

# Nairobi TODAY



**NAIROBI CITY COUNTY**  
Let's make Nairobi work!

A City of Order, Dignity, Hope and Opportunity.

Issue 009 | April 2024

## Uhuru Park Reopens



The iconic Uhuru Park was handed back to Nairobi City County on 18th April 2024 after completion of renovation work by the Kenya Defense Forces.

Nairobi Governor HE Sakaja Johnson, at the handover event noted the importance of the facility, "Today is a momentous day to the people of

Nairobi as we receive back Uhuru Park. The park holds a special place in the heart of Nairobians where they come to relax and enjoy the scenery and ambience of the park. This is people's park and entry will be free. You only need ID to enter the park.

Cabinet Secretary for Defence Hon.

Adan Duale while handing over the park to the county said the renovation intended to restore the image of the city.

"It's a significant day as we hand over full management and control of this park to Nairobi City County. The park is a source of love, hope and custodian of our heritage. We have made sure the park has achieved global acceptable standards. Nairobi is now the green City under the sun", CS Duale said.

The popular park got a facelift with new abolition blocks, walkways, jogging paths, security gates, beautification and other rehabilitation works

The Governor revealed plans to have parks in Nairobi estate including TRM- Roysambu park, Waithaka People's park, Kamukunji Park and Jacaranda parks.

Renovation work is still going on at City Park and set to reopen soon.

The park entrance will be free for all people.



### Governor's Note

I am pleased to provide you with an update on the progress and developments taking place within our county. First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude for your ongoing support and cooperation as we work towards building a better future for all residents of our county.

Over the past month, we have been actively engaged in various initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality of life for our citizens. From infrastructure projects to healthcare initiatives, we are committed to addressing the diverse needs of our community.

One area of focus has been our efforts to improve access to healthcare services. We have been working tirelessly to upgrade and expand our healthcare facilities, ensuring that residents have access to the quality care they deserve. I am pleased to inform you that we have completed the final inspection of Mama Margaret Uhuru Hospital in Embakasi North. This facility is now officially designated as a fully-fledged level 5 hospital and will soon be open to the public. Additionally, we have been implementing programs aimed at promoting health and wellness within our community.

As we continue to move forward, I want to assure you that we continue to address the issues of Nairobi including the impact of the ongoing heavy rains. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

H.E Hon. Sakaja Arthur Johnson, EGH



## 2nd Edition of Battle of Choirs Easter Festival



The 2nd edition of the Battle of the Choirs - Easter Festival made Nairobi's choral scene reverberate with passion and talent as 28 church choirs from across the city congregated for the grand finale at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) on 1st April 2024. This highly anticipated event, graced by Nairobi Governor Sakaja Johnson, aimed not only to crown the best choir but also to celebrate the essence of Easter with soul-stirring choral melodies and harmonies.

The festival whose aim is to showcase the rich and diverse choral music from sub-county levels, proved to be more than just a competition. It served as a

platform for choirs to showcase their talent, professionalism, and versatility, drawing an even larger crowd this year.

The Battle of the Choirs that draws choirs mostly from local churches of all denominations across 85 wards in Nairobi County attracted 92 entries compared to 40 in the first edition. This year, the committee whittled down the 92 entries to 61, with 52 from church choirs and 9 from community choirs.

The competition was fierce, with each choir pouring their hearts into performances that showcased musical prowess and devotion. The top prize of KSh 2 million awaited the victor, while the runners-up stood to claim

substantial rewards as well. Ultimately, it was the P.C.E.A Kahawa Farmers Church Choir that emerged triumphant, clinching the coveted title and the accompanying cash prize of KSh. 2Million. St. Peters Clavers Catholic Choir were the 1st Runners Up bagging Ksh.1Million, while Ngomongo Ministers came in third, with a cash prize of Ksh.500,000.

Choir Master Dickson Lubang'a of the P.C.E.A Kahawa Farmers Church Choir showcased decades of musical excellence and their unwavering dedication and talent, setting the stage for continued growth and inspiration. The Ngomongo Ministers on the other hand, under the leadership of Choir Master Erick Omondi Otieno, represented the vigor and spirit of youthful talent. Despite being a relatively young ensemble, they embraced the challenge with zeal, ultimately securing a well-deserved place among the top contenders.

