



# 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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## Kenya hosts blue Economy Conference

**K**enya hosted the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at KICC. Canada and Japan co-hosted the three-day conference.

The conference sought to harness potential of our oceans, seas, lakes and rivers to improve the lives of all people as well as harness latest innovations and scientific advances to build prosperity while conserving our waters for future generations.

The conference was officially opened by H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta who pledged to foster a water resource-based economy that does not exclude environmental conservation.



**Dignitaries during the Side Event on Marine Plastic pollution at KICC [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]**

NEMA was among organizers of a side event on “Building the global momentum on marine/ aquatic plastics litter”. The side event was opened by Environment and Forestry Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Keriako Tobiko who noted the progress made in the fight against pollution. He alluded to the successful implementation

of the plastic bags ban since August 2017. However, he expressed hope that PETCO who have been charged with the duty of recycling PET bottles will live up to its promise and reduce the amount of plastic bottles littering the environment.



**NEMA Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu (R) at the NEMA booth. He is received by Evans Nyabuto, Eunice Kibunga and Anne Theuri [PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]**

NEMA Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu was among the panelists during a side event. Prof Wahungu presented on “Plastics Bags Ban implementation and experiences.” “The ban has been by and large been success. The Authority has recorded over 85 percent success rate. This is evident from various cleanups at the oceans,” Prof. Wahungu said.

According to the Director General, the critical lessons learnt from the ban includes the following: favorable constitutionalism - revision of EMCA 2015 that gave the Environment CS powers to make recommendations on situations to avert degradation of the environment; partnering with relevant private and public sector such as UNEP, KAM particularly in awareness creation; awareness creation among Kenyans was

critical for success of the ban; keeping critical data-the Authority was able to trace its records since 2007 when the journey to ban plastic bags began and enhancing regional cooperation. He noted one of major hurdles to success of the ban is because plastic bags are getting their way from neighboring countries that have not effected the ban.

The Director General also attended a bilateral meeting with Sweden and Djibouti chaired by Environment and Forestry CS, Mr. Keriako Tobiko. NEMA also exhibited during the conference.

The conference is expected to capture commitments and practical actions that will help the world transit to the blue economy. The conference brought together 16,320 delegates from around the world saw countries commit to put money aside to protect oceans, seas, lakes, rivers and the general ecosystems.

On plastics, President Uhuru Kenyatta promised to confront the challenge of waste management and plastic pollution.



**NEMA Chairman, Mr. John Konchellah among participants at the Conference Side Event at KICC [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]**

### **NEMA inspectors trained**

**N**EMA inspectors both from NEMA headquarters and field underwent a Pollution Crimes Investigation and Prosecution course delivered by US department of Justice and US Environment Protection Agency at Utalii hotel.

NEMA DG Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu made his opening remarks where he called upon the Authority to build capacities of state counsels prosecuting NEMA cases as well as magistrates and judges for NEMA to sustain convictions.



**NEMA DG Prof Geoffrey Wahungu (R) receives a badge from Deputy Director Field Operations, Mr. Ali Mwanzei at his office [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]**

He thanked the facilitators for finding time to come to Kenya and share experiences on Investigating and prosecuting environmental crimes. He expressed optimism that the training will go a long way to establish a relationship between the two countries on environmental crimes and exchange of experiences.



**Participants during the training at Utalii Hotel [PHOTO: COURTESY]**

The representative of US department of justice also said he was impressed by the experience and level of exposure of Kenyan Inspectors. NEMA DG was presented with a token of a badge of the US department of justice.

## Plastic bags regulations validated

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has been developing the Plastic bags control and management regulations. The Authority has held stakeholders' forums in the Coast, Western, Nyanza, Rift Valley, North Eastern, Eastern, Central and Nairobi regions.



NEMA's Deputy Director EPRC, Dr. Charles Lange responding to participants' queries during the workshop [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

As a culmination of the meetings, the Authority held a National Validation Workshop at Utalii Hotel on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The meetings have been held in line with the Environmental Management and Coordination Act, Cap 387 and in adherence to Statutory instruments Act, 2018.

The consultation meetings have also been developed in the spirit of public participation. During the Validation workshop, NEMA's Deputy Director Environmental Planning and Research Coordination, Dr. Charles Lange thanked members for shelving their precious time and coming to give their views for development of the regulations.

NEMA's Senior Legal officer, Edward Wabwoto, made the presentation on the draft regulations that have been improved through the meetings that have been held in various regions across the country. Deputy Director Monitoring and Evaluation, Ms. Betty Nzioka also appreciated the members for their selfless

contribution towards bettering the regulations.



NEMA's Ms. Betty Nzioka (R) Ms. Cynthia Sakami (C) and Dr. Catherine Mbaisi during the workshop at Utalii Hotel [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

## Staff hold colorful sendoff for Maurice

Friends of Maurice Otieno, the outgoing Chief Environmental Planning officer held a colorful sendoff party in his honor as he formally exited the service following his retirement. The event that was held at MOW Sports Club in South C was marked with joy, laughter, food, drinks and speeches to celebrate an illustrious public service career spanning over 30 years. Mr. Otieno has worked in NEMA since its inception and NEMA's predecessor, the National Environment Secretariat.



Mr. Maurice Otieno (R) cuts a cake flanked by his wife Prof. Regina Nyunja and daughter Maria during the party [PHOTO: H. WANJOHI]

**Contributors:** Ali Mwanzei, Samwel Irungu & Harron Wanjohi

### Editorial Team

Evans Nyabuto, Judith Ochieno, Agnes Kamiri & 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)