFINED BY THE PROMISES YOU KEEP"**

**Wamatangi says he is raising the Kiambu Governor's leadership bar too high**

## Mid-term scorecard

From education, health, infrastructure, agriculture, and other unprecedented achievements in just two and a half years into his tenure and an ambitious, well-laid plan for the future, Governor Kimani Wamatangi is charging ahead, determined to make the remainder of his term even more transformative for Kiambu. He has elevated the previously-disgraced into a model for other counties looking to adopt best practices in leadership.

**6 LEVEL 4 HOSPITALS CONSTRUCTED**



**26 LEVEL 3 HOSPITALS CONSTRUCTED**



**312 ECDE CENTRES COMPLETED**



"I will put the bar for the Kiambu governorship so high that my successors will have no options but to perform," Governor Kimani Wamatangi



**6000 SOLAR STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED**



**6 BUS PARKS COMPLETE**







Launch a bursary kitty of Kshs. 500 Million for 2024 academic year.



Kinoo Market in Kinoo Ward, Kikuyu Sub-County.



Commissioned a water project in Kimende, Kijabe Ward.



Governor Kimani Wamatangi commissioning solar streetlight programme in Ndeiya.



Lari level five hospital.

# Wamatangi sets high leadership bar

By 'THE KIAMBU REPORT'  
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In just two and a half years, Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi's impact has been felt in every corner of the county. Since taking office, Governor Wamatangi has proven to be a leader who believes in literally sweating alongside his people. His development record cuts across all sectors, making Kiambu County the envy of many. In his relentless mission of "Making Kiambu Great Again," his administration has stayed true to the promises made during the 2022 elections. From education, health, infrastruc-

ture, agriculture, trade, and sports, the governor is charging ahead, determined to make the remainder of his term even more transformative for Kiambu. "Just like a world record holder in the high jump competition sets the bar high by leaping the highest, through my track record in terms of development and prudence, I will put the bar for the Kiambu governorship so high that my successors will have no options but to perform," Wamatangi said. One area where his administration has especially excelled is in transforming Early Childhood Development Education in Kiambu under the "Leave No Child Behind". Young learners are already smiling,



**"From this expanded kitty, beneficiaries receive allocations ranging from Ksh 5,000 to Ksh 10,000, while students facing extreme financial hardship are awarded full scholarships to cover their entire educational journey," Governor Wamatangi**

thanks to the new infrastructure dotting every ward. Some 312 newly built

ECDE centres now stand proudly where once there were crumbling, neglected

structures. Each centre boasts modern PP1 and PP2 classrooms, offices, ablution blocks for pupils, teachers, and even persons with disabilities, as well as well-equipped play areas that rival the best private academies. But beyond the concrete and steel, Wamatangi has spearheaded a comprehensive feeding programme for the more than 39,000 ECDE learners, ensuring each child receives a bowl of fortified porridge daily, two eggs a week and a packet of milk every Thursday. To boost learning in the ECDE centres, the county has provided free books to all learners in public centres, ensuring every child has access to essential





Mutonya ECDE centre in Gatong'ora Ward.



Governor Kimani Wamatangi inspect drugs store at Kihara Level Three Hospital.



Ongoing roads work in Kiangombe, Thika.



Kiambu Governor Dr Kimani Wamatangi (right) issues 400 title deeds to residents of the Mwana Mukia Settlement Scheme in Ngecha/Tigoni, Limuru Sub-County at St. Paul's University in Limuru. The County has planned to issue over 10, 000 title deeds.



Launch of assorted medical equipment.

# as Kiambu soars in development

learning materials.

Under Wamatangi's leadership, the annual bursary fund has been significantly increased from Ksh 100 million to an impressive Ksh 500 million, with the next financial year's target of Ksh 750 million.

"From this expanded kitty, beneficiaries receive allocations ranging from Ksh 5,000 to Ksh 10,000, while students facing extreme financial hardship are awarded full scholarships to cover their entire educational journey," the governor said.

When he took office, the county's road network was a patchwork of potholes and broken promises. Enter the "Boresha Barabara" initiative that has graded and gravelled over 1,500 kilometres of road across the 60 wards.

Further, Kiambu County has be-

come one of the first to embrace solar as one of its primary sources of energy. Under the "Angaza Kiambu" programme, solar-powered streetlights now glow along roads and in markets.

In a bold shift toward renewable energy that has also been adopted in health facilities and water projects, all 60 wards are teaming with these new solar streetlights.

Kiambu bus parks, once chaotic and muddy, have received a much-needed facelift. Makongeni, Kiambu, Banana, Kikuyu, Kwa Maiko, Kwambira, and Githiga bus parks are now synonymous with order following their makeover.

But perhaps nothing touches the hearts of the people more than health-care, and here, too, Wamatangi's hand has been firm. The once-stalled hospitals have been revived; health facilities

have been stocked with essential drugs, and cutting-edge medical equipment has been installed.

From X-ray and ultrasound machines to suction units and dental radiography devices, the hospitals are now fully functional.

Twenty-five health facilities have been renovated, 26 new Level 3 hospitals have been constructed, and long-stalled Level 4 projects in Lari, Thogoto, Githunguri and Wangige are now nearing completion. New Level 4 hospitals are underway in Juja and Karuri.

Ambulances that once resembled transport trucks have now been refurbished under his leadership and equipped with modern medical equipment. In addition to upgrading the existing fleet, Wamatangi's administration has also acquired new ambulances

to ensure that every sub-county has a functional unit.

Behind the scenes, the newly installed Health Management Information System ensures accountability and efficient service delivery, while the Ruiru Central Medical Store is complete to ensure a steady supply of drugs and other pharmaceutical supplies.

Wamatangi knows that agriculture is the true backbone of Kiambu's economy, and his hands have been firmly on deck. His administration has acted with purpose, distributing certified maize seeds, tonnes of fertilizer, and fruit seedlings such as avocado, mango, orange, and pawpaw to over 500,000 farmers.

Women have been uplifted through the distribution of nearly 100,000 improved Kiyeji chicks, their coops now

alive with the sound of prosperity. The beneficiaries have grown to become egg suppliers.

Men, too, have found empowerment through the provision of piglets, while livestock farmers benefit from high-quality semen and widespread vaccination campaigns that protect against disease. Coffee farmers have received four commercial and 22 grower miller licenses.

At the heart of Governor Wamatangi's economic agenda is the small trader. Providing the traders with a conducive environment to conduct their businesses has been a priority for him.

As a result, seven new modern markets in Kimbo Matangini, Gituamba, Ndeiya, Kinoo, Dagoretti, Lusigetti and Kagwe are under construction. More in Mataara, Gakoe, Ngoliba, Kamangu and



# Kiambu Government completes 312 ECDE



Karura Ka Nyungu ECDE centre in Kabete Sub-County. It's has PP1 and PP2 classrooms, administrative offices, ablution block, kitchen and play area.



Kanake Model ECDE Komothai Ward, Githunguri Sub-County.



Karinga Model ECDE Centre in Ndarugu Ward, Gatundu South Sub-County.



Kanake Model ECDE Komothai Ward, Githunguri Sub-County.



Makwa Model ECDE Centre in Chania Ward, Gatundu North Sub-County.



Mbariki model ECDE Centre in Nyanduma Ward, Lari sub-county.



Wambaa Model ECDE Centre in Karai Ward, Kikuyu Sub-County.

**By ANN WANJIKU, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT**  
**T**he County Government of Kiambu has constructed 312 new Early Childhood Education Centres (ECDE) in the last two years as part of the regional government's sweeping reforms in the

education sector. The identical centres, which rival private kindergartens, boast two spacious classrooms for PP1 and PP2, a well-furnished teacher's office in the middle, separate ablution blocks for pupils and staff and a fully equipped play area featuring modern swings and games to keep

children engaged and active. Wamatangi has also been running a comprehensive free feeding program for all learners in public ECDE centres. The program has increased from 32,000 to 39,600 learners in the last two years, signalling the charging of fortunes for the public institutions that had lost learners

to private academies. According to Dr. Mercy Njagi, the county executive committee member for education, this has been attributed to the overhauling of the ECDE infrastructure and a comprehensive feeding program, where the learners get meals every day.