Reflecting on the competition, the P.C.E.A Kahawa Farmers Choir Master Dickson highlighted the significance of the win for both the choir and the church at large. The victory has not only elevated their profile but has also opened doors for collaboration and recognition within the music industry.

Continued on Pg 2

## Deputy Governor's Note



Dear Fellow Residents,

I am pleased to share updates on our ongoing efforts towards achieving our development goals for the county.

In the past month, we have held meetings and discussions with stakeholders in different sectors on how best we can collaborate towards the growth and prosperity of our county. We remain committed to addressing the issues raised by the traders and working towards solutions aimed at overcoming the existing obstacles in order to create a conducive business environment.

We are also continually reviewing our policies, programs, service delivery approach, and monitoring the progress of various initiatives undertaken by the county government to ensure that residents experience business growth, improved service delivery, and that they benefit from the various community empowerment initiatives endorsed by the county government.

The work ahead serves as a platform for robust discussions, knowledge sharing, and strategic planning aimed at innovatively addressing challenges, fostering inclusivity, and

promoting sustainable development. We are committed to implementing innovative solutions to propel Nairobi City County towards sustainable fiscal growth.

We eagerly anticipate translating our collective aspirations and strategic plans into tangible outcomes for the betterment of all Nairobi City County residents. Together, let us continue striving towards a prosperous and inclusive future for our beloved county.

**H.E Njoroge Muchiri.**

**“The competition was fierce, with each choir pouring their hearts into performances”**

He emphasized the choir's commitment to professionalism, quality music, and inclusive participation as key factors in their success.

The first runner up St. Peters Clavers Catholic Choir attributed their victory to discipline, commitment, hard work, determination, a good technical team and the unity of the members. The Choir Master Benard Ssendegeyo said that the prize will help the choir to carry out their projects and programs and ease the burden on the members in terms of contributing towards choir activities. He lauded the County Government for this initiative and hopes that there will be more editions of this festival in the coming years.

For The Ngomongo Ministers, participation in the competition was motivated by the desire to challenge themselves and showcase their vocal strength. They commended the organization of the competition, highlighting the new experiences and opportunities for growth it provided.

Governor Sakaja on sharing the significance of the festival emphasized its deeper purpose: to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and spread the message of love and hope through music. He unveiled plans for a mobile recording studio to support choirs in their musical endeavors, and eventually a recording studio in each sub county.

"We are here for a reason, in this season, Jesus is the reason. We are celebrating the love that God showed to humanity by giving His Son to die for us to get an abundant life. We are here to support your ministry in spreading the Word through songs. Am sure someone has received encouragement, healing and their spirit lifted", Governor Sakaja added.

As the echoes of victory linger and the choirs embark on new musical journeys, their stories serve as an inspiration for aspiring musicians and a testament to the transformative power of music in fostering community, nurturing talent, and spreading joy. The Battle of Choirs Easter Festival will continue to not only celebrate musical excellence but also embody the spirit of unity, faith, and artistic expression.



# Empowering Youth Through Sports: Nairobi Governor Sakaja opens Uhuru Complex Sports Arena



Nairobi Governor Sakaja reaffirmed his dedication to nurturing talent and fostering sports development within the county with the completion of the Uhuru Complex Sports Arena. Situated in Kariobangi South/Uhuru Ward, Embakasi West Subcounty, the facility was officially launched and opened to the public on March 23rd, marking a significant milestone in the county's sports infrastructure.

