

Let's keep our beaches clean



National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)

Has finalized the National Solid Waste Management Strategy. This is a strategy on solid waste management that seeks to deliver the country from the Waste menace by demonstrating how waste is a resource!



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TOWARDS THE
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Strategic Corporate Objectives

- To coordinate stakeholders and lead agencies in order to create synergy in management of the environment
- To ensure compliance with environmental legislation and policies in order to maintain a clean, healthy and sustainable environment
- To strengthen and develop institutional capacity for effective and efficient management of the environment
- To build and nurture strategic partnerships, aimed at enhancing sustainable management of the environment
- To enhance the use of communication as a tool to achieve the Authority's performance objectives



Let us focus on sustainability

As always the National Environment Management Authority continues to be at the forefront of environmental management in Kenya.

Environment, being a complex system, continues to throw a myriad of challenges but as the regulatory authority tasked with supervision and co-ordination of all matters environment, we have continued to closely work with relevant government agencies, stakeholders and private sector partners to ensure we deliver on our mandate.

In an ideal world, environmental problems move seamlessly to solutions. Scientists, labouring in their ivory towers, uncover an unforeseen threat to humanity. The word gets out, the public agitates, and policymakers implement incentives and regulations. The technology sector responds, devising and disseminating fixes. Problem solved—billowing smokestacks disappear from the landscape, contaminated waterways run clean; the stratosphere is free from ozone-depleting substances.

Then the cycle begins anew with another threat. This scenario is oversimplified, of course, and far from the messy, intertwined nexus among science, policy, and solutions that characterize the problems of the world we live in today.

This is the reason why we need all Kenyans to play their active part positively to ensure they adhere to proper environmental practices. Of all the environmental problems we face today, none is more complex than climate change.

Unlike smokestacks and industrial effluents, greenhouse gases result from nearly every aspect of daily life. Cooking breakfast, driving to work, and checking the headlines on TV or the computer most likely involve fossil fuel energy. But the repercussions for the atmosphere remain invisible, and the ramifications of accumulating greenhouse gases appear in distant locales as coastal nations seek higher ground and farmers contemplate the dire outcome of another drought.

This is why environmental sustainability should be embraced by all organisations, big and small, and from people of all walks of life.

As the well-known proverb goes, every journey starts with a single step. The journey from problem to solution for today's messy, complex, intertwined environmental issues makes that advice all the more poignant. Liveable cities and sustainable energy appear as far on the horizon as the journey's distant destination. But the path is twisted, and there is no road map.

The only option is to put one foot in front of the other and trudge forward. Talking of trudging on, the Clean up the World day was commemorated in Mombasa County where residents was urged to keep the 'gateway to Kenya' clean. Waste management as clearly stipulated in Kenya constitution is a devolved function and the Authority is keen to continue working hand in hand with the county governments to ensure we trudge on towards 'Zero Waste' status envisaged by the National Solid Waste Management Strategy.

Dig in dear reader, this edition has much more to offer.



Anthony Ngare
Ag. Chief Corporate
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Keep the beaches clean, residents told

Dr. Ayub Macharia flagging off the procession at Nyali Mombasa towards Jomo Kenyatta Public Beach [PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI/NEMA]



Participants from China Wu Yi during the clean-up exercise [PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI/NEMA]

By Samwel Irungu & Michael Nderitu

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) led partners and stakeholders during the Coastal Cleanup exercise on Saturday 19th September, 2015 at Jomo Kenyatta Public Beach in Mombasa.

The World Cleanup Day is one of the Global environmental events marked on the third Saturday of September each year, guided by a theme formulated by UNEP.

The theme for this year's event is, "Our Place, Our Planet, Our Responsibility." The event serves to raise public awareness on the importance of hygiene and sanitation aimed at improving the quality of the environment thus preventing adverse effects to human health.

The event started with a procession from NakumattNyali to Jomo Kenyatta Public Beach where the cleaning exercise began. Attendants led by NEMA, China Wu Yi, Kenya Wildlife Service and Mombasa County government among others, collected the litter along the beach starting from the main entrance to the beach. At the end of the exercise, a total of 1,249 kilograms of solid waste was collected.

This year's World Cleanup Day was marked across the country riding on the national slogan, Keep Kenya Klean (3K) as a rallying call for environmental action Kenyans. The day provided a platform for the Authority to reach out to the public and educate Kenyans on the need of working together towards enhancing the quality of their environment.



Mombasa County Executive Committee Member for Water, Environment & Natural Resources, Ms. Fatma Awale addressing the public [PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI/NEMA]

Clean beaches

Mombasa County Executive Committee Member for Water, Environment & Natural Resources, Ms. Fatma Awale, was categorical that waste management should be dealt with at all levels to reduce pollution of the ocean. She also warned hoteliers adjacent to the beaches to stop releasing sewerage to the ocean as it was a major factor responsible for the pollution.

She called on all stakeholders from the County and National government to work together to ensure the ocean beaches remain clean.

While addressing the public during the event, Nyali MP, Mr. Hezron Awiti challenged stakeholders present to work towards ensuring the beaches remain clean. He urged the agencies present to work together to enhance environmental protection more specifically beaches.

NEMA's Director for Environmental Education, Information and Public Participation delivered the speech of the Director-General NEMA. The DG praised the efforts by the Mombasa County government that has been geared towards environmental protection. "The County provides a major boost to our country's economy through revenue generation as it is a major holiday destination site and hosts numerous local and international tourists by providing world class hotels among other services", Dr. Macharia stated.

"As a result, this has led to continued and increased pollution levels and waste

management challenges which if not adequately addressed, may lead to major negative effects on our environment.", the DG stated.

On the other hand, Dr. Macharia stated that cleaning is every one's responsibility. Hence, it is the responsibility of every individual to see that the beaches remain clean. "A cleaner world ensures that all who live in it are healthy, this is ensured through eradicating waste and trash littered all around us," Dr. Macharia added. Mombasa County is endowed with beautiful beaches, scenery and various archeological sites such as Fort Jesus and Gedi Ruins.

Such attractions help draw in huge numbers of tourists to the Kenyan Coast. The arrival of more tourists to the country has led to an unprecedented construction of hotels and other facilities that cater to tourists coming into Kenya, especially the Coast. Compounded with an ever increasing population, this has led to the production of more waste into tourist towns, creating a waste disposal problem for the local governments.

Kenyan coastal beaches have in the past been highly rated, with south coast beaches voted the best in the world. But this has been undermined by filth, especially the ones in the North Coast.

The writers are Corporate Communications Officer and an intern at NEMA respectively.



NEMA's Deputy Director Environmental Awareness and Public Participation, Mrs. Betty Nzioka (2nd left) leads the senior guests to the tour of the exhibitions
[PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI/NEMA]



School children entertaining the guests during the celebrations
[PHOTO-ANTONY MWANGI-NEMA]

East African environmental CEOs working together for environment



Environment PS Dr Richard Lesiyampe poses with officers attending the CEOs Dialogue Conference in Naivasha. [PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI/NEMA]

By Samwel Irungu

The Greater Eastern Africa Region is facing serious environmental and sustainability challenges. Most of these environmental issues are trans-boundary in nature and pose a hindrance to the attainment of the newly crafted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be ratified by world governments later in the year.

