

**DIY:**  
**CASH IN TRASH**  
WITH Faith Chebet @chebetkorir

## Easter beer bottles turned home décor



Easter has come and gone and I am sure those who love drinking beer have many bottles lying around after four days of bingeing. When you are done nursing the hangover, why don't you get some creative juices kicking? The point is a glass decomposes after a million years, so imagine the damage you will be doing to the environment if you dump them. Instead of living with the guilty, here are a few ideas of transforming those beer bottles into interesting home décor.

### Customised lamps

Make a fun, chic lamp out of an old whiskey bottle. Just add a few coats of paint, the bulb fixtures, and let there be light!

### Handmade candles

Slice off the top of a wine bottle, decorate with your favourite embellishments, then line them up along the rim of your bathtub for a soothing soak.

### Framed vases

Peel off the labels of clear glass beer bottles (Coronas are a great option) and turn them into a designer display for flowers and feathers. And all you need to do is add a cute wooden frame.

### Coastal decor

Grab some twine and a mix of wine and beer bottles so you can jump on the nautical trend without dropping major amounts of cash. Blasting beach tunes in the background is optional, but strongly encouraged.

### Table torches

Turn your backyard into a festive paradise by making a much better version of the classic bug repellent.

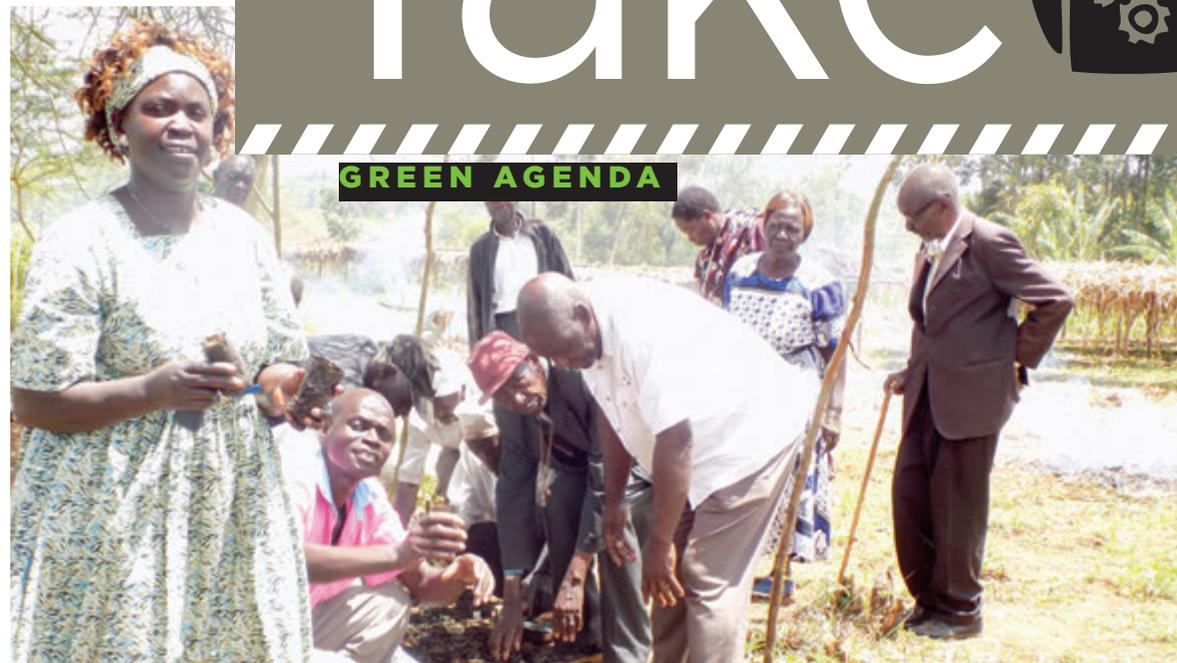
MAIN: Caroline Onyango, the CEO of the Nyabondo Environmental Development Initiative, a brainchild of the Economic Self Movement Forum. PHOTOS: NOVEN OWITI

# Take

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## Nyanza residents take stab at poverty by planting trees

The organisation spearheading the initiative plans to plant 10 million trees by 2022 to provide members with a source of income

By Noven Owiti  
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It is one thing to plant a tree and a completely different thing to do so in a bid to fight poverty.