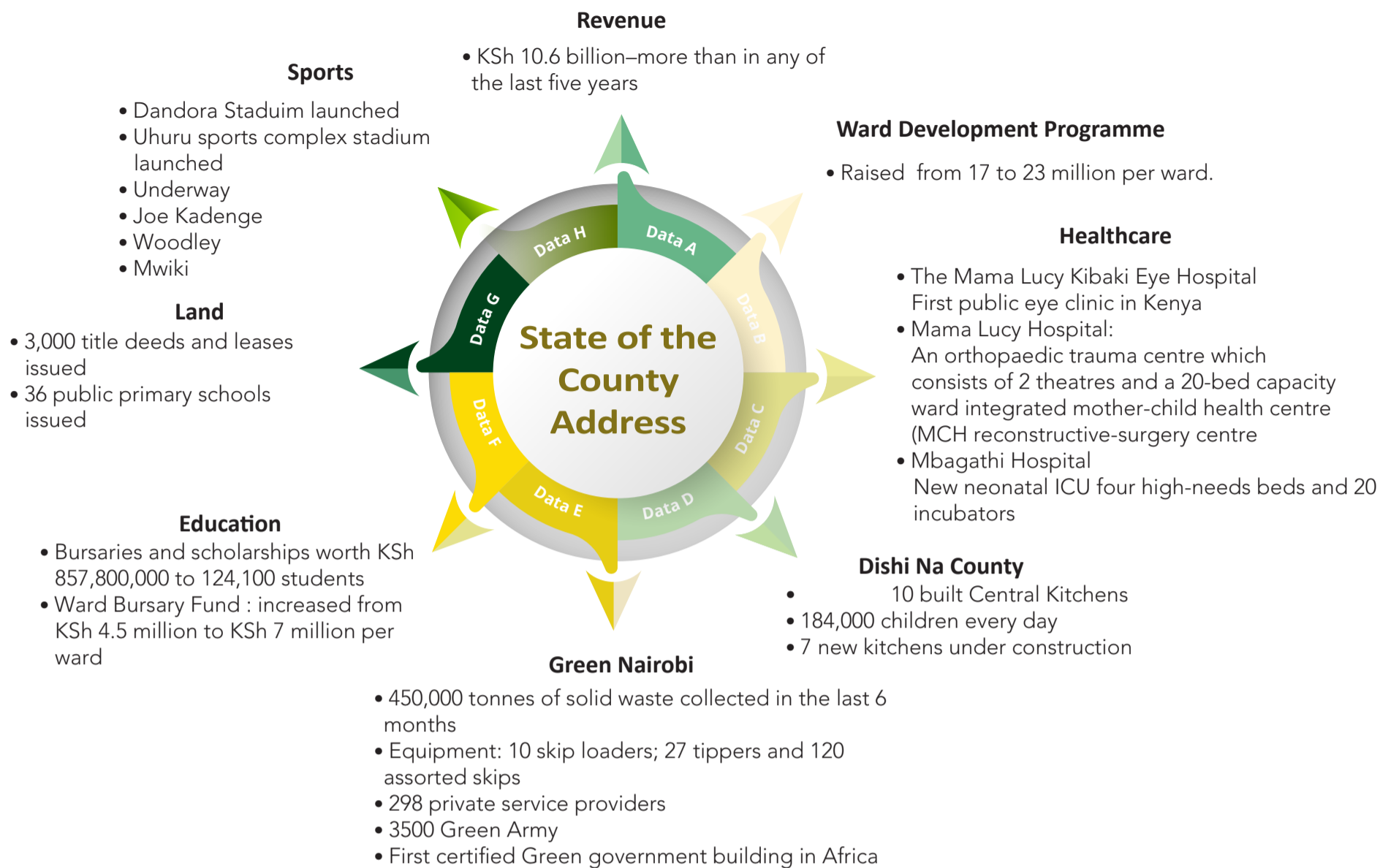
The multi-purpose facility has a range of amenities, including a modern football pitch, basketball court, boxing ring, and a convertible court adaptable for netball and volleyball. Additionally, it has a multipurpose hall that has been designed to host indoor games such as chess, table tennis, pool, and darts, catering to a diverse array of sporting interests.

Governor Sakaja expressed his commitment to extending sports facilities across every corner of Nairobi, emphasizing the importance of providing platforms for youth to nurture their talents and skills. Other facilities that are still under construction include Joe Kadenge, Woodley, Ziwani, Umeme, Githurai, Mukuru, and Kihumbuini stadiums.



By Gerald Odongo

# State of the County Address by Governor Sakaja



## Unlocking Nairobi's Skyline: Removing Height Restrictions to Accommodate Population Growth

Nairobi City's population is expanding rapidly with a projection of 10.5 million people by 2050. The Nairobi County Government is looking at increasing height restrictions on buildings, signaling a significant shift in urban development policy. Developers will now have the freedom to construct buildings up to 25 floors in certain

areas, marking a departure from previous regulations aimed at ensuring the safety of high-ranking officials during emergency evacuations.

