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DP calls for an end to plastic pollution

Eight million tonnes of plastic end up in the oceans every year, a United Nations report estimates. Further, the world consumes 500 billion plastic bags annually.

It is against this backdrop that the World joined hands on 5th June 2018 to “Beat Plastic Pollution” during the World Environment Day (WED). In Kenya, national WED celebrations was at Kwale County, Baraza Park spearheaded by NEMA.



L-R-Governor Kwale County, Salim Mvurya, Deputy President, William Ruto and CS for Environment and Forestry, Keriako Tobiko during the event [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

The event full of pomp and colour acted as a clarion call to raise awareness towards marine pollution and stress on the importance of saving our oceans from plastics. The domesticated slogan for this year’s event was “Greening the Blue” which called on concerted efforts to beat plastic pollution from our water bodies and the environment in general.

The Deputy President, William Ruto was the chief quest during the event. In his

remarks, the Deputy President directed the ministry of Environment and Forestry to initiative monthly cleanup exercises in all counties in order to reduce pollution and enhance aesthetic value of the environment.



NEMA Chairman, Mr. John Konchellah signs the visitors book assisted by Anne Mumbi and Maureen Kwamboka when he visited the booth [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

The Deputy President stated that the annual national Cleanup will be established to take place every September. He appealed to all Kenyans to embrace alternative carrier bags following a government ban on plastic bags last year.



Deputy President, William Ruto accompanied by Kwale Governor Salim Mvurya and Deputy Director EEIPP, Mamo Boru are received by Maureen Kwamboka at NEMA booth [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU]

He noted that plastic bags have been a major pollutant of the environment in the country clogging drainages, killing livestock and threatening the entire ecosystem.



Deputy President, William Ruto awards certificates to winners of environmental conservation groups as the Director General, NEMA Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu reads out the names [PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]

The Deputy President announced that the government would set aside money in the environmental budget to expand mangrove forests alongside planting other tree species in the coast region in a bid to conserve the environment and set up climate change mitigation.

The Deputy President also awarded certificates to individuals and groups involved in environmental conservation in the coastal region such as Mikoko Pamoja, a community initiative working to promote the blue carbon economy and climate mitigation.

The celebrations were attended by the Environment and Forestry Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Keriako Tobiko and ministry's Permanent Secretary, Charles Sunkuli, Kwale Governor, Mr. Salim Mvurya, Kwale Senator, Mr. Boy Juma, NEMA Chairman, Mr. John Konchellah and NEMA Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu among a host of other guests including Members of County Assembly and some Members of Parliament from the Coastal region.

The Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Forestry, Mr. Keriako Tobiko noted that Kenya has potential to plant more mangroves in the coastal region to mitigate effects of climate change as well as reap from Carbon credits. He noted that governments big four agenda of affordable housing, manufacturing, universal health and food security depended on the environment, calling for concerted efforts to save the environment.



CS Environment and Forestry, Keriako Tobiko with NEMA Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu during the launch of Mangroves planting at Vanga in Kwale County [PHOTO: COURTESY]

Prior the main celebrations, WED was preceded by various activities such as Mangrove planting at Vanga in Kwale County, a visit to Kinondo Mangrove plantations in Gazi Kwale, Cleanup exercises and Tree planting. The Authority also mounted a successful exhibition during the celebrations.

NEMA closes illegal discharge points

NEMA embarked on closing all illegal sewage discharge points to the Nairobi river.

A team led by Deputy Director Enforcement, Salome Machua and Nairobi County Director of Environment Njoki Mukiri started to identify all illegal discharge points to the river at Kawangware on 30th May 2018.

Among the identified points were the estates which are letting their waste freely out to the rivers leading to pollution of the

rivers. All the identified discharge points were closed and the owners were given warning to comply with the directives to have proper waste disposal mechanisms. Among them were Ebenezzar Estate, Gulf Estate, Benfah Court and Koinania Mother House Rescue Centre.



NEMA officers sealing some of the discharge points to Nairobi River [PHOTO: D. KAHBUTHU/NEMA]

The area covered was Kinyanjui road and the team hopes to identify all the discharge points around the county. This is in line with the regeneration of the Nairobi River that was launched by the CS for Environment and Forestry recently.

EIA, SEA validation workshop held

The 2nd National validation workshop was held on 28th May, 2018 at the Intercontinental Hotel, Nairobi. The aim of the workshop was to present the draft Environmental Management (Strategic Assessment, Integrated Impact assessment and Audit) Regulations, 2018. The draft regulation was as a result of the comments raised during the various stakeholders workshops held previously country wide.

The overall objective of the Environmental Management (Strategic Assessment, Integrated Impact assessment and Audit Regulation, 2018 is to align it to the EMCA CAP 387 which was amended in 2015. The regulations also seek to address emerging issues such as Strategic Environmental Assessments, environmental and social safeguard procedures and climate change.

The Authority has undertaken various workshops countrywide on the same and has received comments from stakeholders and members of the public on the draft regulations. The workshops have been previously held in Coast Region, North Eastern, Rift Valley, central, Western, and Nairobi.



Director C & E, Mr. David Ongare speaking during the validation workshop at Intercontinental hotel Nairobi [PHOTO: A. KAMIRI/NEMA]

In his remarks, the Director Compliance and Enforcement, Mr. David Ongare on behalf of the Director General thanked the participants for their fruitful engagement since the process started and urged them to continue consulting with NEMA if need be. The comments received during the 2nd National Validation Workshop will be incorporated to the main document. The Draft Regulation will be presented to the Director General for onward forwarding to the Cabinet Secretary.

In the next edition...

World Day to Combat Desertification (WCD) 2018 is set to be celebrated on Sunday 17th June 2017 at Oldonyo Nyokie Primary School grounds, Magadi in Kajiado County. The theme for this year's WCD is "Land has true value-invest in it"

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Have Your Say

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