

The **GOVERNOR** *Monthly*

Governor Barchok reinforces nutrition agenda with biofortified crops in schools



By Mathew Rotich

Governor Prof. Hillary Barchok reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to the fight against malnutrition and emphasized the importance of securing the future of children in Bomet County through the integration of biofortified crops into school meal programs. He explained that the County Government's collaboration with partners such as AGRA, HarvestPlus, KALRO, and the Cereal Growers Association represented a major milestone in linking agriculture, nutrition, and education to foster sustainable prosperity for local communities.

The Governor reported that during an engagement held at Kamaget Secondary School in Chepalungu Sub-County, a wide range of stakeholders—including farmers, county officials, and development partners—had convened to evaluate the progress made so far and to chart a clear roadmap for the next phase of the initiative. He noted that these consultations underscored the shared vision of building a healthier, more food-secure generation through collaborative action.

earlier in the day, the Governor received a delegation led by HarvestPlus Chief Executive Officer, Aruna Baral, who paid a courtesy call to his office. Other members of the delegation included Penina Muoki, County Manager at IFPRI-HarvestPlus, and Mr. Sammy Okita, a representative from AGRA, alongside several other officials and development partners. The Governor acknowledged the courtesy call as a reflection of the strong partnerships driving the biofortification agenda forward.

Technical gender working group(TGWG) meeting outlines four key actions to accelate gender.



By Stacy Binsari

The Department of Gender, Culture and Social Services has convened a Technical Gender Working Group (TGWG) meeting to strengthen coordination and chart a clear path on gender-related priorities. The meeting, which brought together government agencies, development partners, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders, focused on developing shared strategies to advance gender equality at both national and county levels. Key objectives of the meeting included aligning on the TGWG mandate, identifying and prioritizing focus areas, enhancing cross-sector collaboration, and developing a roadmap to guide implementation. After extensive deliberations, participants agreed on four priority areas of action: Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response, women's economic empowerment, gender and climate change, and gender mainstreaming across all sectors.

Stakeholders emphasized that addressing GBV remains urgent, given its widespread impact on families and communities. Women's economic empowerment was also highlighted as central to unlocking development opportunities and ensuring inclusive growth. Participants further acknowledged the need to integrate gender perspectives into climate change policies, noting that women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate-related challenges. Gender mainstreaming, they agreed, would ensure that equality considerations are embedded in policy, planning, and service delivery across government and partner institutions. Speaking at the event, the Director Gender at the County Government of Bomet underscored the importance of technical collaboration in driving progress. She stressed that gender equality is not the responsibility of one institution alone but requires concerted efforts across all sectors. "Only through strong partnerships and coordinated action can we make meaningful progress in advancing national gender priorities," she said.

Development partners and civil society organizations pledged continued support to ensure that the roadmap developed during the meeting is effectively implemented. Participants agreed to maintain regular engagement under the TGWG framework to track progress, share lessons, and strengthen accountability. The meeting marked a significant step in building a united front to address pressing gender issues, with stakeholders expressing optimism that the collaborative approach would accelerate the realization of national and county gender goals.

School milk sweetens learning in Bomet



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"Leaders focus on possibilities and solutions. Followers dwell on obstacles and problems."

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By Mathew Rotich

The School Milk Programme in Bomet County has continued to make a significant impact on the health and education of children by improving their nutrition, promoting their overall well-being, and motivating them to attend school regularly. Education experts note that this intervention has also contributed positively to classroom concentration and performance. Officials from the County Government of Bomet, through the Department of Education, Youth, Sports and Vocational Training, have reaffirmed the administration's commitment to sustaining the programme, which has now been running successfully for over three years. They emphasized that the initiative is one of the county's flagship efforts to support early childhood development and encourage better educational outcomes.

Officials across the wards confirmed the receipt of this week's milk consignment, which was delivered by the Kenya Cooperative Creameries (KCC). The milk was further distributed to individual schools through bodaboda saccos, a model that has ensured efficiency and timely delivery to learners in even the most remote areas. The department indicated that schools will, as per tradition, receive double packages for Tuesday and Thursday to ensure that children benefit consistently. Leaders in the education sector have praised the programme for fostering stronger partnerships between government, service providers, and local communities in addressing children's needs.

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Bomet County's School Milk Programme has proven highly impactful, improving children's nutrition, boosting school attendance, and enhancing learning. Its success, driven by strong partnerships and efficient delivery systems, makes it a model child-centered initiative worth sustaining.