Governor Sakaja justified the move by highlighting the impracticality of relying on building height limitations for presidential evacuation purposes

in a rapidly growing city like Nairobi.

In a statement, Governor Sakaja stated, "with the rapid growth with limited geographical space, vertical development is the only viable solution. By lifting these height restrictions, we are not only embracing the future needs of Nairobi but also

creating opportunities for affordable housing initiatives."

The decision to remove height limitations is expected to catalyze the construction of high-rise apartments, particularly under the Affordable Housing Programme, addressing the pressing need for adequate housing in the city. Governor Sakaja emphasized the importance of this shift in policy, citing concerns about the practicality of emergency evacuation plans and the city's future urban landscape.

Previously categorized zones, such as Zone Four in Kileleshwa and Zone Five encompassing Lavington, Upper Spring Valley, Kyuna, and Loresho, were subject to strict height restrictions of zone four having a limit of up to 4 floors for buildings within the area.

Governor Sakaja also outlined plans to upgrade infrastructure, including sewerage systems and water reservoirs, to support the growing population and the increased demand for services resulting from intensified urbanization.

The removal of height restrictions marks a significant milestone in Nairobi's urban development journey, signaling a shift towards a more progressive and adaptable approach to city planning. As the city looks towards the future, embracing vertical growth becomes imperative in ensuring sustainable and inclusive development for all residents.

By Alan Ouma



## The Kibra Community Library

Aligned with the visionary agenda of H.E Governor Sakaja Arthur Johnson to develop and improve libraries and instill a culture of reading in Nairobi City County, the successful transition of Kibra Community Library to the management of the Nairobi County Government marks a significant step forward. This move is poised to provide city residents with a space for reading, socializing, and exchanging ideas.

The Kibra Community Library plays an important role in promoting literacy across all age groups within the community, offering resources ranging from early childhood development programs to adult education materials. By facilitating access to reading materials and learning resources, the library facilitates improved job opportunities, higher levels of education, and a more engaged and informed citizenry.

Faith Juma, the Deputy Librarian, underscores the library's pivotal role in making knowledge accessible thus fostering a well informed and active

citizenship. She notes, "The Kibra Community Library not only satisfies the community's information needs but also serves as a platform for social interaction in today's context."

Functioning as a vibrant community hub, the library hosts various events such as book clubs and workshops, fostering meaningful connections among individuals. Moreover, it offers meeting spaces for local organizations and businesses, further nurturing community cohesion.

Florence Kiayi, the Librarian, highlights the library's forward-thinking approach to education, particularly evident in its dedicated Kids Zone. This section prioritizes early brain development initiatives, contributing to enhanced academic performance among school-going children in Nairobi County.

The Kibra Community Library extends its outreach by establishing mini libraries in public schools within the area. These initiatives create inclusive

environments where individuals can access reading materials, study, and engage with others. Furthermore, the library has policies to ensure that all community members feel welcomed and respected within its premises. Emphasizing the ethos of sharing and collaboration, Faith Juma emphasizes, "One doesn't always have to purchase a new book; they can be borrowed, read, and returned." This has fostered a culture of lending and borrowing within the community.

Libraries play an indispensable role in community development by providing access to information and resources that facilitate personal and professional growth. By serving as focal points for literacy and lifelong learning, libraries like the Kibra Community Library contribute significantly to the social fabric and intellectual vitality of Nairobi City County.

**By Dennis Bundi**



## The Return of the Nairobi City Magistrate Court

In response to the Judiciary's directive to centralize pleas at Milimani Law Courts for all counties, Nairobi Governor H.E. Sakaja Johnson engaged in discussions with Chief Justice Martha Koome to advocate for the reopening of the Nairobi City County Magistrate Court at City Hall. This initiative reflects Governor Sakaja's dedication to reinstating order and efficiency within the city.

Following constructive deliberations between the Chief Justice and the Governor, the Nairobi City County Court resumed operations on March 18, 2024.

To enhance operational efficiency, the City Hall Court has been revitalized with the addition of new staff. The court now has two prosecutors, thirteen support personnel, and a magistrate. In addition to handling various pleas, the court addresses offenses related to alcohol, traffic violations, and street vending.