Every morning, each child receives a nutritious bowl of porridge and a boiled egg on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and every Thursday, each learner gets a packet of milk under "Maziwa Freshi na Wamatangi". Governor Kimani Wamatangi said another 178 ECDE centres will be placed



# centres, gives free uji, eggs and milk to all



Kiambu Governor Dr. Kimani Wamatangi with ECDE learners with the new uniform designs.



Kamburu Model ECDE Centre in Kamburu Ward, Lari Sub-County.



Kiambu County ECDE learners during the lunch of free learning materials.



The interior of Gitiha ECDE centre Gitiha, Gitiga Ward in Githunguri.

BEFORE



AFTER



Gatono Model ECDE Centre in Cianda Ward, Kiambaa Sub-county.

BEFORE



AFTER



Excel Community Model ECDE Centre in Gatong'ora Ward, Ruiru.



Kibathi Model ECDE Centre in Karuri Ward, Kiambaa Sub-County.



Ndururumo Model ECDE Centre in Theta Ward, Juja Sub-County.

for tendering in August and will be completed by December, adding that ECDE transformation was part of his campaign manifesto under the "Leave No Child Behind."

"But between 2013 and 2022, not even one of the 524 ECDE centres had been built or renovated. Children were

studying in dilapidated structures. But we are writing that story. By October last year, we had completed and opened 109 ECDE centres for use. The second phase of 138 was completed in January this year. In February, we started the construction of another 62 centres, which will bring the number of completed

schools by June of this year to 312," Wamatangi said.

He added: "ECDE plays a critical role in laying a strong foundation for future academic success. Research shows that the experiences and skills gained during these early years form the bedrock of a child's cognitive, emotional, and

social development. That is why we are supporting this sector to ensure learners begin the educational journey in an environment that is both nurturing and stimulating."

Margaret Muthoni, the chief instructor at Mbariki ECDE centre in Nyanduma, Lari Sub-County, said the number of pu-

pils at the two levels of ECDE was consistently under 20 but shot to close to 100 following the introduction of a feeding program.

All ECDE learners get five free 96-page books covering essential subjects, pens, and other interactive tools for teachers.



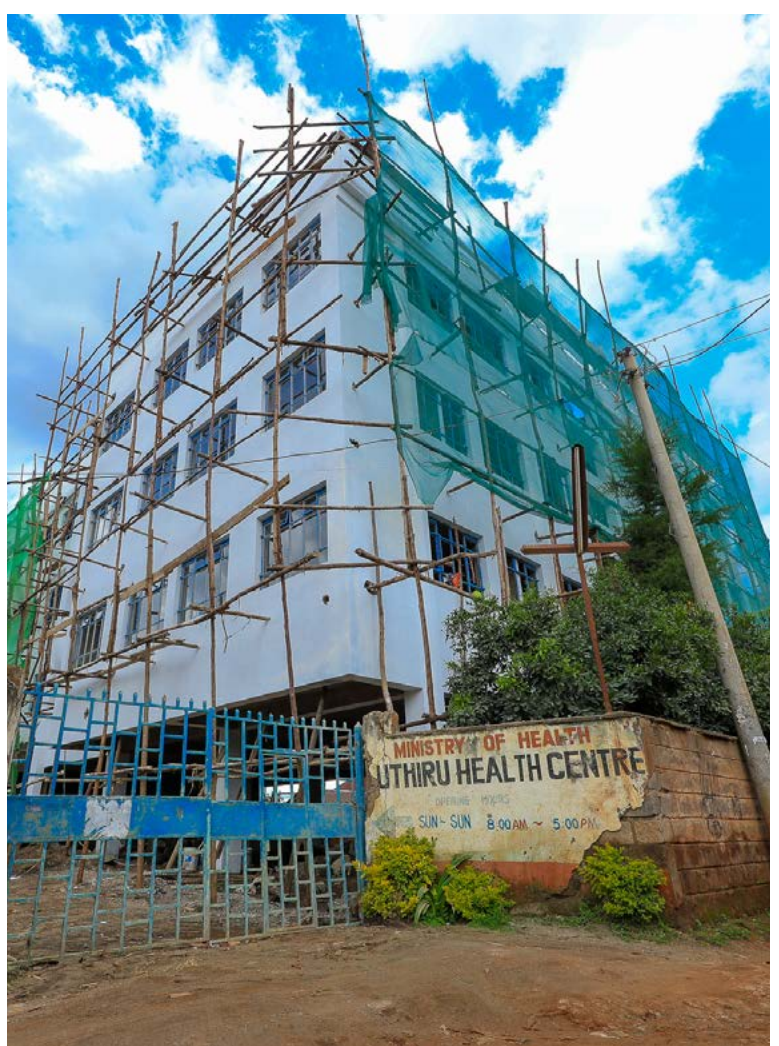
# Wamatangi builds new 6 level-4, 26 level-3 hospitals in



Ongoing construction of Karuri Level Four Hospital in Karuri Ward, Kiambaa Sub-County.



Juja Level 5 Hospital in Juja Sub-County.



Uthiru Level Three Hospital in Uthiru Ward, Kabete Sub-County.



A team of doctors at Kiambu Level Five Hospital examining a patient with the help of an endoscopy machine.

## By KEVIN KIMARU, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

The Kiambu County Government is building over 30 new hospitals to increase the county's bed capacity by over 1,600 beds as part of the regional administration's Sh5 billion ambitious plan to enhance healthcare infrastructure and improve service delivery.

According to the Department of Health Services, the Governor Kimani Wamatangi-led administration

is finalizing the construction of six level four and 26 level three hospitals, which are estimated to cost Sh2.6 billion.

According to the County Chief Officer for Health Services, Dr Patrick Nyagah, the devolved administration was spending Sh2.5 billion on renewing medical equipment in existing facilities and equipping the new ones.

Dr Nyaga said the county is spending Sh500 million to equip the existing facilities, which already have received ultrasound and X-ray machines, dialysis machines, and

endoscopy machines, while Sh2 billion will equip the new health facilities.

On Tuesday, Governor Wamatangi launched the third phase of medical equipment, including digital X-ray and modern ultrasound machines that will be installed in Kiambu, Githunguri, Thika, Lari, Nyathuna, Lusigetti hospitals, Gachororo in Juja, Makongeni in Thika, and Langata in Githurai.

Similar machines, including dialysis and endoscopy machines, have also been installed in Karuri,

Tigoni, Igeania, Kigumo (Komo-thai), Kahara, Ruiru, Thika, and Kiambu hospitals in the last one and a half years.

"By this, we (Kiambu) will be the first county to have more than 17 X-ray machines and 25 ultrasound machines in the same territory. And they are all brand new and advanced digital equipment that will be connected to our Hospital Information Management System," Dr. Nyagah said.

Governor Wamatangi said the new facilities, which are spread across various wards, are in differ-



"This program of providing milk to our young ones is meant to ensure that every child attending our ECDE centres remains healthy and focused on their studies.

**Dr. Mercy Njagi, Education CECM**



# two years, renews medical equipment to boost healthcare



Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi during a visit to Kiambu Level 5 Hospital on June 4, 2025 where he commissioned newly installed advanced x-ray and ultrasound machines.



A state of the art X-Ray machine among others delivered at Gatundu Level 5 Hospital.



Advanced X-ray machine at Kiambu Level Five.



A newly employed health worker takes a self photo with Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi.



Ongoing construction of Bibirioni Level IV Hospital in Limuru Sub-County.