To address this, the East African Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (EANECE) was established in 2010. This is an informal network of government agencies which have in their mandate environmental management, compliance and enforcement responsibilities in the East African regions.

Towards this end, the Director Generals / Executive Directors in charge of environmental regulatory bodies of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda met in Naivasha at Sopa Lodge on 11th and 12th September 2015 in a high level workshop under the platform 'CEOs Policy Dialogue Forum on Green Growth and Environmental Compliance' to discuss common environmental problems regionally.

In attendance were the PS Environmental and Natural Resources, Dr. Richard Lesiyampe, Tanzania's National Environment Management Council, Director General Mr. Bonaventure Baya, NEMA Kenya Director General Prof Geoffrey Wahungu, Environmental Directors from NEMA

Uganda, donors, NEMA management, multilateral institutions and key donors, representatives of select civil societies, NGOs, academia, and the private sector.

Speaking during the forum, Dr. Richard Lesiyampe urged environmental agencies to do everything possible to protect the environment for the sake of future generations. He said that such agencies should come up with more creative ideas on how to raise funds to address issues of climate change and environment destruction. "There should be more creative ways of generating ideas that would help us in planning ahead of impending disasters", the PS said.

The PS reiterated government's commitment to foster Green Economy adding that key projects on green growth are already underway. "It is therefore incumbent for all of us to value our ecosystem's goods and services as countries in the region strive for ambitious gross domestic product results" the PS remarked.

NEMA's Director General, Prof Geoffrey Wahungu noted that environment knows no boundaries and hence a collaborative effort that transcends national boundaries is essential in ensuring environmental compliance. "It is my conviction that strong national and regional networks will promote in-country and cross-

border cooperation amongst agencies involved in the management of our environment" Prof Wahungu said.

He informed the members that EANECE will continue to enhance cooperation on both national and regional basis between the relevant institutions through exchange, training and sharing of good practices on environmental compliance and enforcement.

In addition to presentations by various stakeholders, a panel session moderated by Joe Ageyo was conducted which involved Directors from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania while another one involved Directors from the three countries. The session was meant to shed light on some of the emerging environmental among the three countries. Moreover, the input from the members during the session was vital in shaping the way forward for East Africa on environmental compliance and enforcement.

Tanzania's National Environment Management Council, Director General Mr. Bonaventure Baya, was categorical that East Africa should come together to address environmental challenges. He stated that although the three countries have different strengths and challenges due to variations on their laws, they should come together for the sake of improving their

EAC environmental CEOs working together

environment. This will make it easy to address trans-boundary crimes related to environment.

On the last day, members participated in a field trip to Ol Karia Geo-thermal Power Plant where they learnt best Green practices, especially on Green Energy. Mr. Cyrus Karigithi, Ass. Manager Resource Development took members through the tour of the geothermal projects being undertaken by Kengen.

At the end of the forum, various deliberations on the way forward had been put in place that included an analytical summary capturing best practices and lessons learned on effective strategies for regulation of priority and emerging areas such as: extractive industry (including oil & gas); trans-boundary pollution (especially air and water pollution); and hazardous wastes and materials (e-waste, plastic waste, chemicals); provide an important opportunity for key decision makers to strengthen and/or develop new partnerships for future regional engagements and actionable suggestions and follow-up actions for the relevant stakeholders in countries represented at the forum.

The writers are Corporate Communications Officer and an intern at NEMA



Participants during the visit to Ol Karia Geothermal power plant
[PHOTO: COURTESY]



Tanzania's NEMA Director-General Eng. Bonaventure Baya addressing participants from EANECE
[PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU/NEMA]



The public hearing in progress
[PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU/NEMA]

Embrace development, Kiserian residents urged

By Samwel Irungu

Public participation is a requirement entrenched in the Kenyan constitution. The clause demands that the public must be involved in matters of public interest such as development projects.

In this regard, the National Environment Management Authority organized a public hearing meeting on 5th August 2015 for the proposed sewerage treatment system at Kiserian to address some of concerns raised by the residents.

The meeting was well attended with some of the high profile guests in the government such as the Kajiado County Commissioner, Harsama Kello, Kajiado County Executive for Water, Irrigation and Sanitation, Joshua Majakusi, area chief, representatives from the Athi Water Services Board, the National Environment Management Authority, public health and WARMA among others present.

Embrace development, Kiserian residents urged



Kajiado County CEC for Water, Irrigation & sanitation Joshua Majakusi addressing attendants.
[PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU /NEMA]



Kajiado County Commissioner, Mr. Harsama Kello chairing the public hearing meeting
[PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU /NEMA]



Mr. Dickson Njora making his contribution during the public hearing
[PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU/ NEMA]

Residents associations in the area have been raising objections on the project to an extent that they had gone to court to stop the public hearing organized by NEMA. However, towards the day of the public hearing, the court had not granted such an order. Hence, the meeting proceeded as planned.

Generally, the residents claimed that they are not against the project but demand that some of the conditions must be met before the project begins. Some of the concerns by the residents include; the residents claim that they have not been furnished with the correct information. They argued that they have been supplied with contradicting information from the Athi Water Services Board.

Despite attesting to the fact that they all want development in the area, residents claimed that they fear that the government might decide to acquire their land compulsorily. Addressing this fear, the county commissioner informed the residents that although the government has power to acquire the land compulsorily, this particular project must ensure that all the genuine land owners are compensated sufficiently.

According to Kajiado NEMA county director of environment, Mr. Godfrey Wafula, NEMA has not yet made a decision but has been waiting for all stages of the EIA to be made including the public

hearing in order to make the final decision. He added that NEMA will only make decision after considering all the concerns by the parties.

Essentially, the government has developed a dam in Kiserian, but due to lack of sewerage system in place, the residents have not been allowed to use the water. A court injunction also demanded that a sewerage plant must be put in the area before the water can be supplied to the residents. With the expanding population, some of the residents felt that this is a great opportunity by the national government they must grasp. "Accept the project now to address the sewerage problem or never," Moses Ondiek, chairman of land owners association argued.

Public health also weighed into the matter arguing that lack of sewerage plant in the area has resulted into water borne. He stated cases of water borne diseases account to about 40% of diseases reported in the area due to water contamination.

This is because residents have been pumping their water into open drainage and roads which then flows to water bodies such as the Kiserian dam. Residents were urged to protect their health by accepting the establishment of the sewerage plant.

Kajiado County executive for Water, Irrigation and Sanitation, Joshua Majakusi urged the

residents to take up the project as it will benefit them and their children. He stated that the county has been struggling with waste management and the question has been raised on various forums by residents; hence they should accept the project.

Towards the end, residents who were against the project reiterated that in order to accept the project, some of the conditions must be met such as address sewer flow and the capacity of the sewer plant, more citizen participation be conducted, no compulsory acquisition of land.

The county commissioner remarked that he was committed to ensure that nobody's land will be acquired without compensation. He reiterated that the land will be compensated after a land valuation is conducted by an expert.

The meeting was closed by Mr. Dickson Njora, who represented the Director General NEMA. He informed the residents that the Authority will weigh into the matter and make an informed decision. He remarked that the Authority was committed to create a win-win situation where no one will feel left out.