Cultivating change: how indigenous vegetables are powering grassroots prosperity



By Stacy Binsari

The National Government has intensified efforts to commercialize African Indigenous Vegetables (AIVs) through the Natural Products Industry (NPI) Initiative, a Kenya Vision 2030 flagship project domiciled at the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) under the State Department for Culture, The Arts and Heritage. The African Indigenous Vegetables Commercialization Project, funded by the Government of Kenya, seeks to shift AIV production and consumption from subsistence farming to commercially viable enterprises. The project is expected to strengthen food security, improve nutrition, promote consumer health and wellness, and boost household incomes at the grassroots level. By empowering small-scale farmers to actively participate in the commercialization of AIVs, the initiative directly contributes to the government's Bottom-up Economic

In Bomet County, NPI has provided leadership by identifying and mobilizing 62 registered farmer groups in collaboration with the county government. These groups have received training in seed quality, agronomic best practices, nutritional value, cultivation, harvesting, value addition, cookery, preservation, record keeping, marginal returns, and marketing. To support production, NPI also facilitated the procurement and distribution of certified seeds. Beyond training and seed distribution, the project is working jointly with county governments and other stakeholders to drive policy formulation on AIV marketing and consumption. The objective is to create a sustainable niche market for African Indigenous Vegetables, ensuring long-term viability for farmers and improved dietary diversity for consumers.

Currently, a national assessment team is in Bomet County for a six-day exercise to evaluate the impact of the project. The findings from this assessment will inform national policy decisions and future programming. The team is led by Mr. Evans Wamalwa, an Economist at NMK, and includes officers from the State Department for Culture, The Arts and Heritage, as well as the National Treasury. As part of their field mission, the team paid a courtesy call to the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives. They were officially received by the Chief Officer of Agriculture, Dr. Kibet Sitienei, who was accompanied by senior officers from the department. Dr. Sitienei lauded the initiative, noting that commercialization of indigenous vegetables not only benefits farmers but also enhances nutrition security and supports county development priorities. Stakeholders expressed optimism that the project would create new income opportunities for farmers, expand markets for indigenous produce, and ensure that traditional foods remain an integral part of Kenya's food systems.

Mugango-Kalyet dip road project breaks ground,unlocking new opportunities for farmers



By Celestine Chebet

The County Government of Bomet, through the Department of Roads, Transport and Public Works, initiated earthworks on the new Mugango–Kalyet Dip Road in Singorwet Ward, Bomet Central Sub-County earlier this year. The project marked a significant step forward in the county’s ongoing efforts to improve accessibility in remote areas, particularly in agriculturally productive regions where poor road conditions have hindered development for decades. For years, residents of Kalyet village endured persistent transport challenges due to the deteriorated state of existing roads. During rainy seasons, access to markets, health facilities, and schools was often cut off completely. The launch of the Mugango–Kalyet Dip Road project was therefore met with enthusiasm and relief by the local community, especially farmers, traders, and transport service providers who rely on dependable road networks.

The Mugango–Kalyet Dip Road project formed part of a broader countywide infrastructure initiative aimed at modernizing Bomet’s road network and ensuring that no region is left behind in the county’s development agenda. County officials confirmed that the project was designed not only to improve transport efficiency, but also to stimulate growth in sectors such as agribusiness, education, and healthcare. The improved road is expected to ease movement for school-going children and expectant mothers, while also encouraging private sector investment in the region. According to the Department of Roads, the Mugango–Kalyet Dip Road will also enhance emergency response capabilities by reducing travel time to the nearest health centers, particularly during critical times. County leadership reiterated its commitment to prioritizing infrastructure as a cornerstone of economic development. By investing in roads, bridges, and rural access routes, the county aims to unlock the full potential of its wards and enable equitable service delivery across the region.

“The transformation of rural roads like Mugango–Kalyet is not just about tarmac or gravel — it’s about creating opportunities, connecting communities, and lifting livelihoods,” a statement from the governor’s office read. As the earthworks progressed in recent months, residents and local leaders alike welcomed the efforts, viewing the project as a long-overdue response to years of appeals and unfulfilled promises. Once completed, the Mugango–Kalyet Dip Road is expected to stand as a symbol of inclusive development and a testament to the county government’s resolve to build a well-connected, economically vibrant Bomet for all.

Brighter nights ahead: public lighting boost in Kipsonoi and Rongena



By Sharon Chelangat

The County Government has ushered in the new financial year with a bold step towards improving security, safety, and economic activity by upgrading and maintaining public lighting infrastructure in Kipsonoi and Rongena Manaret wards. County officials carried out maintenance works on several key installations, including the Kapkelei Highmast floodlights, Kapkelei market floodlights, and Tembwo market streetlights. The exercise marks the beginning of a larger program designed to upgrade public lighting across the county, ensuring that markets, schools, and residential areas benefit from improved visibility after dusk.