Kiwaroga Level Three Hospital in Limuru East Ward.



Ndenderu Level Three Hospital in Ndenderu Ward, Kiambaa Sub-County.

ent stages of completion; some, he said, are over ninety percent complete and are set for equipping in readiness for operationalization this year.

The level four hospitals are Thogoto in Kikuyu and Rukuma in Lari, which were started for former Governor William Kabogo in 2026 but had stalled for seven years, as well as Karuri and Juja, whose construction began in November 2013, at an approximate cost of Sh210 each.

Further, the county has also tendered to complete Githunguri

and Bibirioni hospitals, which were started during convicted former governor Ferdinand Waititu's regime in 2018 for Sh800 million and Sh300 million, respectively, but later stalled.

"In line with the World Health Organisation's recommendation that no one should have to walk more than five kilometres to access healthcare, we will ensure that we have a level four facility in all our 12 municipalities and also prioritised construction of 26 new Level 3 hospitals across the county," said the Governor.

He added, "These facilities are

designed to include inpatient and outpatient wings, maternity wards with theatres, laboratories, and administrative blocks. Some of these hospitals are nearing completion, ensuring every ward has a modern healthcare facility. Our intention is to equip every facility we are building and renew machines in the existing facilities."

The identical level four facilities will be comprehensive medical hubs comprising outpatients, inpatient facilities, radiology departments, maternity, two surgical theatres, and male, female, and pediatric wards

with 160 beds in each facility.

The level three facilities, each costing between Sh50 million and Sh80 million depending on the scope of works, and most of which the Governor announced are over 95 percent complete, also have similar features.

County Executive Committee Member for Health Dr Elias Maina said the county was also intervening in human resource aspects in the health sector.

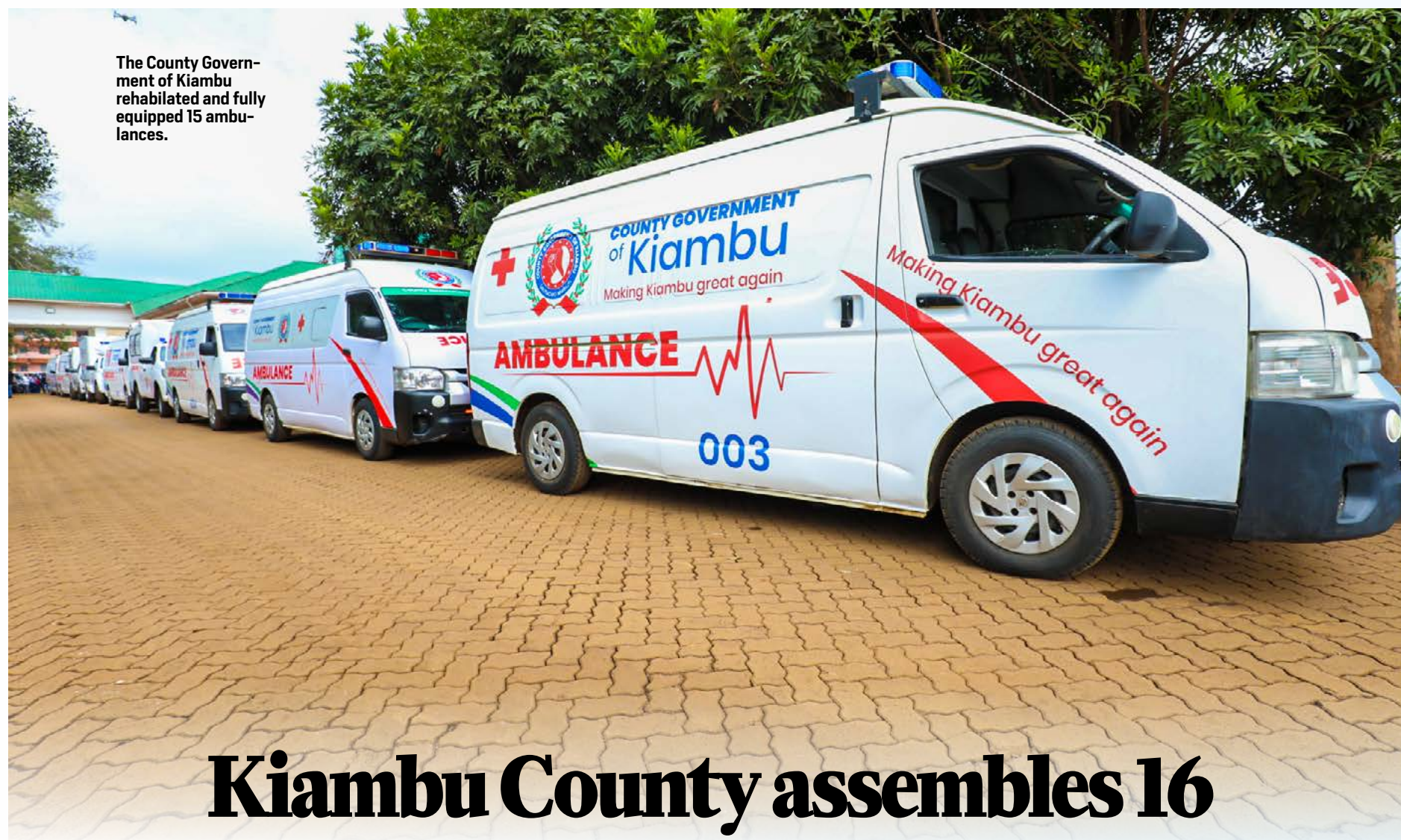
"More than 700 healthcare providers have also been promoted at a cost of Sh100 million per year, and his administration has advertised

to recruit 2,000 new staff members across various cadres. This move is aimed at strengthening the healthcare workforce and ensuring that health services are adequately staffed to meet the population's growing needs," said Dr Maina.

He said that just early this year, the county engaged the first cohort of new nurses who will be posted in health facilities across the county, and the county public service board was currently in the process of recruiting approximately 1,200 more healthcare workers.



The County Government of Kiambu rehabilitated and fully equipped 15 ambulances.



# Kiambu County assembles 16 ambulances and fits them with modern tracking system for efficiency

By KEVIN KIMARU

**T**he Kiambu County Government has expanded its ambulance fleet with 16 fully operational ambulances, each equipped to respond swiftly to medical emergencies. Among them is a dedicated maternity ambulance designed to support pregnant women during emergencies, ensuring safer deliveries and quicker access to professional medical care.

This new addition is a game changer in how the County responds to maternal health issues, particularly in remote areas where expectant mothers often struggle to reach health facilities on time.



**“When a call for help comes in, the system automatically identifies the closest available ambulance and directs it to the scene. This smart system cuts down on response times and helps save lives,”** CECM for Health Dr Elias Maina said.

The maternity ambulance comes with essential equipment and trained personnel to handle delivery-related emergencies even while on the way to the hospital.

And in a move to enhance coordination and efficiency in emergency healthcare, all the ambulances are now fitted with the Ambulance Control and Surveillance Link (ACSL).

This is a modern tracking system that allows County health officials to monitor, in real-time, where each ambulance is located.

“When a call for help comes in, the system automatically identifies the closest available ambulance and directs it to the scene. This smart system cuts down on response times and helps save lives,” CECM for Health Dr Elias Maina said.

To bring all these systems together, the County has also established a fully functional Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). The EOC acts as the central command room for all emergency health responses across Kiambu.

From here, trained staff monitor the entire fleet using the ACSL system, receive emergency calls, assess situations, and dispatch ambulances quickly.

The EOC also coordinates with hospitals, community health units, and security teams to ensure that every emergency is handled quickly and effectively.

Governor Kimani Wamatangi, who has made healthcare a key pillar of his development agenda, said the County is building not just a health system but a life-saving network that combines technology, infrastructure, and trained personnel to serve the people better.