The writer is a Corporate Communications Officer at NEMA



NEMA keeps Kibera clean

By Christine Maina

Workers of Kazi Kwa Vijana initiative collecting waste
[PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI/NEMA]

Kibera is the biggest slum in Nairobi, and indeed one of the largest in Africa. The population in Kibera slum is increasingly growing, so is the solid waste management problem.

The Kenyan government, through the Ministry of Devolution is addressing the problem through a slum upgrading program that includes the National Youth Service (NYS) involvement. The NYS project is so far fruitful although there are some concerns about the sustainability of the laid down strategies, since their involvement is contract-based.

In this regard, the National Environment Management Authority visited Kibera on 17th August, 2015 to assess the solid waste management status in the area.

During the visit, various findings were made; the transfer station has been relocated from near the Kibera DC's office to near the Nairobi dam. Some of the waste collected from the various collection points is taken to the transfer station, while the other is taken to Dandora and Thika dumpsites. The NYS 'KazikwaVijana' project is still on-going with many notable improvements. For instance, the main roads within Kibera have been tarmacked, improving accessibility. Additionally, there are many NYS Lorries placed in Kibera for improved waste transportation.

There are also several waste collection strategies in place. NYS has employed local youth who have been provided with free waste collection polythene bags to aid in the daily collection of waste from households, after which they are placed on strategic points for collection by the lorries. The drainage system has significantly been improved and is still undergoing further repairs through the construction of concrete drainage channels.

Community sanitary facilities have also been set up at strategic locations, hence improving sanitation within the slum.

According to a NYS staff at the transfer station, the youth sort out incoming waste such as plastics, nails and other recyclables during the morning hours. However, there are various challenges facing this process. Despite the presence of the waste bins at the collection centers, waste bags are still placed outside the bins, making it a menace.

There are several constraints regarding the transfer stations. For example, it is not fenced, making it an eyesore to the neighborhoods. There were also animals and children scavenging at the site, posing health and safety risks. In addition, the transfer station has been turned into a human waste disposal site, as witnessed by NEMA staff. Although, the NYS staff at the transfer station claims that there are youths who sort out the incoming waste, there is evidence of recyclable plastics and other waste products.

The river running within the Slum is highly polluted with solid waste and other waste, making it smelly and dangerous to the locals.

Following this, various recommendations were made during the visit; there is need for creating awareness on solid waste management including proper disposal of waste bags into the metallic bins at the collection centres along the main roads for proper and improved sanitation. Additionally, there is need to sensitize Kibera residents on the benefit of proper solid waste management. This way, they can have a source of income, improved sanitation, and a clean and healthy environment.

The transfer points should be in a region that does not jeopardize sensitive environmental areas such as wetlands. Since the NYS involvement in Kibera is on a contract basis, it is recommended that the County government in collaboration with NEMA and other industry players to take up the initiative for sustainability.

It is for these reasons that NEMA proposes the 'KEEP-Kibera- Clean' Initiative: An entrepreneurial solid waste related project spearheaded by the Nairobi County Council and NEMA, and that is community owned.

The writers is an intern at NEMA



NEMA's director EEI & PP, Dr. Ayub Macharia and Ms Ann Theuri on an inspection in Kibera.
[PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI/NEMA]



NEMA management team outside the office of the proposed Lamu Port
[PHOTO: ANTHONY NGARE/ NEMA]

Management monitoring visit to Coast

By Anthony Ngare

The NEMA Management made a monitoring tour of Lamu, Kwale and Kilifi Counties to take stock of the Authority's accomplishments in the programmes and projects in the said Counties as well as familiarize themselves with major environmental challenges in those areas.

In Lamu County, the management visited various locations during the monitoring tour of the area. It was also noted that funds from KCDP for Lamu Green Point had been approved and construction will commence soon.

On Shela Beach, management established that the sand dunes have become quite loose. It was also noted that private developers had invaded the sand dunes and had already been earmarked for development.

Management visited Kenyatta Rehabilitation Site in Mpeketoni. Rehabilitation efforts have paid off at L. Kenyatta and the lake's waters is high. It was established that the site is managed jointly by committees of RUA. The site has undergone intensive reforestation and boreholes in Mpeketoni are replenished by L. Kenyatta.

A footbridge, constructed by NEMA on behalf of the area residents is useful especially during heavy rains as school going children can cross the riverine safely.

The management also visited Lamu Port, which forms the start of Lamu Port Southern Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor.

The corridor will be a 200 metres wide corridor consisting of the Lamu Port, Lamu International Airport, Resort city in Hindi, a refinery, highway, railway and pipeline.



NEMA DG Prof Geoffrey Wahungu, Base Titanium Ltd General Manager, Denham Vickers, NEMA Director Dr. Ayub Macharia and NEMA CDE Kwale County, George Oyoo during the visit at Base Titanium plant.
[PHOTO: ANTHONY NGARE/ NEMA]

The project starts with 3 berths but will ultimately have 32 berths with channels that can accommodate Post-Panama ships. It was also revealed by the Proposed Lamu Port Manager Mr Mahmood Ali that Lapsset has now become a Trans Africa Project with up to nine countries keen to joining the project. The corridor could move from Lamu to Douala in Cameroon.

In Kilifi County, the management monitoring tour started with a meeting of major salt making firms in Kilifi County at Krystaline Salts offices in Gongoni area. The meeting was co-ordinated by the Kenya Association of Manufacturers, Mombasa Chapter.

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NEMA's director Dr. Ayub Macharia moderates a meeting between NEMA management and managers of various salt-making firms in Malindi
[PHOTO: ANTHONY NGARE/NEMA]

The meeting largely dealt with major issues that the saltworks firms experience in their business. The issues raised by the salt works firms were: Diversion of river courses, Illegal sand harvesters, Salination of fresh water wells and ambiguity in interpretation of the Mangrove area policy.

Management also visited Kwale County during the monitoring tour. The major projects are Whale Shark project, Nobium project on Mrima Hills, Offshore sand harvesting (Case filed at NET), Base Titanium, KISCOL, Diani Funeral Home (Crematorium), Mkurumundzi dam (Base Titanium), Mkurumundzi dam (KISCOL) and Standard Gauge Railway -SGR (Taru-Mackinnon Section).

Of the above projects, Management visited Base Titanium and Kwale International Sugar Company Ltd (KISCOL) and held talks on areas of mutual interest between the firms and NEMA.

The writer is NEMA's Ag Chief Corporate Communications Manager



The NEMA management team at one of the footbridges that NEMA sponsored in Mpeketoni, Lamu.
[PHOTO: ANTHONY NGARE/NEMA]



NEMA management inspects a beach plot donated to NEMA in Malindi
[PHOTO: ANTHONY NGARE/NEMA]

NEMA Features at the Kenya Music Festival 2015

By Anthony Ngare and Eric Deche



NEMA's Director EEIPP, Dr. Ayub Macharia handing over one of the NEMA sponsored trophies to PS, Ministry of Education, Science & Technology Prof Colleta Suda.
[PHOTO: ANTHONY NGARE / NEMA]



The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) recognizes that environmental management in Kenya especially waste is a major environmental challenge that Kenya faces and that NEMA singly cannot make much headway in this matter.

The Kenya Music Festival as a national process of engagement was seen as an appropriate avenue that could be used to educate the general public on matters environment. In the financial year 2015-16, the Authority sponsored a waste management category at the Music Festivals to the tune of Kshs. 3,500,000.