Since its reopening, the court has successfully managed 324 cases, with 259 cases resolved and 65 ongoing. Micah Tarus, the Court Administrator, credits the implementation of digital court processes for expediting case filings and resolutions. He notes, "By transitioning to digital charge sheets,

we have significantly streamlined case management, resulting in quicker and more amicable resolutions."

The decision to relocate county cases to City Hall has not only facilitated improved judicial processes but has also led to a notable increase in revenue collection for the county. The court has collected KSh. 1.65 million in fines and received KSh. 414,000 in cash bails since its reopening. Leveraging the Judiciary Integrated Financial Management Information System has also ensured transparency and accountability in revenue collection, with zero instances of financial loss. Mr. Tarus underscored the court's

commitment to integrity, by stating, "We uphold a strict no-cash policy, directing residents to make payments directly through our systems, thereby eliminating intermediaries and safeguarding collected funds."

The reopening of the Nairobi City Magistrate Court at City Hall stands as a testament to collaborative efforts between the Judiciary and local government in fostering judicial efficiency and promoting a culture of compliance, accountability and upholding law and order within Nairobi City County.

**By Johnson Gachanja**



## Dishi na County: Construction of Additional 7 Kitchens

Nairobi Governor Sakaja Johnson recently presided over the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of seven additional kitchens to supplement the existing ten as part of the School Feeding Program, Dishi Na County. The event, held on Monday, 26th March 2024, at Dandora 1 Primary in Embakasi North and Donholm Primary in Embakasi East, marked a significant milestone in the county's commitment to ensuring access to nutritious meals for school children.

"With the construction of these 7 new kitchens, we anticipate serving over 250,000 children in public schools and ECDEs, by the start of the second term, contributing to enhanced enrollment and improved educational outcomes," remarked Hon. Sakaja. The existing 10 kitchens are currently catering for the nutritional needs of over 184,000 children.

Notably, the increased enrollment in public schools, which has risen to 310,000 children from 250,000, can be attributed to the subsidized meals

provided by the county at a nominal cost of only KSh5. This initiative has not only alleviated food insecurity but has also acted as a catalyst for educational advancement and social development.

The ongoing construction of the additional kitchens is underway at strategic locations including Umoja 1 Primary (Embakasi West), Uhuru Gardens Primary (Lang'ata), Mutuini Primary (Dagoretti South), Ndururumo Primary (Mathare), and Zawadi Primary (Kamukunji). Each kitchen is expected to produce approximately 10,000 meals daily, which will be distributed across public schools in sub-county wards.

The subsidized meal program, which charges a nominal fee of KSh.5 for children in public schools and Early Childhood Development Education (ECDEs), has already benefited 184,000 children in 106 public schools across the county. The existing ten kitchens, situated strategically in various sub-counties, including Racecourse Primary (Starehe), Bidii Primary (Makadara), Njiru Primary (Kasarani), Roysambu Primary (Roysambu), and

others, have been instrumental in providing nutritious meals to school children.

In the financial year 2023/2024, Hon. Sakaja allocated KSh.1.7 billion towards various developmental initiatives, with KSh. 500 million earmarked for the

construction of the remaining seven kitchens. This investment underscores the county's unwavering commitment to prioritizing the well-being and academic success of its youth, ensuring that no child is left behind due to hunger or lack of access to quality education.

*By Allan Ouma*



## The Safer Nairobi Initiative: Building a Safer Nairobi

As Nairobi City County continues to experience growth economically and demographically, it grapples with a host of challenges intrinsic to rapid urbanization. From crime and unemployment to environmental degradation and overcrowding, the city faces multifaceted obstacles on its path to progress. In partnership with UN-Habitat, the Nairobi City County Government is steadfast in its commitment to devising sustainable solutions that will transform Nairobi into one of the safest and most vibrant

cities worldwide.

The "Safer Nairobi Initiative," officially launched on April 5th, represents a collaborative effort between Nairobi County Government, UN-Habitat, and the Ministry of Interior to promote crime prevention and urban safety measures. Drawing on fifteen years of experience, the Safer Cities Programme has successfully implemented urban safety initiatives in 53 cities across 24 countries. Embracing a holistic and participatory approach,

the initiative seeks to cultivate socially inclusive urban environments that prioritize the safety and well-being of all residents.