“When an accident happens or when a mother is in distress during childbirth, every second counts. With 16 ambulances, a smart tracking system, and our new

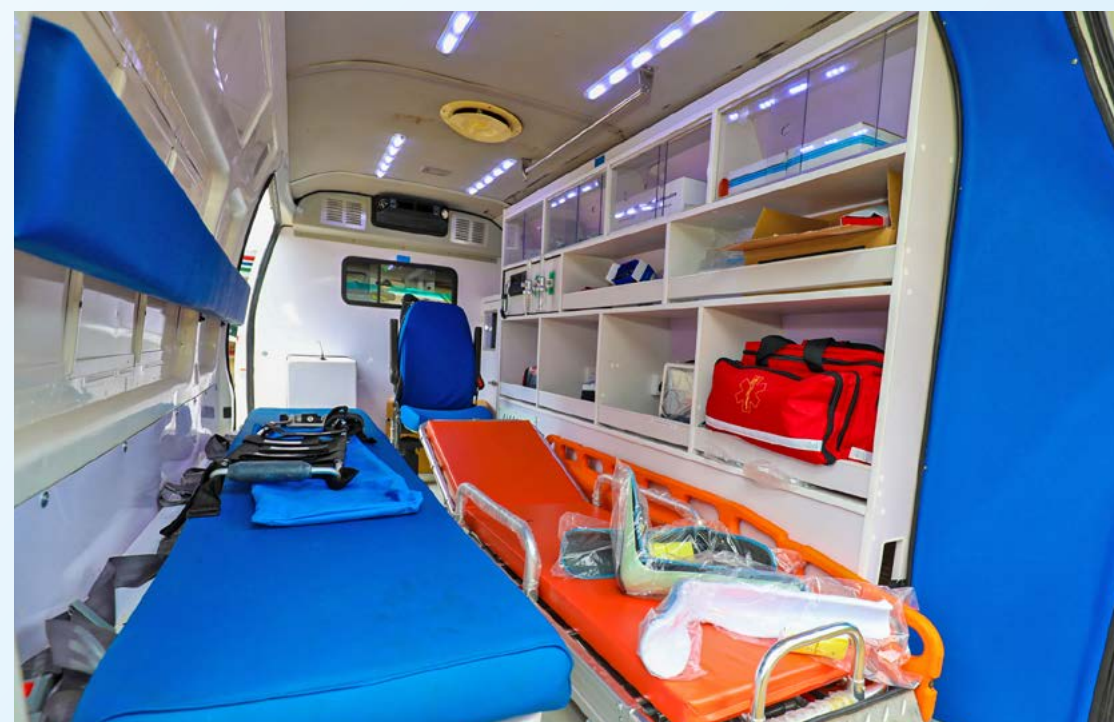
Emergency Operations Centre, we can now save more lives,” said Governor Wamatangi.

The Emergency Operations Centre is also playing a big role in handling public health emergencies, such as outbreaks of disease, road accidents, and natural disasters. It ensures that the County is ready to respond quickly and effectively to any crisis.

The County has also trained a special team of ambulance drivers

and emergency medical technicians to offer pre-hospital care. These professionals are equipped not just with skills but also with the tools they need to stabilize patients on the way to health facilities.

As the County continues to grow, with the expansion of emergency medical services, the people of Kiambu can now be assured that help is just a call away, and it will arrive faster, smarter, and better prepared than ever before.



The interior of one of the 15 ambulances that were rehabilitated and fully equipped by the County Government of Kiambu.



# Kiambu setting the pace in adoption of solar-powered streetlighting



By MARION KANARI

**K**iambu County has led the way in adopting solar energy, becoming the first county in Kenya to implement a full-scale transition to solar-powered street lighting.

Under Governor Kimani Wamatangi's ambitious 'Angaza Kiambu' programme, the county completed the first phase of installing solar streetlights across all 60 wards.

This bold move comes at a time when the Office of the Auditor General has raised concerns over counties wasting public funds on grid-powered streetlights that are driving up unsustainable electricity bills.

The devolved unit has already installed 6,000 solar-powered streetlights, and the county chief has also declared that national

grid power lights will no longer be installed in the county, with the aim being to achieve total off-grid operation by 2026.

Mr. Wamatangi announced that another 8,000 lights will be installed before the end of this year in a programme implemented in two phases.

He said the decision to have the county migrate from the national grid to solar was based on the unmanageable monthly power bill and the maintenance of national grid-powered lights, which was consuming approximately Sh300 million per year.

"We aim to shift the county to renewable energy, which will save on development funds that would have otherwise gone to pay the power bills. This is also in line with the climate change mitigation calls and environmental sustainability under the Sustainable

Development Goal 7 on clean and affordable energy," Mr Wamatangi said.

He added, "The financial burden in electricity bills is unsustainable and diverts valuable resources away from other critical services and development projects like the supply of drugs and construction of key facilities."

Historically, Kiambu has struggled with unsustainable power bills amounting to a billion shillings annually, often leading to significant disruptions due to disconnection from the national grid over unpaid bills.

According to the County Chief Office in charge of Public Works and Utilities, Eng. Virginia Kahonge, the county has 19,621 grid-connected streetlights, which culminate in an annual power and maintenance bill of over Sh260 million and another Sh50 million

for routine maintenance.

She added that county hospitals consume power worth over Sh1.2 billion annually, and county offices and fire stations alone incur monthly power bills amounting to Sh1.7 million, while water companies spend about Sh200 million per year, a trend she said was unsustainable.

"Once installed, solar power systems have minimal to almost zero maintenance costs and, most importantly, no monthly power bills. This transition will lead to significant savings, enabling us to allocate funds more effectively for the benefit of our people. In addition to high power bills, we face frequent and costly maintenance issues with the national grid," Eng Kahonge said.

Eng Kahonge said solar streetlights have a life span of up to 20 years, compared to grid-connect-

ed lights, which last a maximum of 5 years. They are less prone to vandalism and insect swarming, reliable, efficient, and have minimal maintenance costs.

Mr Wamatangi has also directed that all county installations, such as hospitals, administrative buildings, and water projects, be gradually converted to solar energy sources.

By switching to solar power, Kiambu County hopes to eliminate electricity bills and drastically reduce maintenance costs. Solar systems are known for their durability and low maintenance requirements.

Solar lights have minimal to almost zero maintenance costs and, most importantly, no monthly power bills and have a life span of 20 years compared to grid-connected lights.



Solar streetlighting project at Buriria in Kiambu Town.



Solar streetlight programme in Gatuanyaga.



Solar streetlighting project at Buriria in Kiambu Town.



# Wamatangi develops cheaper and effective access road rehabilitation framework

Governor Kimani Wamatangi inspecting the stockpiling on hardcore chip in Ruiru.



By MARION KANARI

**T**he Directorate of Roads in Kiambu County has embarked on a massive initiative to sustain rural road rehabilitation and maintenance.

At the Rujwasco County quarry in Gatong'ora Ward, Ruiru, the Directorate is harvesting 4,000 tonnes of hardcore chip material to support the program.

So far, over 150 tonnes of hardcore chips have been produced through the excavation and crushing of rock boulders, aiming to rehabilitate access roads across all wards in the county during this financial year.

This initiative seeks to ensure regular and timely maintenance of roads while significantly reducing the costs associated with purchasing materials. To date, 725 kilometres of access roads have been gravelled, and 1,687 kilometres have been graded across the 60 wards.

To enhance the durability of the roads, comprehensive drainage solutions are being implemented. These include culvert installations, stone pitching and gabion works in areas prone to perennial flooding.

Key projects include the installation of 900mm twin culverts in various roads in the county to address drainage.

County Executive Committee Member for Roads Wilfred Mwenda, emphasised that these efforts aim to mitigate flooding risks and prevent the deterioration of access roads, ensuring their longevity and improved usability for the community.