The sponsorship went to purchase nine trophies which were competed for at the National level of the Music festival. The specific aspect of the environment category is solid waste management with an emphasis on the following; waste as a resource, sustainable consumption to minimize waste and recycling and reuse of resources among others.

The Kenya Music Festival Secretariat ensured that such messages were packaged and presented by the participants drawn from Primary schools, Secondary schools, Teacher Training Colleges and Universities. This category



One of the winning schools in traditional songs genre perform for President Uhuru Kenyatta at State Lodge, Kisumu.
[PHOTO: ANTHONY NGARE/NEMA]

NEMA at the Kenya Music Festival 2015

Sponsors' Gala 13th August 2015

was performed at Regional, National and State Function levels.

At the national level held between 3rd and 13th of August in Kisumu City – Kisumu County, over 100 entries on environmental waste management were performed. These entries included; English Choral Verse Speaking; Waste Management categories on Kiswahili Choral Verse Special Composition and special composition, Kiswahili Choral Verse for Secondary Schools and special composition Kiswahili choral verse.

Throughout the 10 days function, best performing schools were selected and were presented during the Sponsors Gala on the 13th August 2015. The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Education Science and Technology Hon. Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, was the chief Guest during the Sponsors' Gala. In his remarks the CS acknowledged the importance of environmental conservation as presented by the different schools. Prof. Kaimenyi reiterated the importance of environmental conservation stating that the environment is the backbone of development and therefore must be well managed.

During the Sponsors' Gala the best performers were selected to perform at the State Function in the presence of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander in Chief of the Defense Forces, Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, and CGH. The State Function of the Kenya National Music Festivals was held at the Kisumu State Lodge Pavilion on the 14th August 2015. The Chairman of the NEMA Board of Management, Mr. Maluki Mwendwa represented the Authority at the State concert. Also present were the Director EEIPP Dr. Ayub Macharia and the Ag. Chief Corporate Communications Manager Mr. Anthony Ngare.

At the State Function the category on Environmental management - Waste Management entitled "Think about it" was recited before a cheering crowd by students from Dry Girls' Secondary School – Nakuru County. It was acknowledged that this category was fully sponsored by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA).

Funding for sponsoring this category was made possible through the support of DANIDA - Natural Resource Management Programme (NRMP).

The writers are Ag. Corporate Communications Manager and Principal EEI & PP Officer



The award by NEMA



Dry High School students in a choral verse Think About It focusing on Environment and Waste Management that saw them land a performance for the President, at Kisumu State Lodge last Friday.
[PHOTO: ANTHONY NGARE/NEMA]



Participants starting the Marathon.
[PHOTO: ANTONY NDERITU/NEMA]

NEMA runs for water

By Michael Nderitu

'Run for Water, Run for Life', acted as a clarion call for thousands of athletes who turned up at Ndakaini on 12th September 2015 for the 12th edition of Ndakaini Half Marathon. Well, some of the participants were not athletes but their love for nature drove them to support the call to conserve the Ndakaini Dam, a major source of water for Nairobi County.

The UAP Ndakaini Half Marathon started back in 2004 under the auspices of the Ndakaini Dam Environment Conservation Association (NDEKA), when UAP partnered with NDEKA to plant trees around the Dam and sponsor the first Ndakaini Half Marathon. The scenic Ndakaini Dam is located 2041 metres above sea level at the foothills of the picturesque Aberdares, some 70km from Nairobi, and is located in Murang'a County.

The Marathon is categorised under three main race distances, the 21km, 10km and the 5km race. All races see professional athletes pitted against amateur runners with eventual winners of all the races receiving cash rewards of varying degree. The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), being the overall supervisor and coordinator over all matters relating to environment, was not left behind as a corporate team of nine staff participated in the 10KM race. The team comprised of Mr Joseph Munala, Wangari Kirumba, Benedict Musyoki, Evans Olunchiri, Teddy Lenga and Anthony Mwangi. The race also attracted seasoned athletes and senior government officers - one of them being the Cabinet Secretary for Water and Irrigation, Eugene Wamalwa.



NEMA sports team during the marathon.
[PHOTO: MICHAEL NDERITU/NEMA]

Based on the terrain nature of the route, it took determination and will to finish the course. Throughout the entire course, runners traversed through scenic green hills and the majestic Ndakaini Dam.

Such beauty took away all the pain, exhaustion and hurt that engulfs one as you try to complete the race. Along the way water points were strategically located; this helped to keep runners hydrated as a lot of water is lost while the body is busy cooling itself through sweating.

Just like an old adage, 'in every competition there is a winner and a loser', Matthew Kisoro and Pauline Korikwang were the winners in the men and women 21 KM respectively. In the 10KM race, Amos Kiptich won for men while Mary Wambu was the winner in the women race. The marathon, however, was not all fun and play, a bigger agenda lies behind all the pomp and colour.



Thro' NEMA Lenses



Environment CS, Prof Judi Wakhungu, NEMA Board of management and the management team during the launch of NEMA board in Naivasha
[PHOTO: ANTHONY NGARE/NEMA]



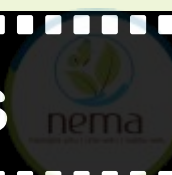
Environment CS Prof Judi Wakhungu (C), NEMA Board of management chairman, Mr. Maluki Mwendwa (L) and NEMA DG Prof Geoffrey Wahungu consulting during the launch of NEMA board
[PHOTO: ANTHONY NGARE/NEMA]



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Has finalized the National Solid Waste Management Strategy. This is a strategy on solid waste management that seeks to deliver the country from the Waste menace by demonstrating how waste is a resource!

Thro' NEMA Lenses



The NEMA's management team during the monitoring tour visit to Coast.
[PHOTO: ANTONY NGARE/NEMA]



NEMA's Gerphas Opondo speaking during the East African environmental CEOs meeting in Naivasha
[PHOTO: COURTESY/NEMA]



Participants in a group photo during the KAM, NEMA meeting at the New Stanely Hotel in Nairobi
[PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI/NEMA]



NEMA staff joins other participants during the Clean-up Day at the Coast.
[PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI/NEMA]



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Ndakaini Dam

Almost 70 per cent of the water piped to Nairobi comes from Ndakaini Dam. That clearly indicates the importance of the dam to Nairobi residents. However, all this is under threat, with a total holding capacity of 70 million cubic metres the dam is under constant threat as global warming ravages the country and other African countries.

This means that uncontrolled weather patterns like drought and increase in the earth's temperature will be more common leading to less rainfall and hence a low water, the burgeoning population in Nairobi and its environs has also led to the consumption of more water and the increase in demand for water means that the water resource is under immense pressure to sustain the huge numbers of people.

For many, the marathon offers a welcome distraction from all the hustle and bustle of the city. Constant pressure to perform, meet deadlines and make money sees many residents push aside their health to the side-lines. Cases of life style diseases such as heart disease and cancer have in on the rise. Hence the race offers a platform where people can come and run helping them keep in shape.

Therefore, the theme "Run for water, run for life" is clearly exemplified through participating in the race and raising funds for conservation of the dam. Moreover, the through participation, the race is a form of exercise for many helping to keep their body fit at least for day! NEMA also took the opportunity to sensitize the public on the role and mandate of the Authority through disbursement of publications. NEMA banners were also strategically located along the route.

