



# 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.

Vol: 12 Issue 4 of 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018

## Keep environment clean, Kenyans urged

**W**orld Cleanup Day is a global environmental event that is commemorated every third weekend of September. The Day was first commemorated in 1993. The day aims at promoting community action as the key to long-term environmental change.



Participants led by NEMA Chairman, John Konchellah and DG Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu clean Jomo Kenyatta Public Beach during the event [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

Kenya joined the world in this year's World Cleanup Day that was celebrated at Mama Ngina Drive in Mombasa County on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018 under the theme "beat plastic pollution". Apart from the national celebrations in Mombasa, various counties organized cleanup exercises within their jurisdictions. The aim was advancing the ongoing campaign on anti-littering and riding off the environment of plastic waste. This year's event sought to unite the world for a one massive cleanup action towards promoting positive action in the world.

The day also marked some of the milestones that the country has achieved in environmental management. Moreover,

it provided an opportunity for the country to reevaluate strategies used to implement the ban in order to address challenges of plastic waste into the environment.

During the day, dignitaries joined the public at a cleanup exercise at Jomo Kenyatta Public Beach, Mombasa old town and Mbaraki sports club. This was followed by a procession from the Mombasa golf club to the venue of the event.

The event was attended by ministry of environment and forest CAS Mohammed Elmi, Mombasa County Deputy Governor Dr. William Kingi, NEMA board of management led by its chairman, Mr. John Konchellah, Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu among various members of the staff.

Chief Administrative Secretary, Mohammed Elmi challenged the counties to come up with lasting solutions such as waste management by reducing, recovering and recycling. He further urged the Counties to increase waste management budgets and set aside cleanup activities.



NEMA Chairman, Mr. John Konchellah addressing participants during the event [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

The event was also graced by UN Habitat Country Director, Maimuna Sharif who noted that countries all over the world are working on turning waste into cash through Reducing, Reusing, Recycling and Rethinking. She added that international organizations have also joined the call to support governments in provision of clean environment and waste management.



**Cleanup Procession at Mama Ngina Drive in Mombasa [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]**

Speaking during the event, NEMA board chairman, John Konchellah highlighted some of the successes that the Authority has achieved in its bid to provide a clean and healthy environment. Among them included the ban on plastic bags that had achieved commendable success over the past one year since August 2017. He noted that despite the success of the ban, the country is still grappling with presence of flat bags that normally get into the country from the neighboring countries.



**UN Habitat Country Director, Maimuna Sharif signing the visitors book at the NEMA booth. She is received by NEMA's Maureen Kwamboka [PHOTO: COURTESY]**



**NEMA DG Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu receives a certificate after participating in a cleanup at Jomo Kenyatta Public Beach. He was accompanied by CAS Environment, Mohammed Elmi (L) and CEC Environment Mombasa County, Dr. Godfrey Nato (R) [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]**

NEMA Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu urged the enhance the waste management initiatives since waste management is a devolved function. He appealed for their support in the continued implementation of the plastic ban. He alluded that the success of the plastic ban will be due to effective collaboration between the various government agencies, County governments and private sectors.

### **NEMA, Safaricom climate forum held**

**E**xtrême weather events have clearly demonstrated that climate change is becoming more pronounced. The effects are manifest in all sectors of human life. As a result, various measures to combat climate change are required to alleviate the impacts of climate change for safeguarding the environment, economy and human livelihoods.

The magnitude of these global challenges requires a collaborative efforts among stakeholders for a transformative interventions on climate change and mitigations.

With this understanding, NEMA and Safaricom organized for a climate change

forum at Intercontinental Hotel in Nairobi on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018.



Some of the participants in a group photo during the event [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

The forum brought together climate change experts, scientists and other partners from both public and private sector. The forum sought to synergize a collaborative effort with various sectors to ensure that there is transformations in various sectors of the economy.

Speaking during the event, NEMA Deputy Director EPRC, Dr. Charles Lange informed the participants that since NEMA is the accredited National Implementing Entity (NIE), the Authority has rolled out major climate change adaption and mitigation projects in 14 counties in Kenya.

### **NEMA sensitizes County officials**

The promulgation of the new constitution in 2010 and subsequent implementation changed the legal landscape for environmental protection, conservation, management and embedded environmental matters within the devolved system of governance in Kenya.

In its preamble, the constitution recognizes the need to respect and sustain the environment for the benefit of future generations. NEMA has identified Counties as key stakeholders in the environmental sector because they have capacity to make or influence the making of proper environmental laws.

It is for this reason that the National Environmental Management Authority

organized a sensitization forum at Kenya School of Monetary studies from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The forum was graced by officials from various Counties as well as NEMA officials mainly from the legal department.

The forum sought to enhance the capacity of the Counties to provide a platform for partnership in environmental governance. During the workshop, Counties were urged to integrate environmental matters in their County Integrated Plans and take into consideration the principle of sustainable development.



Participants during the forum at KSMS [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

Over the years, the Authority has been making deliberate efforts to partner with Counties through Council of Governors (CoG) in organizing forums and activities to bring the two governments together and chat the way forward towards environmental protection.

Since Counties have an integral role in ensuring sustainable development and environmental governance, Counties that have not established County Environmental Committees (CECs) were urged to do so since through the committees, environmental matters can be well championed.

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#### *Have Your Say*

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