"We are focused on making all the roads in Kiambu motorable and the first step we have taken is to stockpile the materials before the works begin. The road works will be carried out simulta-



**"The directorate is committed to improve accessibility throughout the County and ensure sustained rehabilitation and maintenance of County transport infrastructure," says Wilfred Mwenda**

neously through out all the wards," said Mwenda.

According to the Mwenda, other drainage works will be conducted at Mugumo estate and Machiri Primary School in Ting'ang'a Ward and at Township ward Kiamumbi and Thindigua.

As part of the sustained efforts to improve access, construction of bridges to connect various ridges is ongoing in various wards with Mariguiti motorable bridge in Kiganjo at 70 percent complete which will effectively connect Mariguiti

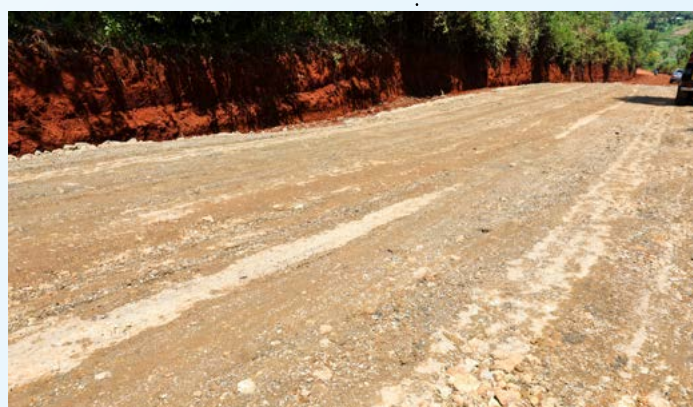


Construction of link cabro roads in umoja informal settlement within Thika Municipality.

to Gituamba ridges in Gatundu South, Muimia Bridge in Githiga ward is also ongoing at 50 percent while works are at 10 percent in Kabuteti.

Work is also expected to start at Kiruiru bridge in Nyathuna, Gaitete - Mungeere in Kirangiacross Ruabura river Ndarugo ward and Maria ini area in Gituamba.

"The directorate is committed to improve accessibility throughout the County and ensure sustained rehabilitation and maintenance of County transport infrastructure," says Mwenda.



Rehabilitation of Redhill Gikuni Road which connects Ngecha Tigoni and Nyathuna Ward.



Rehabilitated road in Kiambu County.





Ndeiya Market in Ndeiya Ward, Limuru Sub-County .



Kiambu County Aggregation and Industrial Park.

# Construction of 13 markets, completing Sh500 million CAIP

By NJERI KARU

Kiambu County Government is constructing 13 modern markets for Sh600 million as part of Governor Kimani Wamatangi-led administration efforts to improve the business environment for traders. Further, the county, in collaboration with the national government, is constructing a Sh500 million County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP) in Waruhiu in Githunguri, which is antici-

pated to support the value addition and marketing of fruits and horticulture, which are largely produced in Githunguri, Gatundu North, and Gatundu South, Kiambu, Kiambaa, Limuru, and Lari sub-counties. The County Aggregation and Industrial Parks will house an aggregation centre with sections for collection, sorting, grading, cleaning, packaging, and cold storage, as well as value addition, processing equipment, and common user facilities.

Further, the CAIP will be linked to an online

warehouse management system to promote market access. Its main objective is to grow manufacturing and agro-industrial investments and enhance the competitiveness of the agriculture sector. The market projects, which are fully funded by the county government, are Ngoliba market in Thika, Kirae, Kairi, Gakoe, Githunguri markets in Gatundu North sub-county, Karuri and Ruaka in Kiambaa sub-county, Juja farm in Juja sub-county, Kimende market in Lari sub-county, Githiga market and Karia market in Githunguri sub-county, and Ndeiya market in Kikuyu sub-county and Kamangu market in Limuru sub-county. The facilities will each accommodate over 300 traders and contain amenities such as a cold storage room for the perishable goods, a kitchen, a food court, a decent nursing room for the lactating mothers, a social hall for meetings, an ICT hub for training the youth on digital skills, space for fresh produce and small-scale traders, an ablution block and ample parking space. Perimeter walls and well-fitted floodlights will also be installed to ensure the safety of traders and their products, allowing them to enjoy a

24-hour business cycle. While addressing residents at Githunguri ward, Gatundu North sub-county, the Governor Wamatangi urged contractors to ensure that they empower the local community members by involving them in to provision of labour and supply of construction materials during the implementation of this project. "This market, which is in line with my government's plan to grow the SMEs sector, will not only provide a hub for local vendors and businesses, but also create opportunities for economic growth and job creation. I am thrilled to celebrate this milestone and I look forward to the positive impact it will have on our," he said. Susan Gatwiri, CECM Trade, Industrialisation, Tourism and Investments, said that once the projects are complete, traders will be able to work in decent facilities. "The establishment of this market is an assurance of the county's promise towards boosting local commerce and improving the livelihoods of the people in the county. Once complete, the market will be a relief to traders who ply their produce on dusty and unhygienic grounds," says Gatwiri.

## With six new municipalities, Kiambu is reaping big in development



Thika Town

BY ENOCK MAROA

Kiambu County Government may have lost over Sh15 billion in infrastructure and service funding for urban settlements over more than a decade of devolution, due to the failure of successive administrations to grant municipality status to several deserving areas.

The county, which comprises 12 constituencies and has a population exceeding 3 million, had been operated with only six municipalities. However, Governor Kimani Wamatangi changed this by conferring municipality status on six additional areas, unlocking more funding for Kiambu County and paving the way for greater development.

Each municipality is eligible for at least Sh250 million annually in grants from the World Bank through the Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP), which funds urban infrastructure such as roads. Before, Kiambu had six municipalities—Thika, Ruiru, Kiambu, Karuri (Kiambaa Constituency), Limuru and Kikuyu—were established during the tenure of former Governor William Kabogo. Over the years, they have seen significant upgrades, including cabro-paved roads, improved drainage, sewerage systems, and street lighting. Wamatangi successfully conferred six new municipalities in Githurai, Juja, Gatundu, Githunguri, Kabete and Lari. "The county lost over Sh15 billion in 10 years because some of its regions, despite meeting the population threshold for municipality status, were never granted that designation. Had they been upgraded, each of the other six constituencies would have received Sh250 million annually for infrastructure projects. That's how regions grow. But we missed the opportunity because someone failed to recognise its importance," said Governor Wamatangi. Wamatangi said the qualifying municipalities were being forced to share a portion of their resources with neighbouring constituencies that were not eligible for funding, notably Thika, which was sharing with Juja, Limuru with Lari, and Kikuyu with Kabete. Governor Wamatangi said the new municipalities would now attract funding, even as he announced that he had devolved most of the county functions to the municipali-

**"When I was serving as a senator, I led the one-man-one-vote-one-shilling campaign, and I successfully pushed for more allocations to counties based on population. When I come to the county, I continue with the same mantra locally to ensure my people are getting funds that meet their needs. Governor Wamatangi**

ties that are allocated money. "When I was serving as a senator, I led the one-man-one-vote-one-shilling campaign, and I successfully pushed for more allocations to counties based on population. When I come to the county, I continue with the same mantra locally to ensure my people are getting funds that

meet their needs. That's why I fought against stiff opposition to having the six new municipalities, because we will attract more resources," the governor added. This year alone, selected municipalities that had been approved for funding by the time of budgeting have benefitted from a Sh43 billion grant from the World Bank. According to County Minister for Lands, Physical Planning, and Municipal Administration Salome Wainaina, a town is eligible for municipality status if, among other things, it has a population of at least between 70,000 and 249,000 people, demonstrable revenue collection or revenue collection potential, capacity to effectively and efficiently deliver essential services. Further, a part of what the governor says is that, in his efforts to attract more resources to the county, Wamatangi has accelerated the plans to elevate Thika into an industrial smart city, with the process now at the county assembly after a task force created to shepherd the process finalised and handed over the report. The governor says, once successful, the process, which after the assembly will head to the Senate and later a charter awarded by President William Ruto, will see the town attract over Sh1 billion annually for infrastructure development. Besides the attraction of external revenue, the governor is implementing a Ward Development Fund framework that was approved by the county assembly, whereby for a start, he has allocated Sh600 million for the kitty, with each of the wards getting Sh10 million annually.