NDEKA's main mission is to support the sustainable supply of safe water to the Ndakaini Dam through conservation to the catchment area and the empowerment of the local community to develop viable social economic enterprises associated with the dam. The marathon takes part in a normally sleepy, picturesque little town during the rest of the year, but on that one day everything changes, huge crowds which are normally clearly visible

during local football derbies all converge at Ndakaini for a marathon unlike any other, a marathon that seeks to conserve Nairobi's primary source of water.

The UAP Ndakaini Half Marathon is all inclusive and brings together persons of all ages and walks of life. The marathon sees both professional and amateur runners running for a great course. Unlike other marathons the UAP Ndakaini Marathon goes a step further and offers an environment where everyone from the young to the old, male and female, individuals and corporates can take time off from their busy schedules, come ran and support the course, share in a family fun filled outing event with competitive and fun running, sightseeing, music, networking and so much more.

For many Nairobi residents the marathon offers a welcome distraction from all the hustle and bustle of the city. Constant pressure to perform, meet deadlines and make money sees many residents push aside their health to the side-lines. Cases of life style diseases such as heart disease and cancer have in on the rise. Hence the race offers a platform where people can come and run helping them keep in shape. The Ndakaini Marathon is categorised under three main race distances, the 21km, 10km and the 5km race. All races see professional athletes pitted against amateur runners with eventual winners of all the races receiving cash rewards of varying degree.

The marathon however, is not all fun and play, a bigger agenda lies behind all the pomp and colour. Almost 70 per cent of the water piped to Nairobi comes from Ndakaini Dam. That clearly states the importance of the dam to Nairobi residents. However, all this is under threat, with a total holding capacity of 70 million cubic metres the dam is under constant threat as global warming ravages the country and other African countries; this means that uncontrolled weather patterns such as drought, increase in the earth's temperature etc. will be more common leading to less rainfall and hence a low water, the burgeoning population in Nairobi and its environs has also led to the consumption of more water and the increase in demand for water means that the water resource is under immense pressure to sustain the huge numbers of people.

NEMA, not willing to be left behind, sent a team



NEMA's Teddy Lenya (right) and Benedict Musyoki issuing some publications to the public.
[PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI/NEMA]

to participate in the 10 kilometre corporate race at the event. These included the Chief Human Resources and Administration Manager Mr Joseph Munala, Wangari Kirumba, Benedict Musyoki, Evans Olunchiri, Teddy Lenga, Anthony Mwangi just to name a few.

It takes sheer force of will to start and run then complete the entire course of the race. The mind and most at times the body, begins to shut down while going through hard, demanding and extreme tasks like completing a marathon. The entire course sees runners traverse through scenic green hills and the majestic Ndakaini Dam. Such beauty takes away all the pain, exhaustion and hurt that engulf you as you try to complete the race. Along the way, water points were strategically located to aid in re-dehydrating the runners to cover up for the water lost during the exercise.

After the NEMA team finished the race, they took part in a sensitization activity in which they informed the public about the roles and mandate of NEMA towards environmental management and conservation. The team then disbursed various reading materials like the institution's publications to the public.

The writer is an intern at Corporate Communications Section

NEMA hosts Sierra Leone judges

By Antony Ngare

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) on 29th September, 2015 played host to members of Sierra Leone judiciary at NEMA Headquarters. The team was on a familiarization tour of Kenya and they wanted to establish how Kenya is incorporating sustainability options in its high rate of infrastructural development.

The team was also keen to establish how the Authority closely works with Environment and Land Court in resolving environmental matter in Kenya.

The team consisted of Justice Abdullah Charu and Justice John Bosco Allien of High Court of Sierra Leone and Madam Boi Hannah Bonnie a magistrate. They were also accompanied by Lodonnette Macaulay a legal officer with Sierra Leone's Environment Protection Agency.

Speaking when he hosted the members from Sierra Leone, NEMA Director General Prof Geoffrey Wahungu said that there should be a delicate balancing act when dealing with public expectation since they are those who would always support a project and another set that may have a different opinion. "But popularity of our decisions aside, we must and we always make the right decision as far as environmental management is concerned."

Justice John Bosco was particularly interested in establishing how NEMA prosecutes environmental cases in court and he was informed that we have competent and gazetted court prosecutors who are charged with the duty of prosecuting environmental offences.

The team also visited the EIA and GIS sections and they were impressed by operations in the two sections.

Currently, Sierra Leone just has an Environment and Property Division and they are planning to open an environment court to address environmental issues in the West African nation.

The writer is NEMA's Ag. Chief Corporate Communications Manager.

Director General NEMA, Prof Geoffrey Wahungu chairing the Sierra Leone judges, management meeting.
[PHOTO: MICHAEL NDERITU/ NEMA]

NEMA management with the Director General during the judges' meeting at the boardroom
[PHOTO: MICHAEL NDERITU/ NEMA]



Ms. Gaia Larsen from World Resource Institute training on environmental and social safeguards.
[PHOTO: ANTHONY MWANGI/ NEMA]

NEMA pursues GCF accreditation

By Sarah Kamau

NEMA is in the process of applying for Green Climate Fund (GCF) Accreditation. The GCF is a finance mechanism established under the UNFCCC. This fund is established to fund climate change adaptation and mitigation projects in developing countries.

For a country to access the funds, national institutions must obtain accreditation as Implementing Entities from the GCF Board. In Kenya, NEMA has been nominated as one of the institutions to be accredited under this Fund. The nominating authority is the National Treasury who is the National Designated Authority for this Fund in Kenya.

The National Environment Management Authority as an accredited National Implementing Entity (NIE) for Adaptation Fund (AF) for Kenya is pursuing GCF accreditation on fast-tracked category. NEMA submitted its accreditation application in May 2015 and received the first level review comment in July 2015.

NIE has also held trainings on corruption prevention and environmental and social safeguards as part of the climate finance readiness programme by the GCF.

In response to this, the NIE Secretariat which is coordinating this accreditation process convened an inter-departmental meeting to consolidate responses to the review. This meeting was held on 29th July 2015.

Accreditation is an evaluation and interrogation of process and procedures of an institution as a whole. This meeting was vital in ensuring that the responses generated reflect the true position of the Authority. The NIE Secretariat is therefore very hopeful that the input by the various departments shall lead towards NEMA's GCF Accreditation.

Further to pursuing accreditation, the NIE Secretariat is planning, in this financial year, to embark on climate change adaptation and mitigation design and development for funding considerations under this mechanism.

This will involve rigorous stakeholder consultations, feasibility studies, and project document development. With the attainment of the above NEMA will pride itself in offering leadership on climate finance issues in the Kenya.



GREEN CLIMATE FUND

The writer is an Environment Officer at the National Implementing Entity (NIE) Secretariat at NEMA.

NEMA shines at Nairobi Trade Fair 2015

By Samwel Irungu

Nairobi International Trade Fair show 2015 opened its doors on 28th September, 2015 for this year's show which has attracted local and international agencies/organizations specializing in all sectors of the economy.

In this regard, the National Environment Management Authority, just like previous years, is a major participant in this year's show. The Authority's stand is located between Kenya Power and KTDA stands, properly branded in NEMA corporate colors.

The preparations were done under the guidance of the department of Environmental Education, Information and Public Participation led by its director Dr. AyubMacharia and deputy director Environmental Awareness and Public participation, Mrs Betty Nzioka.