The Department of Lands, Housing, and Urban Planning emphasized that the activity was not an isolated project but part of a county-wide master plan for urban and rural infrastructure improvement. Officials confirmed that several wards will soon benefit from similar lighting projects. “Public lighting is not just about infrastructure. It is about dignity, safety, and economic empowerment. When residents can walk, learn, and trade safely at night, we all move forward as a community,” said Mr. David Langat, Director of Survey, during the visit. The Government also highlighted the broader impact of public lighting on reducing crime rates. Police officials have consistently noted that well-lit areas discourage petty crime and antisocial behavior. By working hand-in-hand with law enforcement, the initiative will strengthen security and ease the burden on police patrols.

Lighting is not just about brightening our streets. It is about giving hope, driving growth, and making sure every resident feels safe and valued. This is the path we are taking as a county, and we are proud to see the results already shining through,” a county engineer added. With brighter nights now transforming Kipsonoi and Rongena, residents are hopeful that the glow will spread across the county — illuminating not just streets and markets, but the promise of safer, stronger, and more vibrant communities.



Health at the heart : Bomet county revives community units.



By Sharon Chelangat

The County Government of Bomet, in coordination with the Department of Health Services has carried out its monthly review of community health units in Chepalungu Sub-County, focusing on evaluating performance, addressing challenges, and strengthening healthcare delivery at the grassroots level. The review, held on Monday, brought together health officials, community health extension workers, and volunteers from units across the sub-county, including Kyogong, Sachoran, Kimatisio, Itembe, Olbutyo, Segemik, Kiribati, Tilangok, Goitab Silibwet, and Kipsarwet. Speaking during the forum, a health officer noted that the reviews play a key role in improving service delivery. “These meetings give us the chance to reflect on progress made, recognize the hard work of health volunteers, and identify the gaps that must be addressed to improve community health,” the officer said. Among the achievements highlighted were improved maternal and child health services, stronger coordination between health volunteers and local leaders, and increased household visits that have boosted awareness on hygiene, family planning, and nutrition.

However, challenges remain. Participants raised concerns over limited medical supplies, understaffing, and the need for refresher training for community health volunteers. “We are doing our best, but the shortage of essential drugs and equipment makes it difficult to meet the growing demand,” one community health worker explained. The Department pledged to continue supporting the units by strengthening supply chains, offering capacity-building for health workers, and expanding outreach programs, especially in remote areas. “Our goal is to ensure that no household in Chepalungu is left behind when it comes to access to healthcare,” the Department assured in its closing remarks. Officials emphasized that the monthly reviews will remain a key tool in monitoring progress and ensuring community health units are responsive to the needs of the people.

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“Our priority is to ensure that every single household in Chepalungu has access to quality healthcare services. Through these regular review meetings, we are able to track our progress, identify gaps, and come up with solutions that directly respond to the needs of our people. The County Government is committed to building stronger community health units, supporting our volunteers, and ensuring essential services such as immunization, maternal health, and sanitation reach even the most remote areas. We believe that no family should be left behind in the journey towards a healthier Chepalungu.” – County Health Official

Bomet county holds stakeholder meeting on riparian land protection policy.



By Stacy Binsari

The Bomet County Government held a stakeholder engagement meeting to discuss its draft Riparian Land Protection Policy, marking a key step towards environmental conservation. The meeting was led by the Department of Water, Environment, Sanitation, Natural Resources and Climate Change in collaboration with the Mara Water Resources Users Association. Discussions focused on mapping and demarcating riparian zones, enforcing a 30-meter buffer, and banning eucalyptus and other invasive tree species in sensitive areas. Stakeholders noted that protecting riparian ecosystems would have long-term benefits for water security and biodiversity, while assuring that community livelihoods would be taken into account. They further emphasized the importance of sensitizing and educating communities, observing that successful implementation would rely heavily on local understanding and participation. The forum also underscored the need to promote sustainable nature-based livelihoods, biodiversity, and water security.

It was agreed that a collaborative approach would be essential to ensure that the policy was not only enforced but also embraced by local communities. To facilitate implementation, Bomet County indicated that up to 15 percent of the budgetary allocation to the Department of Water, Sanitation, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change would be set aside under the Green Enterprise Fund. The forum was attended by a wide range of participants including community representatives, farmers, environmentalists, government officials from various departments and learning institutions, as well as civil society organizations.

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