# Transforming water access in Kiambu County

Commissioned a water project in Kimende, Kijabe Ward.

By ESTHER KIHANYA

In the wake of global climate change, water scarcity is no longer a distant threat—it's a present-day reality.

With erratic rainfall, drying rivers, and shrinking water tables, both the national and county governments have been forced to take action.

Across the country, strategies like dam construction, rainwater harvesting, and tree planting are being implemented to combat the water crisis. Yet, the question remains—are we truly safe?

Where water is scarce, conflict often follows. Recognizing this, Kiambu County Governor Kimani Wamatangi, under his Maji Nyumbani Initiative, has made water security a top priority since taking office.

Through the Department of Water, Environment, Natural Resources, Energy, and Climate Change, Governor Wamatangi has drilled and equipped over 10 strategic boreholes in areas such as Gatuanabu, Ondiri, Komothai, Lari DDC, Njiku, Komo, Mariani, Gathanji, Nderu, and Marengeta.

Uniquely, these boreholes have been solarized—an initiative the gov-

ernor emphasizes is vital for sustainability.

"In a time where energy costs are rising and the effects of climate change are glaring, solarizing our boreholes ensures a constant, affordable, and eco-friendly supply of water, even to the most remote areas," said Governor Wamatangi.

These efforts have directly benefited over 250,000 residents, marking the largest number of people impacted by a water initiative in the history of Kiambu County.

Additionally, five existing boreholes have been rehabilitated, restoring water access to communities that had long suffered in silence.

Looking ahead, the county plans to drill and equip seven more boreholes in Juja Farm, Kabuku, Ngecha-Tigoni, Gitangu, Rwenu, Kamunyaka, and Githunguri Gicamu.

As part of the county's commitment to Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE), the Department has distributed over 60 water tanks, each with a capacity of 10,000 litres, to ECDE centers across Kiambu. The goal is to ensure that every child learns in an environment where clean water is accessible.

These tanks have also been extended to health facilities and community projects.

One such beneficiary is the Komothai Community Water Project, where the community's water tank had collapsed ten years ago.

"We had given up hope of ever having consistent water again. Thanks to the governor, our tank has been replaced, and we now have a reliable supply of clean water," said Wanjiku, a Komothai resident.

In addition to water sources, the county has made strides in building infrastructure to distribute it. According to County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Water, Environment and Natural Resources, David Kuria:

"Through the governor's leadership, we've laid over 300 kilometers of water pipes, all fully functional. Our target for the next financial year is to expand this to 500 kilometers, reaching even more underserved areas."

In Limuru Sub-county, the Gitogothi Water Project is a clear example of the county's impact. The community had drilled a borehole years ago, but lacked the piping to distribute the water—until now.



**"We had given up hope of ever having consistent water again. Thanks to the governor, our tank has been replaced, and we now have a reliable supply of clean water," said Wanjiku, a Komothai resident**

"We waited for over 10 years. Now, thanks to a 2.5-kilometer pipeline provided by the county, we finally have water in our homes. Membership in the project has since grown tremendously," said Dickson Mutura, a local resident and project leader.

Beyond water supply, Governor Wamatangi has also addressed sanitation. Recognizing the poor state of public cemeteries, the county has

constructed modern sheds and toilets in various locations, including Nyatuhuna, Gathiga, Moi, Riabai, Kanyayo, Rutara, Mbomboini, and Mundoro.

The program is ongoing, with more public toilets planned for areas such as Nderi, Nyambari, Rufus Shopping Centre, and Kanyariri/Kanjeru Cemetery, among others.

"Sanitation is public dignity. Every citizen deserves access to clean and safe facilities, whether at markets, cemeteries, or public spaces," noted Governor Wamatangi.

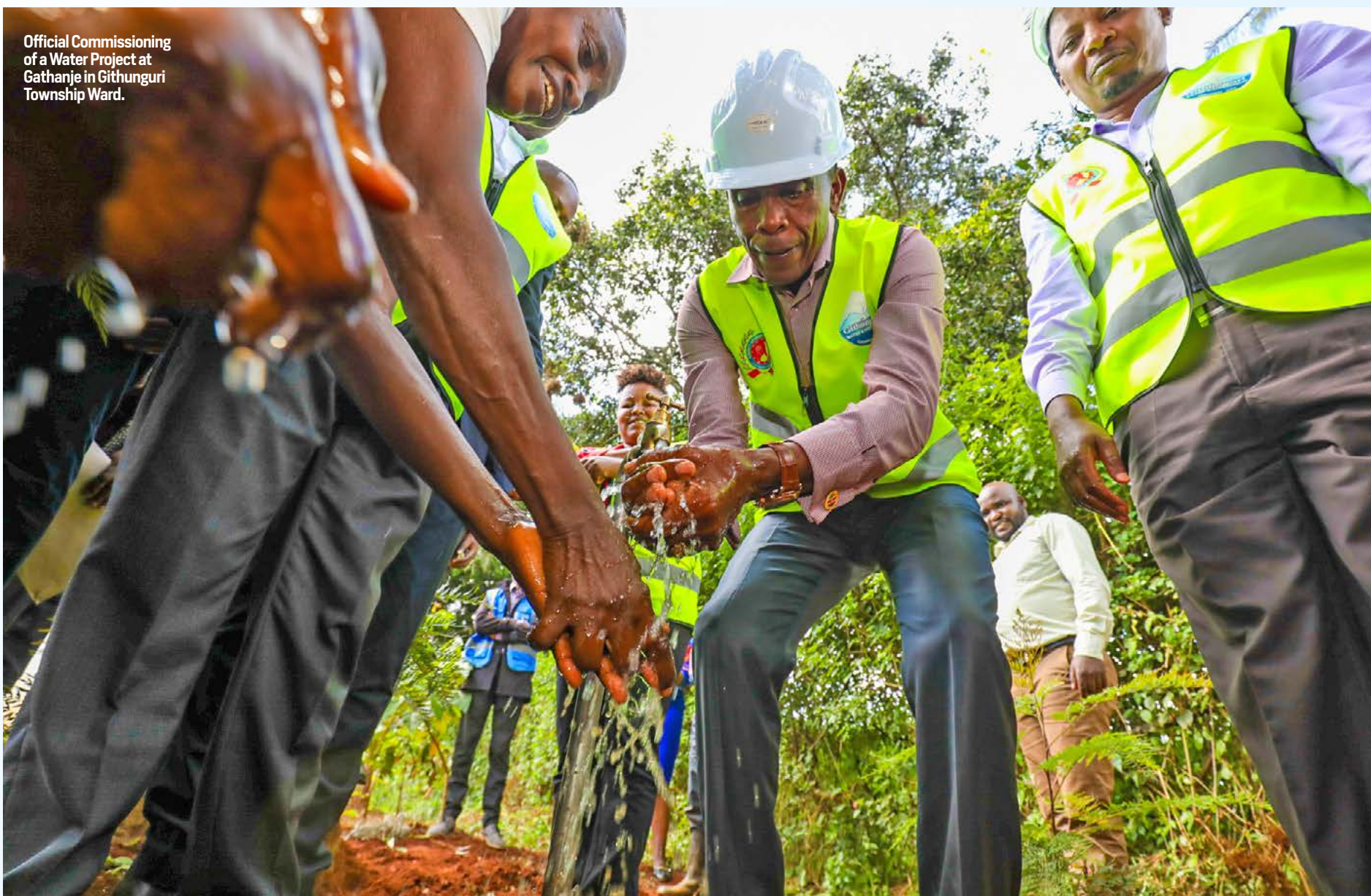
As the county looks to the future, both the Governor and his CECM remain optimistic.

