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Lake Ol Bolossat gazetted

Nestled between the Aberdare ranges and Dondori ridge in Ol Joro Orok in Nyandarua County, Lake Ol Bolossat is the most vital lake in central Kenya. The lake is classified as an important bird area and source of Ewaso Nyiro River that supports livelihoods downstream.



Dignitaries present during the WWD celebrations at Nyandarua County: R-L. Governor Tharaka Nithi Muthomi Njuki, CS Environment Prof Judi Wakhungu, CS health, Sicily Kariuki, CS tourism, Najib Balala, Governor Nyandarua, Francis Kimemia and PS Natural Resources Margaret Mwakima [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

Lake Ol Bolossat has been gazetted as a protective wetland area effective from January 24th 2018 as declared by the Cabinet secretary ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Prof Judi Wakhungu during the World Wetlands Day 2018 in Nyandarua County on 2nd February 2018 held at Kichakani grounds on the shores of the lake.

“The documents are now with the Attorney General but the effective date of Lake Ol Bolossat gazettement was January 24 and

the lake stands as a protective wetlands area,” the CS said.



NEMA Chairman, Mr. John Konchellah making his remarks during the WWD 2018 celebrations [PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]

Following this vital declaration, the National Lands Commission chairman, Mohammed Swazuri stated that all the title deeds for the land near the lake stood dissolved. He noted that according to Sections 10, 11 and 12 of Lands Act 2012, the issuance of a gazette notice means the title deed of the land in question and any others prior to the notice cease.



Cabinet Secretary for Tourism, Najib Balala awards a winner in the arts competition during the celebrations [PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]

The theme for this year’s World Wetlands Day was “Wetlands for a sustainable urban

future and the domesticated slogan was “Healthy Wetlands, Clean Towns”.

During the fete that was hosted by Nyandarua County government, various dignitaries were present including Cabinet Secretary for tourism Najib Balala who represented the president, the incoming health Cabinet Secretary, Sicily Kariuki and Prof Judi Wakhungu, the outgoing environment cabinet secretary.

The guests were hosted by Nyandarua governor Hon. Francis Kimemia. The event was also attended by Laikipia governor Hon. Ndiritu Muriithi and his Tharaka Nithi counterpart Hon. Muthomi Njuki. Members of parliament, County Executive Members, NEMA Board and management also graced the event.



The procession at Kasuku market in Nyandarua county [PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]

While making his remarks, NEMA board of management chairman, Mr. John Konchellah assured the County of continued support to review, develop and implement various tools and instruments to ensure wetlands are well managed in the entire country. “NEMA board of management commits to continue promoting restoration and rehabilitation efforts aimed at conserving and managing wetland resources in the country,” Mr. Konchellah said.

On his part, NEMA Director General Prof Geoffrey Wahungu reiterated the importance of wetlands in aiding human survival and protection from environmental disasters. He acknowledged that wetlands continues to

face unprecedented threats that have led to their deteriorating and disappearance over the years.

Prior to the main celebrations, there was a community forum spearheaded by NEMA and wetlands international and a cleanup Kasuku town presided by the County’s first lady H.E Anne Kimemia and Deputy Governor H.E Cecilia Mbutia.

The board, staff meeting

NEMA held a staff meeting on 31st January 2018 at NEMA headquarters. In attendance was NEMA Board of Management members, the Director General NEMA, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu, the directors and the management team. The team from Nairobi and neighboring counties were also invited. The meeting provided an opportunity for the new staff members to know the board members and the directors.



NEMA Chairman, Mr. John Konchellah making his remarks during the meeting at NEMA HQ [PHOTO: D. KAHUTHU]

The board chairman Mr. John Konchellah in his speech started by wishing the whole NEMA fraternity a happy new year 2018 and emphasized the need to look ahead and think about the prospects that 2018 brings with them. “I salute the NEMA Board of Management, the management and the staff in running this great institution in line with its mandate, vision and mission. As such, the Authority has continued to faithfully rely on the services,

products and consultancies,” he remarked.

The chairman outlined the strides the Authority has achieved such as the plastic bags ban where a total of 165 arrests have been made 4 being manufacturers, 40 distributors and 121 mama mbogas. He encouraged the staff to look forward for a brighter Authority including improved financial muscle in terms of its finances. He assured the staff of the board’s support for to achieve the Authority’s mandate.

Traders defying plastics ban warned

NEMA and police will now work jointly to ensure compliance with various environmental laws. This was announced by the NEMA Chairman and Director General during a press conference on 25th January 2018 at NEMA Headquarters.



A section of NEMA board members and management during the press briefing at NEMA headquarters [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

The Authority plans to ban the use and manufacture of plastic bottles in three month’s time. The ban will be effected if manufacturers of plastic bottles will not have come up with a plan on how to recycle the bottles.

NEMA Board Chairman, John Konchellah said the authority is in the process of drafting a gazette notice that will see the ban effected by April 30. “The board has been engaging stakeholders in the manufacturing industry who have promised to start up recycling companies to deal with the waste. But if they will not

have taken the adequate measures as discussed with NEMA, the ban will be affected,” Mr. Konchellah said.



NEMA Chairman, Mr. John Konchellah and Director General, Prof Geoffrey Wahungu during a press at NEMA HQ [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

Mr. Konchellah said the meetings with stakeholders have been ongoing for the last two months. He stated, “Plastic bottles have been forming a huge percentage of solid waste scattered in the environment.

On his part, NEMA Director General Prof Geoffrey Wahungu said the Authority will work with other agencies to close markets where traders are flouting the plastic bags ban that was effected in August 2017.

Prof Wahungu warned chairpersons of markets who are assisting traders to smuggle plastic bags from other countries and resisting arrest. These markets includes; Gikomba, City market, Lower Kabete, Ngara, Mlolongo and City Park.

He categorically stated that unlike in the past where NEMA was not working with police officers and county enforcement authorities to arrest those found using plastic bags, the arrests will be effected. “From now onwards, police and county enforcement officers are allowed to stop vehicles, inspect and arrest anyone found using plastic bags,” he said.

In the next issue . . .

Kenya is set to host the 10th African Carbon Forum from 10th-13th April 2018. NEMA with the support of the ministry of Environment is the organizing host.

WWD 2018: Through the NEMA eyes



(Photo & text - Dan Maangi)

The dignitaries touring L. Olobolossat during WWD 2018. L.R_ CS, Health Sicily Kariuki, Prof. Judi Wakhungu, Hon. Najib Balala, National Land Commission chair Mr. Mohamed Swazuri, Nyandarua Governor, H.E . Francis Kimemia, Prominent lawyer Mr.Karanja Kabage and Nyandarua's 1st Lady, Amb. Ann Kimemia.



Dignitaries during the courtesy call to the Nyandarua Governor's office.



Deputy Director Coastal Marine and Fresh Waters, Mr. Stephen Katua speaking during the cleanup exercise at Kasuku market in Nyandarua County.



NEMA Director General Prof Geoffrey Wahungu consults with CS' Najib Balala and Prof Judi Wakhungu during the WWD 2018 celebrations.



Participants during the WWD 2018 Community forum at Kasuku grounds



Nyandarua County first lady Anne Kimemia with the Deputy Governor Cecilia Mbuthia flagging the cleanup exercise at Kasuku market

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Have Your Say

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