



# EcoFlash

Official NEMA Weekly Internal Bulletin

**Ecoflash** is recognized by the Management as the official internal communication bulletin in matters relating to staff welfare and work-related information. Departments are encouraged to forward information by Wednesday every week for inclusion in the subsequent issue. The editor reserves the right to publication.

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## Parliament pledges to support NEMA

**N**EMA held a joint retreat with the National Assembly Committee on delegated legislation at WhiteSands Beach Resort from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2018.



**L-R Hon. Jannifer Shamalla, Hon. Gladys Shollei, NEMA Chairman, Mr. John Konchellah, Board Member, Hon. Agostinho Neto and DG, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu recite the NEMA prayer during the retreat at White Sands Hotel [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]**

Led by its Chairperson, Hon. Gladys Shollei, the committee deliberated on various draft environmental regulations that the Authority has developed to be in line with the amended EMCA 2015.

The regulations discussed includes; Strategic Assessment, Integrated Impact Assessment and Environmental Audit; Conservation and Management of Wetlands Regulations, 2018 and Deposit Bonds Regulations, 2018.

While making the opening remarks during the retreat, NEMA Chairman, John Konchellah expressed his gratitude to the Committee on delegated legislation for partnership and the support given during the EMCA Review, 2015.

“The Authority will continue providing the necessary leadership and policy direction. NEMA has made tremendous efforts in implementation of its mandate which is to provide overall supervision and coordination over all matters related to environment and to be the principal agency in advising the Government on environmental matters,” Mr. Konchellah said.

NEMA Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu expressed his optimism that the National Assembly and the government in general will continue to support the Authority in discharging its mandate.



**Participants in a group photo during the retreat at White Sands [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]**

Speaking on behalf of the Committee, Hon. Gladys Shollei, Chairperson of the committee pledged to support the Authority whenever any law is brought before the committee.

Presentations on various regulations were done by Director Legal Services, Ms. Irene Kamunge in collaboration with NEMA Board member, Agostinho Neto. The activity was also attended by the NEMA board members and members of the staff.

## Uganda learns from Kenya's plastic ban

A delegation of members of parliament from Uganda paid a courtesy call to NEMA on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2018.



Ugandan members of parliament at a meeting chaired by NEMA Chairman, John Konchellah and PS Environment and Forestry, Ali Noor at the Director General's office [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

They were received by Environment and Forestry Principal Secretary, Ali Noor Ismail, NEMA chairman, John Konchellah, Board of management and Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu.

Welcoming the delegation, NEMA Chairman, John Konchellah stated that the Authority was delighted with the visit as it was a good sign that NEMA was on the right track of achieving her vision of becoming a world class environmental management Authority.



The meeting in progress at NEMA boardroom [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

Mr. Konchellah stated, "Looking at the ban one year on, we are proud as a country to note an 80% compliance. This was as a

result of the education and sensitization done on the citizenry in addition to the enforcement action which is ongoing. So far NEMA has been able to make more than 500 arrests of both manufacturers, distributors as well as small traders and prosecute 258 cases in addition to seizing mounds of the banned plastics."

The delegation also sought to benchmark Kenya's environmental matters including the Kenya's journey towards plastic bags ban as they look forward towards implementing the ban in Uganda.



Parliamentarians from Uganda in a group photo with the NEMA Board [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

Previously, NEMA Director General had alluded that the fight against plastic bags one year on was being hindered by neighboring countries that had not yet banned plastic bags. Hence, the bags were being smuggled into country through the porous borders.

## Planners' international convention held

The Annual Planners Convention proceeded alongside the International Conference on "The role of Urban and Regional Planning in Implementation of the Big Four Agenda".

The conference was hosted by the Kenya Institute of Planners (KIP) in collaboration with various stakeholders, including National Government Ministries, Parastatals and Counties. Both events were held in Mombasa County at The Travelers Beach Hotel, Mombasa from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2018.

In the conference, it was observed that one of the key enablers of the Big Four Agenda is urban and regional planning. Housing, for instance is a function of urban land use that requires planning input in form of preparation of comprehensive plans that detail relevant supporting facilities including schools, open spaces and commercial outlets.

Similarly, the food security pillar is a function of land use planning that will ensure adequate land across the country is available for agricultural production. With regard to manufacturing, requisite planning input is equally critical so as to ensure that the resultant economic zones and manufacturing centres remain attractive and competitive.

Affordable healthcare envisages an efficient public health system supported by provision of adequate health facilities as well as subsidizing healthcare provision co-pay or coinsurance with the state. Again, effective distribution of health facilities, from the basic community health care centre to the regional and national referral facilities can be achieved through comprehensive planning of human settlements, which establishes a functional hierarchy of the facilities as well as reserving adequate land for their development.

Urban and regional planning therefore leads to creation of healthy cities, a model of urban planning that has evolved out of the increasing awareness of its close linkages with public health. Coincidentally, the big four agenda resonates with the global New Urban Agenda adopted in 2016, that seeks to transform existing and emerging urbanization challenges into opportunities through promoting proactive and responsive planning, innovation, industrialization and sustained economic growth through high productivity, value added activities, resource efficiency and harnessing local economies and resources.



Ecoflash has introduced this Section to highlight some of the technologies that the Authority has introduced to enhance service delivery.

In 2015, NEMA through its ICT embarked on an ambitious journey to move some of the services to the Mobile world. We developed a Mobile Application which would be used by common Mwananchi to report Environment Incidents.

### **Why Should We Use The Mobile App?**

1. It is free and easy to access for Android and Apple Users through Play Store and App Store respectively.
2. It allows citizens to capture more features of the incident such as GPS (specific location) details and they can attach images from their phones too.
3. The incidents captured here are automatically relayed to our Environment Incident System reducing time taken to recapture as with other reported incidents.
4. Allows Citizens to report incident anonymously.
5. Allows Citizens to easily track progress of their incidents.
6. The Mobile App has a link to the NEMA Licensing system and has features which allow users to check Application/License status.

The ICT Family urges all staff to download, install and use the application and spread the word around to other Wananchi.

**Contributors: Diana Mbugua, Isaiah Kyengo & Samwel Irungu**

#### *Editorial Team*

Evans Nyabuto, Judith Ochieno, Agnes Kamiti & Samwel Irungu

#### *Have Your Say*

For news, information & complaints, kindly send an email to:  
[ecoflash@nema.go.ke](mailto:ecoflash@nema.go.ke), [pr@nema.go.ke](mailto:pr@nema.go.ke)