"Water is not a privilege—it's a right," Governor Wamatangi emphasized. "Through the Maji Nyumbani Initiative, we are restoring that right to every Kiambu resident."

CECM David Kuria added, "We are not just quenching thirst; we're building resilience. The work is far from over, but the foundation has been set."

With bold leadership and community-centered solutions, Kiambu County is on a path toward a water-secure future—one borehole, one pipe, and one household at a time.

Official Commissioning of a Water Project at Gathanje in Githunguri Township Ward.







Distribution of chicks by Governor Wamatangi.

# Wamatangi gives kienyeji chicks to over 150,000 farmers

The KIAMBU REPORT CORRESPONDENT

One aspect of the socio-economic empowerment program by Governor Kimani Wamatangi-led administration, and one that has ignited great enthusiasm among the residents of Kiambu, is the distribution of indigenous “Kienyeji” chicks to women across the county.

The comprehensive empowerment program serves as an exemplary model for rural development, simultaneously addressing the economic well-being of local farmers and ensuring that the county’s youngest residents have access to nutritious meals.

Since the launch of this programme by Governor Kimani Wamatangi, over 150,000 farmers have received these chicks, which will soon transform them into entrepreneurs, enabling them to generate income from the venture.

Ms. Lucy Njoki, from Gitaru Ward in Kabete Sub-County, received her birds in September 2023 when the governor visited the area, and she



“I am excited that my dream of becoming a poultry farmer has materialized thanks to Governor Wamatangi. I expect that by December, my chicken will have started laying eggs to enable me to have a brood,” says Monica Wanjiku, one of the beneficiaries in Mwimuto in Kabete

said they are almost starting to lay eggs.

“I was registered as one of the beneficiaries of the program and received the improved chicks when

I was rearing. Those who received them earlier already have them laying eggs.

The county said it’s assembling all the beneficiaries into a cooperative society so that we can be supplying eggs to the county ECDE centers where they are running a feeding program,” Njoki said.

According to Governor Wamatangi, the county also plans to expand the empowerment initiative to include the distribution of piglets to men, ensuring sustainable growth for the farming community.

Local farmers are being provided with one-month-old enhanced Kienyeji chicks to rear, offering them an opportunity to participate in egg production and contribute to the county’s school feeding program. To facilitate this, farmers are encouraged to form cooperative societies, enabling them to supply eggs in bulk to the county government collectively.

As part of the program, women in the county are being specifically trained to become leading suppliers of eggs, with the goal of both economic empowerment and ensuring a consistent source of nutritious food

for young children. This program not only benefits local farmers but also tackles the issue of local egg supply, which has been a challenge for the county government in recent times.

“I am excited that my dream of becoming a poultry farmer has materialized thanks to Governor Wamatangi. I expect that by December, my chicken will have started laying eggs to enable me to have a brood,” says Monica Wanjiku, one of the beneficiaries in Mwimuto in Kabete.

The county has approximately 39,000 ECDE children attending 534 public ECDE centers. Each child is provided with three eggs per week as part of their nutritious diet, amounting to 117,000 eggs per week.

Over a term of 13 weeks, the county requires a staggering 1,521,000 eggs, which cost Sh18 per egg, including delivery expenses. This equates to an income of Sh30.4 million per term, benefiting the local farmers.

“Some people seem not to understand the reasoning behind our Kienyeji chicks distribution program. We are preparing these farmers to be our suppliers of eggs. Once the

chicks have matured, laid eggs, and hatched, we expect the farmers not to have less than 40 chickens. These can lay up to 30 eggs per day and 140 per week. With the Sh20 that we are buying an egg, it means that per week, they will be earning Sh2,800. This is what we call economic empowerment,” Governor Wamatangi said.

According to Chief Officer for Livestock John Ngige, one of the notable advantages of using improved Kienyeji chicks for this program is their cost-effective nature in terms of feeding, making it accessible and sustainable for local farmers.

To ensure accountability and proper documentation, the chief officer says all beneficiaries of the chicken program are being registered upon receiving the chicks. This data will be subsequently used for registration within the cooperative framework.

“We are looking forward to having very vibrant and solid local cooperatives that will empower our people. It is just a matter of time before the fruits of this great initiative are seen,” said Ngige.



Florence Waitheera, a one month old kienyenji chicks benefiiciary from Ndumberi Ward.



Lucy Wanjiru, a one month old kienyenji chicks benefiiciary from Riabai Ward.



Distribution of chicks in Gatuanyaga Ward in Thika.





Distribution of piglets to men's group in Gatundu North Sub-County.

# It's the men's turn to receive piglets in Wamatangi's empowerment drive



Distribution of piglets to men's group in Murera, Ruiru.

Distribution of piglets to men's group in Ruiru.



By LUCY MUREITHI

**A**fter successfully running a social empowerment program that provided women with improved kienyeji chicks, the Kiambu County Government is now distributing piglets to young men to help them start income-generating ventures.

The initiative, which targets men's groups in all 60 wards, is being spearheaded by Governor Kimani Wamatangi. He says the program is part of his manifesto commitment to empower the people of Kiambu by supporting them in venturing into agribusiness.

In a bold step towards boosting livelihoods and tackling unemployment among men and youth in Kiambu County, Governor Wamatangi's initiative has already seen dozens of households benefit.

The programme is designed to empower the youth and men economically by giving them a head start in agribusiness. Through the project, beneficiaries receive piglets with the promise of further support from the County Government in the form of training and access to markets once the animals mature.

According to John Kuria, the Chief Officer for Livestock, Fisheries and Veterinary Services, the programme provides youth with piglets to rear, encouraging them to venture into swine farming. A ready market has already been secured through local eateries and major meat processing companies.

"When the piglets mature, we have already secured a market for the farmers by engaging major players like Farmers Choice, who will buy from them. We also train the youth before handing over the animals," said Kuria during the distribution of

piglets in Juja Sub-County.

He added: "There is huge potential in this venture. For instance, in Juja alone, where there are five wards, we have distributed over 500 piglets. We expect that within three months, the animals will be ready to give birth and each can produce between 15 to 20 piglets. A rough estimate suggests that farmers could have over 10,000 pigs by that time."

The piglet distribution initiative is part of Governor Wamatangi's grassroots empowerment strategy, aimed at supporting economic independence through agriculture in all 60 wards of the county.

This project seeks to boost household incomes and create sustainable livelihoods.

"I pledged to support our men by empowering them with piglets as a step toward transforming them into agribusiness entrepreneurs and the programme is progressing well across the county. We want to ensure that as many youth as possible benefit from this project," Governor Wamatangi said.

He added: "Through this initiative, we aim to engage men and youth in pig rearing, a venture that, if well nurtured, has the potential to uplift our people economically. This piglet distribution is part of our broader grassroots empowerment strategy, which has also seen my administration provide improved kienyeji chicks to women across Kiambu."

The Governor assured residents that beyond the initial distribution, the county government will provide extension services, training and marketing support to ensure the project's long-term success.

Residents have lauded the move, citing its potential to steer many away from joblessness and drug dependency into sustainable income-generating ventures.

Among the excited new pig farmers is Joseph Ngugi from Githunguri, who said, "This is a blessing. I have always wanted to try farming, but lacked capital. Now I have a real chance to grow a business, feed my family, and even create employment for others."

Antony Muiruri from Kikuyu echoed similar sentiments: "Many young men in my area had given up hope. But this initiative has brought new energy. We are already forming groups to learn more about pig rearing and how to grow this into a proper enterprise."