The exhibitions represent the mandate of the Authority across all departments showcasing different programmes and projects that the Authority has been undertaking.

The NEMA stand also hosted five key stakeholders who exhibited technologies in various areas such as waste management, market technology among others. This information was shared with the members of the public, who flocked the show ground. The Authority also branded NEMA on the gate which gives immediate impact as one enters into the show ground.

According to Mrs Betty Nzioka, Deputy Director Environment Awareness and Public Participation, the gate acts as a "billboard" giving NEMA prominence not only during the show, but also on others days.

The Authority was properly profiled on both the gate and at the stand. Speaking to Ecoflash on Monday, Mrs. Nzioka stated that this marked a major achievement in the history of exhibition as the Authority has been granted a chance to be among the few organizations branding the gate.

During the exhibitions, the Environment and Natural Resources CS, Prof Judi Wakhungu paid a courtesy call at NEMA stand where she was received by Mrs. Betty Nzioka. This time, the National Implementing Entities (NIE) had its exhibitions to create awareness on the Adaptation Fund.

The NEMA management also visited the NEMA stand to access some of the exhibitions taking place. NEMA staff has also been urged to create their own time and pay a visit to the show ground.



EAPP deputy director, Mrs Betty Nzioka takes the Environment CS, Prof Judi Wakhungu through the tour of the NEMA stand during the show.
(PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI/NEMA)



Environment CS, Prof Judi Wakhungu joins NEMA staff and partners in a group photo.
(PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI/NEMA)

The writer is a Corporate Communications Officer at NEMA

NEMA, Dominion Farms engage the public in a hearing in Siaya County

By Agnes Kamiri

The public hearing for the proposed sugar cane plantation and processing mill for Dominion Farms Limited was held on 30th September, 2015 at Kandege Chief Camp, in Siaya County.

The public hearing was organized by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) following objections and controversies surrounding the project.

Some of the concerns raised were that, Yala swamp is a critically important place for biodiversity conservation; there is no multiple land use plan for Yala swamp, and that the plant will have significant negative environmental, economic, and social impact.

Yala swamp, is one of the most important riparian and floodplain wetlands around Lake Victoria, and indeed one of the largest in Kenya. It measures approximately 17,500 ha, and is created as a result of outflow of the Yala River. Three lakes add to the water mass in the Yala wetland, namely; Kanyaboli, Sare, and Namboyo. It is Kenya's largest fresh water wetland. The swamp provides an important habitat for refugee populations of fish species.

The community living in the area is of the opinion that dominion needs to consult the communities further, and they are also insisting that they should own shares preferably not less than 51%.

The residents also feel that the EIA report does not address the plantation but instead is addressing the factory. They also feel that the working conditions for locals working in the farm are poor.

The Public hearing was presided over by the Siaya County Commissioner Caroline Onchoka. Other lead Agencies represented in the public hearing included County Government of Siaya, WRMA, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Meteorological Department, KWS, and Public Health.

The Negative impacts surrounding the project include; land use change meaning that there will be a lot of intensive agricultural practices. Also high traffic might arise in the area due to many vehicles using the road to the plantation.



Other negative impacts that surround the project include solid waste pollution, air pollution from smog and smell generated from the mill, liquid waste, and a lot of water usage which might deprive the residents off water for their own use i.e. domestic and agricultural use.

The owner of Dominion farm through his expert Dr. Stanley Omuterema said that proper mitigation measures will be put in place to mitigate any negative impacts that arise after completion of the project.

But in everything there lies some positive impacts in the project and which will include; access to Education as the Firm will build schools, hospitals and water points for their livestock. The firm will also improve roads in the area, create more jobs and generate electricity from the biogas produced from the factory among others.

The Department of Planning and Research through support from UNEP is spearheading the

development of a management plan for Yala Swamp and it is anticipated that the plan will address most of the adverse effects on the Yala Ecosystem.

Hon. Jared Abayo, MCA West Gem, urged the community to support the project and said that leaders in Siaya are working in the best interest of the people of Siaya. He thanked NEMA for ensuring that due process has been followed.

In his statement, the Ag. Director, Compliance and Enforcement Mr. Zephania Ouma said that the decision that NEMA would make will be well informed and it will either be an approval or rejection.

Mr. Ouma added that the project will be subjected to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the decision the Authority will make will be made public and will be for the benefit of people of Siaya.

The writer is a Corporate Communications Officer at NEMA



NEMA partners with manufacturers

NEMA's Deputy Director for Environmental Awareness and Public Participation, Mrs Betty Nzioka making a presentation during the meeting
[PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI/NEMA]

By Samwel Irungu

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has partnered with the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) to enhance environmental compliance for the industry's sustainable development.

Essentially, manufacturers are some of the major drivers of the Kenyan economy. However, in their endeavors, they are required to comply with various regulations aimed not only to create a clean and healthy environment but also increase their sustainable development. In the past, there has been numerous hurdles related to environmental compliance and enforcement KAM has membership all over Kenya and for this reason; the two organizations have held workshops in four regions, namely Kisumu, Nakuru, Nairobi and Mombasa to sensitise manufacturers on environmental compliance.

The objective of the workshops has been; identify potential enforcement challenges and possible solutions, establish effective compliance system and encourage sustainable development.

According to the KAM Chief Operations Manager, Dalmas Okello, compliance is made easier when those required to do so are aware. He stated that there has been a gap in terms of compliance because some of manufacturers do not know what to do or who to engage when it comes to some of the regulations.

He added that as a result of devolution, the country has witnessed overlap of roles creating a multiplicity of regulators. Mr. Okello urged NEMA to iron some of the overlapping roles as it is the national agency dealing with matters of environment.

NEMA's Director of Environmental Education, Information and Public Participation, Dr. Ayub Macharia remarked that as the country progresses towards achieving vision 2030, there has been a steady but continuous growth of industries; for this reason, chances of degrading the environment are high. He noted that NEMA interacts with industries right from the EIA stage. Dr. Macharia encouraged industries to comply with environmental regulations as NEMA may stand with such an industry if things go haywire. "NEMA may stand by such industries based on their history of compliance when problems occur", he remarked. He added that industries should do their best to avoid being fined considering the fines have become more punitive in the amended EMCA.

NEMA's Deputy Director Environmental Awareness and Public Participation, Mrs. Betty Nzioka, sensitized the members on the amended EMCA and various regulations that have been changed. Of particular interest is the section on environmental offences.

Under the amended EMCA, environmental offences now attract harsher penalties. Any individual or an entity found guilty will now be

NEMA's director for Environmental Education, Information and Public Participation, Dr. Ayub Macharia making a presentation
[PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI/NEMA]

fined not less than Ksh 2million or imprisonment of not less than one year and not more than four years.

With this in mind, Mrs. Nzioka encouraged industries to enhance their environmental compliance as the law is now clear what should be done. "I don't think if there any individual or entity ready to part with Sh2 million for failing to comply with environmental regulations," Mrs. Betty Nzioka stated.

Further, Mrs. Nzioka, urged industries to work together with NEMA in creation of awareness among the industrialists and manufacturers. "Don't pass the buck, let's do actual compliance" she stated.