While the challenges of urbanization, including rising crime rates and feelings of insecurity, are pervasive globally, Governor Sakaja's administration remains dedicated to addressing these issues to foster a city that is welcoming to both residents and visitors alike. By implementing a range of measures under the Safer Nairobi

Initiative, stakeholders aim to enhance safety through comprehensive urban planning, governance, and crime prevention strategies.

Concrete actions include the installation of street lights in key areas and the rehabilitation of CBD back lanes to mitigate crime hotspots and provide safer spaces for residents and businesses. Additionally, the county government has instituted social crime prevention programs, particularly targeting youth and women, through initiatives such as the Inclusivity and Gender department's efforts to protect vulnerable populations from abuse and exploitation.

The Safer Nairobi Initiative also encompasses the City of Choice Project, which focuses on providing green jobs to migrant, refugee, and receiving communities. By partnering with these communities, the project aims to enhance the city's waterways and public spaces, fostering a greener and safer urban landscape for all.

With a steadfast commitment to urban resilience, inclusion, and transformation, the Safer Nairobi Initiative is poised to achieve its overarching objectives. By prioritizing the needs of marginalized communities, fostering green and just transitions, and promoting inclusive urban development, the initiative paves the way for a safer, more resilient Nairobi that thrives in the face of urban challenges.

*By Gerald Odongo*



# At City Hall



NAIROBI CITY COUNTY



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# 1508

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## Staff Spotlight: David Okoth, Sub County Environment Officer

Meet David Okoth, the Sub County Environment Officer overseeing Langata Sub County. In his role, David navigates various facets of environmental management, from waste control to pollution mitigation, conservation, and environmental educational initiatives. His work involves coordinating a multifaceted approach across sectors to craft and execute policies and programs aimed at safeguarding our environment.

Driven by a desire to effect change, David is deeply committed to addressing environmental challenges at the grassroots level. He passionately advocates for sustainable solutions and endeavors to foster a culture of environmental consciousness through advocacy and policy communication.

Though David doesn't have a single mentor, he draws inspiration from a myriad of environmental activists and policymakers whose dedication leaves an indelible mark on his work. He recalls the timeless wisdom of Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai, who once said, "It's the little things which citizens do that make the difference." For David, this means planting trees and making Nairobi green.

Having served in his current role for less than a year, David is elated to witness the transformative leadership of Nairobi County, spearheaded by His Excellency Governor Hon. Sakaja A. Johnson. Under this administration, the city has experienced a resurgence of order and hope. The streets and back alleys which were choking with garbage have been rehabilitated and the once clogged drainage systems which had been turned into dustbins are now working.

Moreover, community engagement has flourished, with residents taking ownership of their surroundings and actively participating in conservation initiatives. For David, seeing this sense of communal responsibility is profoundly fulfilling.

Looking ahead, David eagerly anticipates continued collaboration with Governor Hon. Sakaja Johnson's administration to prioritize environmental sustainability and integrate into broader urban development strategies.

*By Maureen Cheptoo*



NAIROBI CITY COUNTY

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The Nairobi City County operates a **NO CASH** policy in revenue collection. Customers are advised to make their payments through the Nairobi City County Government Revenue collection accounts once they obtain their invoices. Customers may pay using:

1. \*Cooperative Bank under account name Nairobi City County Revenue Collection. Account number 01141232396600.
2. \*Equity Bank under account name Nairobi City County Revenue Collection. Account number 1600284509139
3. \*USSD Number \*647#

"We would also like to advise Revenue payers to visit the NairobiPay eservice Portal ([www.nairobiservices.go.ke](http://www.nairobiservices.go.ke)), City Hall Annex customer service Centre offices, or any Sub-County Finance offices for further clarification. Business owners are encouraged to cooperate during this exercise to ensure compliance," said Charles Kerich, County Executive Committee Member for Finance and Economic Planning.

Ends://



Governor Sakaja visits Mama Lucy Kibaki Hospital



Road works on Suguta Road in Kileleshwa Ward



Construction of Walkways and beautification on Tom Mboya Street, CBD



Governor Sakaja at 2<sup>ND</sup> Edition of the Nairobi's Battle of Choirs Easter Festival



Governor Sakaja visits Mukuru kwa Reuben to assess damages caused by the floods

**A publication by the  
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**NAIROBI  
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*Let's make Nairobi work!*

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