For Julius Kiarie from Limuru, the initiative has been a turning point. "The Governor is walking with us on this journey. He promised training and market support, which is the real game changer."

**"When the piglets mature, we have already secured a market for the farmers by engaging major players like Farmers Choice, who will buy from them. We also train the youth before handing over the animals," said Kuria**



Distribution of piglets to men's group in Gatuan-yaga, Thika.



# Agricultural support yields tangible benefits, transforming livelihoods for Kiambu people

By LUCY MUREITHI

Since taking office, Governor Kimani Wamatangi has launched impactful programs focused on social empowerment and agricultural development. These initiatives are tackling food insecurity, creating jobs and improving the livelihoods of Kiambu County residents. Governor Wamatangi's efforts began in December 2022 with a large-scale maize and fertilizer distribution project. To date, over 430,000 tonnes of maize have been distributed to hundreds thousands of farmers in all 12 sub-counties. This initiative addresses food insecurity caused by erratic weather and unstable market prices while promoting sustainability through improved maize varieties and modern farming techniques. As a result, farmers are achieving higher yields, ensuring a steady food supply and boosting their competitiveness in regional markets. The program has also eased the burden on low-income households and positioned the county to transition from a food importer to an exporter. In July 2023, the governor intro-

duced a poultry program to diversify income sources for small-scale farmers. The project has created sustainable income opportunities and improved people nutrition with a steady supply of protein. Beyond household benefits, increased poultry farming has spurred growth in related industries like feed production, veterinary services and marketing, stimulating the county's economy. Recognising the potential of horticulture, the administration distributed fruit seedlings, including pawpaw, mango and orange trees, to farmers across the county. This initiative aims to diversify agricultural production, combat climate change, and boost incomes. High-value crops like mangoes and oranges offer better returns, require less water and have longer shelf lives compared to traditional crops. Additionally, fruit trees help conserve the environment by reducing soil erosion and improving fertility. With growing demand for organic produce, Kiambu farmers are gaining access to lucrative markets, further enhancing their income and quality of life. These programs are part of a larger strategy that combines sustainability, market access and capacity building. Farmers are receiving training on

modern techniques, pest control, and post-harvest management while accessing subsidised inputs like fertilizers and pesticides. The county is also investing in storage and processing facilities to minimize post-harvest losses and ensure farmers reap maximum benefits. As Governor Wamatangi approaches his third year in office, his initiatives are transforming Kiambu into a hub of agricultural resilience and economic empowerment. Despite challenges such as climate change and market fluctuations, the administration's vision and commitment are paving the way for a brighter future.

The Chief Officer in charge of Crops, Mr. Benson Njoroge, says the impact of socio-economic empowerment is already being felt at the grassroots level. "We are empowering farmers at the bottom of the pyramid—those who cannot afford maize seeds and fertilizer—by enabling them to cultivate their land and achieve a bountiful harvest. We collaborate with agricultural research institutions to ensure that we supply farmers with the best seed varieties suited to their specific regions, based on local climatic conditions," says Njoroge. He noted that since the launch of

agricultural empowerment programs, many residents who previously relied on relief food are now farming independently, thanks to the provision of seed varieties that thrive in their regions. Beneficiaries of the program have praised the initiative for transforming their lives. Simon Kanyiri Mwangi, a resident of Ngoliba, said the seeds distributed to farmers in the area have performed exceptionally well, as they are specifically tailored for the semi-arid climate. "We are happy because we received free seeds from the county government. An announcement was made directing farmers to a designated location to collect the seeds, and any serious farmer took advantage of the opportunity. The Governor ensures that no one is left out, making sure all families have the means to fight hunger," said Mwangi. Another beneficiary, Salome Nyambura from the Kona Mbaya area, expressed her gratitude to the Governor for helping farmers boost their yields. "I am grateful to the Governor for providing us with a fast-growing maize variety and additional fertilizer. Now, each of my maize plants has produced two cobs. If this farming program continues and we keep receiving maize seeds and fertilizer, Kiambu will no longer have people begging or relying on food relief," said Nyambura.



**"I am grateful to the Governor for providing us with a fast-growing maize variety and additional fertilizer. Now, each of my maize plants has produced two cobs. If this farming program continues and we keep receiving maize seeds and fertilizer, Kiambu will no longer have people begging or relying on food relief," said Nyambura.**



Certified Maize and Fertilisers Distribution in Ngewa Ward, Githunguri Sub-County.



Esther Wariara Nganga one of the beneficiaries of the certified maize and fertilizer in her farm in Lari Sub-County.



Margaret Wangari one of the beneficiaries of the certified maize and fertilizer in her farm Lari Sub-County.



Governor Kimani Wamatangi addresses farmers during a farm input distributiouon extercise in Nyanduma Ward, Lari Sub-County.



## COUNTY SPORTS

Governor Wamatangi inspecting ongoing construction of Kanjeru Stadium in Kabete Sub-County.

# Thigio football pitch nears completion as Kanjeru and other facilities take shape



“The Directorate of Sports has been working diligently every day to deliver quality sporting facilities to the people of Kiambu County. Thigio Grounds is just one example of what we envision—safe, accessible, and professional-standard grounds that will empower our sportspeople,” said Osman



By **DUNCAN OJJO, SPORTS REPORTER**

**T**he transformation of Thigio Grounds football pitch in Ndeiya Ward, Limuru Sub-County, into a modern sporting facility is nearing completion.

The project, financed by the county government of Kiambu through the Department of Youth Affairs, Sports and Communication, aims to provide a high-quality, safe playing space for local athletes and youth.

Currently, gravel is being spread across the pitch, with compaction works scheduled to follow immediately.

The final step—laying of the astro-turf carpet.

This development will ensure that the residents of Thigio and the broader Limuru Sub-county benefit from a state-of-the-art pitch designed to nurture local talent and promote sports among the youth.

Speaking during a site visit, the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Youth Affairs, Sports and Communication, Ali Osman, reaffirmed the County Government's commitment to completing the Thigio Grounds project

to international standards.

“The Directorate of Sports has been working diligently every day to deliver quality sporting facilities to the people of Kiambu County. Thigio Grounds is just one example of what we envision—safe, accessible, and professional-standard grounds that will empower our sportspeople,” said Osman.

Echoing these sentiments, Chief Officer for Youth Affairs, Sports and Communication, Godfrey Masolo, praised the pace of work and the impact the project is set to bring.

“The progress we are witnessing is encouraging, especially given the ongoing rains in this area. We are hopeful that by the end of the week, we will see our hard work bear fruit. Once complete, this facility will help nurture local talent, host Sub-county football tournaments, and support community activities, driving both social and economic benefits,” he stated.

This project is part of a broader infrastructure development and enhancement program spearheaded by the Department under the leadership of H.E. Governor Dr. Kimani Wamatangi. The goal is to uplift sportsmen, wom-

en, and youth across Kiambu County.

Other major projects underway include Kanjeru and Thika Stadiums. Kanjeru Stadium has made substantial progress, with the current focus on mounting the pavilion shed and seating area as the framework is removed.

At Thika Stadium, the second phase of development is ongoing. The contractor is preparing to dig a borehole and complete the basketball court, which is already 95% done, alongside the construction of business stalls around the facility.

Also, the Department is finalizing the construction of an ablution block at Kagwe Stadium, where roofing and plastering have been completed, and finishing touches are in progress.

At Gachie Grounds in Kiambaa Sub-county, modern changing rooms and ablution blocks are also being built to offer safe, clean, and gender-sensitive facilities for athletes and spectators.

Through these initiatives, talent promotion and the building of inclusive communities through sport are finally beginning to be realized in Kiambu County.



Kanjeru stadium proposed design. INSET: Ongoing construction of the stadium.