The Deputy Director Compliance and Enforcement, Ms. Salome Machua came strongly on issues of compliance and enforcement vis a vis environmental regulations. She began by stating that there has been enhanced compliance since 2003 when EIA/EA was put into practice. "75 percent of people have been complying with various environmental

NEMA working with manufacturers

regulations”, she noted.

However, this has not been without its own measure of troubles. There have been backlashes from the public that have resulted from some Environmental Impact Assessment reports done without following the right procedures.

She informed the members that some lead experts even submit reports with contradicting information. “Some reports do not clearly disclose the relevant information or fail to involve their neighbors, something that later bring problems to NEMA,” she informed the members referring to the case of Owino Uhuru. She reiterated that EIAs are site specific and therefore, when a factory shifts, a fresh EIA has to be conducted.

For the existing factories, Environmental Audit is done after every two years to assess the suitability of the facility in relation to adherence to the conditions set in the EIA. Seemingly agitated, Ms. Machua expressed concern over some industries that discharge their waste into the rivers and wetlands. She reminded manufacturers that industries should treat their effluent before it is discharged into the environment and ensure that they obtain Effluent Discharge License from NEMA. “Rivers and wetlands are not dumpsites, don’t dispose there,” Ms. Machua exclaimed.

Ms Salome highlighted some of the challenges that have been faced on waste management. She affirmed that NEMA is not interested in closing industries but encourage them to comply as they continue to embrace technologies and develop. Let’s be partners, let’s not run away, she encouraged KAM members.

As a way forward, a number on resolutions were made, that; Kenya Association of Manufacturers should form an internal environment committee and encourage their members to have a section or individuals dealing with environment in their companies. KAM members should also practice sound waste management through segregation. Consecutively, NEMA will create a link to other industries dealing with waste recycling.

KAM should establish agreed interventions on environmental compliance. On the same, KAM members can share with NEMA and other industries some of the best practices or experiences they have. This will enable others to do a cost benefit analysis and possibly do something towards the same. Manufacturers were also urged to increase their Corporate Social Responsibility budget on environmental conservation.

The writer is a Corporate Communications Officer at NEMA



KAM Chief Operations Manager, Dalmas Okello addressing during the event
[PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI/NEMA]

You can now dispose lightbulbs safely

By Agnes Kamiri



Deputy Director, Environmental Education, Awareness and public participation, Mrs Betty Nzioka (right) receives the waste bulb bin and PPEs from Rose Mwende of Sintmond.
[PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI/NEMA]

While the amount of mercury in a single bulb is extremely small, it will harm the environment if large numbers of bulbs are disposed of in landfills. Recycling such bulbs prevents the release of mercury into the environment. It also allows the reuse of the glass, metals and other materials that make up fluorescent lights. Virtually all components of a fluorescent bulb can be recycled. With this understanding, organizations such as Sintmond group, one of NEMA partners have come up with initiatives to collect and recycle bulbs.

Towards this course, Sintmond donated to NEMA a bulb waste bin and PPEs which included; 15 dustcoats, 15 gloves and 20 pairs of gumboots as a support towards World Environment Day (WED) 2015. They were received by Mrs. Betty Nzioka, Deputy Director, Environmental, Awareness and Public Participation at NEMA headquarters on 6th July 2015.

Sintmond is a company dealing with recycling bulbs, it partnered with NEMA in November 2014. They plan to recycle bulbs from Ngong dumpsite through the Nuru group, a group that NEMA has already been engaging in recycling waste. As a way of appreciating the Nuru group, they offered the collection receptacle facility as one of their Corporate Social Responsibility as well as appreciating the partners.

The writer is a Corporate Communications Officer at NEMA



A section of participants follow the proceedings during the meeting chaired by NEMA Director General, Prof Geoffrey Wahungu.
[PHOTO: ANTHONY MWANGI/ NEMA]

A Better Alternative to plastic

By Agnes Kamiri

In October 2014, the Retail Trade Association of Kenya (RETRAK) wrote to NEMA asking for a programme to spearhead the use and management of plastic bags. RETRAK requested NEMA to move from banning the use of plastics to management of plastics for packing purposes. There was need for progress and measures to cap licensing for the production of non-biodegradable plastics. Members also urged for the encouragement of research and development for sustainable packaging materials.

They also highlighted the need for extensive lobbying of members to collectively adopt reduction of the use of plastics. The participants also argued that there was need to reintroduce brown paper packaging, lobby clients to re-use the packaging they have been given as well as introduction of tax waivers to members who adopt biodegradable packaging paper.

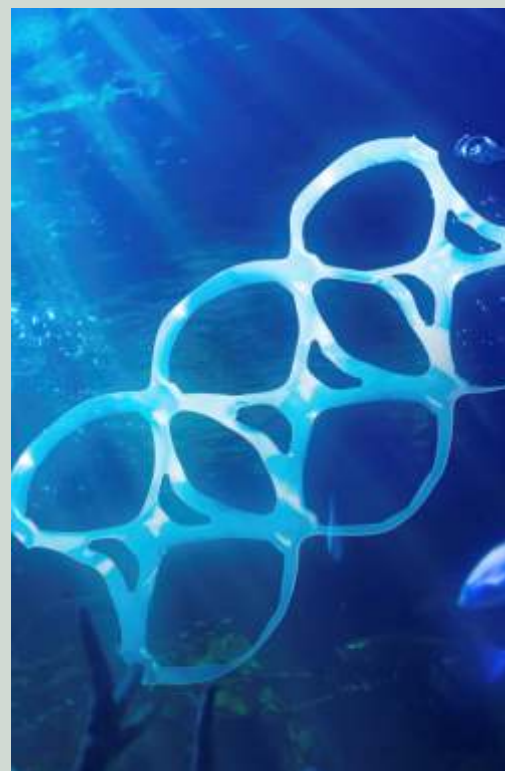
The Nairobi County Government has also stepped up its efforts to clamp down on non-biodegradable plastics by introducing acts such as the Carry Bag Act. The act seeks to address issues pertaining to plastic paper bags. In the meeting, members highlighted the need for retailers to take their own individual initiative to push for environmental sustainability. Customer perspective is key in driving the use of sustainable packaging material.

It was suggested that the brown paper bags to be produced should be plain without any form of advertising so that they can be used across by all retailers and that the packaging should not be a tool to make money or marketing. Retailers were also urged to train their point of sale staff to promote environmentally friendly packaging to consumers.

RETRAK was urged to have a single and united voice on matters environment and thus the best placed solution will come from the association. Stakeholders were urged to educate Kenyans on re-use of packaging they are given while shopping. This will help reduce pollution and the production of more plastic paper bags. NEMA D.G. Prof Geoffrey Wahungu said that management of plastics is to be introduced at the next presidential round table.

Retailers were urged to enforce the reduction of the use of plastics across all their outlets as a corporate social responsibility. Printing and branding of individual packaging by all the retailers is deemed as expensive and therefore, the reduction in the use of plastic packaging will help retailers reduce their costs and hence, save them a lot of money in the long run. They were also urged to reduce the number of plastic bags from their outlets.