This is something the Economic Self Movement Forum from Nyanza is doing with an aim of guaranteeing residents a brighter future. Started in 2013, the forum is leading the pace in lobbying for tree planting, entrepreneurship

and micro-finance to fight poverty in the region.

Dr Charles Orero, the coordinator of the movement, says the intention is ensure that each household can earn at least Sh100 per day by 2022. This way, Orero says, efforts to fight poverty in the respective communities will be realised.

"The objective is to alleviate poverty, which remains a stumbling block to our economic growth by encouraging the community members to venture in viable income-generating activities," he says. The movement has spread its tentacles to Rangwe, Nyakach, Suba, Kasipul, Homa Bay and Nyando constituencies and plans are underway to extend it to cover the remaining parts of Nyanza.

"The impact is positive because people are accessing and saving

money through micro-finance organisations. We have also planted several trees," he says. Their policy is to spearhead economic development in the region through the "plant a tree per day and be a millionaire" concept.

"We envision a prosperous society where every household can access money on a daily basis through self-reliant innovations," says Orero, adding that they want to see many people going into Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The forum is coordinated at the village level through Locational Economic Development Forum (LEDF) and at the county level through County Economic Development Forum. At each level Orero says, there is a committee that oversees the work in addition to different departments, which handle specific development issues.

"Through the forum we have a plan

to start relaying community development needs to the county and national governments so that there is collective push for development," adds Orero.

Nyabondo Environmental Development Initiative in Nyakach constituency is a brainchild of the movement and is now transforming the community through planting trees, environmental education and other entrepreneurial activities with the view to keeping poverty at bay.

The organisation has planted at least 500,000 trees in their farms and they intend to plant about 10 million trees by the year 2022.

The group's Chief Executive Officer Caroline Onyango, says besides advocating for environmental conservation, their organisation has also created employment opportunities to young people who manage the tree nurseries.

### IN FIGURES

- According to the Economic Survey report of 2014 Nyanza counties had poverty indices as follows Siaya- 38.2 per cent, Kisumu-39.9 per cent, Migori-49.6 per cent and Homa Bay-48.4 per cent
- A survey report released by the UN agency in July 2010 indicated that the former Nyanza province was among the poorest regions in the country while Nairobi and Central were ranked as the richest.
- Another study done by the World Bank indicated that the former Nyanza province with an estimated rural poor population of 2.4 million, was ranked third in terms of contribution to Kenya's overall rural poor population.
- The study projected Nyanza among Kenya's poverty incidence hotspots alongside Eastern, Coast, and Western provinces.



### GREENBRIEF

## Teachers trained on environmental conservation

By Evelyn Makena  
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A total of 198 teachers from 33 schools in the arid and semi-arid areas of Embu, Machakos and Kitui counties recently trained on environmental conservation under Green Initiative Challenge. The training carried aims at inculcat-

ing a culture of environmental conservation among young generation through the participation of school children.

GIC, which was launched in 2013, is a 10-year project implemented by KenGen Foundation, Bamburi Cement and Better Globe Forestry and targets to have 500 acres land under trees.

Now in its second phase it has seen 100.5 acres planted with trees in schools in the three counties.

Speaking during the training Amos Mbutu, a senior environmental officer at KenGen, said planting trees would help conserve the seven forks dam and in turn enhance electricity

generation in the country as well as mitigate against the effects of climate change. "A lot of farming goes on around the seven forks dams' catchment areas leading to soil erosion. Siltation ends up in the dams reducing their capacity which has an impact on electricity generation," said Amos.

Phase one of the GIC project

had 80 schools while the second phase has 120. The third phase, which is slated to be launched later in the year will have 99 schools with the overall target being 919 schools by 2018.

The project is designed as a challenge to participating schools, mainly due to the dry weather conditions in the area.