NEMA will regularly monitor how the intervention is progressing and the impact on the environment. On the other hand, Retrak will continue to lobby members to join and participate in the agreed actions as per MoU. The report on saving as a result of reduced production of branded carrier bags will produced to enhance monitoring and evaluation. Report on the levels of consumer adoption of recycling and re-use of plastic carrier bags as well as their feedback on the intervention will also be availed. NEMA and Retrak will contribute to meet the costs of media campaign on the commitment to reduce use plastic carriers in the packaging. This will create awareness to consumers on the effects of plastics to the environment as well as the corporate and individual responsibility



As a way forward, retailers were urged to regulate and control the amount of paper bags going out to the environment and that shoppers who will need more than three bags to pack their shopping will bring their own bags to carry their shopping.

The writer is Corporate Communications Officer at NEMA.



NEMA's Deputy Director Enforcement, Ms Salome Machua addressing participants during the public hearing.
[PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU/NEMA]



A section of participants following the proceedings during the hearing
[PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU/NEMA]

The power of public participation

By Samwel Irungu

It's a gated community; as you drive through Kunde road, it is hard to ignore the scenic and serenity of the environment. The difference is visible as the residents have strictly fortified the area as a single dwelling community contrary to most parts of the City where skyscraping residential houses have sprout. The 69 households living along Kunde road in Dagoreti District, Nairobi County have for years safeguarded their pride as a single community dwelling. They have vehemently opposed any attempt by any contractor to put up multipurpose residential houses in their neighborhood.

For this reason, the residents could not look the other way and bend their own rules as Dushan Properties Company Limited proposed to build three blocks each with seven storeys in their midst.

In this regard, the National Environment Management Authority organized a public hearing at the site on 26th August, 2015 as a constitutional requirement to listen to both parties as a fundamental EIA process. The meeting was shared by Nairobi County commissioner, Mr. Shadrack Mwadime.

The residents categorically opposed the project citing various reasons such as; lack of public participation, security, the land space where the building is to be set up, change of land user, lack of proper mitigation measures, impact of the project to the surrounding homes and the environment among others.

Earlier, residents had lodged in the court but were later discarded on technicalities. However, residents were determined to pursue this course as they had tried to obtain a court injunction for work not to continue unsuccessful. Nevertheless, Kunde residents association through their lawyer has filed an appeal for the ruling.

NEMA's deputy director compliance, Ms Salome Machua informed the residents that NEMA has not made a decision the EIA process was still on course. She reiterated that public hearing is not a public relations scheme as some quarters claim but citizen participation is a key constitutional requirement that results in the acceptance or rejection of a project. This was echoed by Mr. Dickson Njora who stated that the NEMA must listen to the dissenting voices before making its decision.

According to Nairobi County City Planner, John Onjwang Kunde road is in zone four where a house up to four storeys is allowed. He however argued that based on a memorandums among the residents, such cases may be exceptional.

He informed that residents that the Nairobi City Council has approved the change of use and the project planning which were later cancelled following residents' dissatisfaction.

He informed residents that all is not lost as the City Council will review the application and make an informed decision considering the views of the residents. He affirmed that the government cannot impose to residents something they do not want.

NEMA's Nairobi County Director of Environment, Mr. Titus Simiyu informed the residents that the public hearing was critical in resolution of issues raised. He corrected the view by some residents that NEMA was standing at the fence when Nairobi County approved the plan. He stated that NEMA involves residents at the EIA process, where if problems arise, NEMA is mandated to call for a public hearing. After all the EIA processes are complete, the Authority now makes an informed decision.

The representative of the NEMA Director General, Mr. Dickson Njora, informed residents NEMA will make a decision that will stand the test of time as it will be based on residents input. "Your views have been noted and taken seriously" he stated adding that NEMA stands for sustainable development.

The writer is NEMA's Corporate Communications Officer



Mr. David Ongare, Deputy Director EEI &PP (3rd left) hands over the branded drinking water bottles to the Chairman, WSTF Hon. Musikari Kombo. Looking on is the CEO Mr. Ismail Fahmy M. Shaiye, member of the Trustee and NEMA staff. [PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI]

Lead agencies embrace environmental sustainability

By Waswa Anthony, Anthony Mwangi & Eric Deche

Water Services Trust Fund (WSTF) is mandated to assist in financing water services. The Fund's goal is "Assured water resources availability and accessibility of water and sanitation to all".

The fund has developed an Environmental Sustainability policy through the assistance of NEMA to guide in mainstreaming environmental issues in their operations both internally and externally. One of the key deliverables in the policy is the sustainable management of waste within their premises.

It is on this basis that the Fund designed and procured personalized, durable, re-usable and branded drinking water bottles for Board members, management and staff whose purpose was to reduce on the number of waste disposable drinking cups per staff each day as a way of minimizing waste within their premises.

Likewise, to address issues of waste separation at source, the Fund also came up with different colour coated waste receptacles to separate waste before collection and disposal.

During the launch of these branded drinking water bottles and branded waste bins at the Water Services Trust Fund Boardroom on Friday, the 10th of July, 2015, the representative of the Director General NEMA, Deputy Director, Environmental Education and Information Mr. David Ongare echoed the move by the CEO and Fund in general for embracing environmental sustainability.



WSTF staff and NEMA Environmental Sustainability Committee members celebrating the launch of drinking water bottles and waste receptacles. [PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI]

Mr. Ongare added that the concept of environmental sustainability that the government is urging all Ministries, Departments and Agencies to mainstream in their operations to address environmental challenges facing the country is the way to go. He also called upon every stakeholder in the environment to demonstrate positive attributes towards environment as NEMA, the lead agency cannot do it alone.

The CEO WSTF stressed his commitment to support and enhance the visibility of the environmental committee activities and walk with team to achieve the objectives of the environmental policy. He promised to engage

with the private sector, especially the mineral water companies to embrace their concept to minimize plastic waste.

In his remarks the Board chair Hon. Musikari Kombo urged NEMA to work hard to enhance sustainable development for the benefit of the current and future generations. He also called on NEMA to work closely with WSTF in the conservation and management of water resources.

The writers are NEMA's Graphic Designer Officers & Principal EEI & PP Officer respectively



West Pokot combats climate change

By Christopher Muchiri

Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP) is a multi-stakeholder forum for accessing seasonal climate forecasts and translating them to relate to local livelihoods and developments so as to generate information that is useful for decision making and planning at seasonal timescale.

PSP entails; raising awareness and knowledge of the importance of environmental sustainability, Natural Resource Management (NRM) and the causes and effects of climate change and improving access to and use of appropriate NRM and climate change technologies and services particularly for women, male and female youth and the vulnerable groups.

Participatory Scenario Planning is coordinated by ASDSP-West Pokot through West Pokot NRM and Climate change working Group Chaired by NEMA County Director of Environment West Pokot, Christopher Muchiri with members being drawn from relevant line ministries/departments and the civil society. The climate change working group is an adhoc member committee drawn

from West Pokot County Technical Environment Committee.

The objectives of the PSP in the county are; the usage of climate and weather information in West Pokot County so as to enable communities mitigate against the risks of climate and weather variability, provide a forum through which climate experts can interact and exchange information with users of climate, develop sector specific scenarios and advisories for planning purposes under the predicted climate/weather forecasts and share out information on best practice in the wake of high climatic variability.

Access to and use of climate information is critical to understanding the varying climate change and assessing its influence on lives, livelihoods and development which in west Pokot are heavily reliant on nomadic pastoralism and smallholder rain-fed agriculture. On the other hand, climate information is an important contributor to

agricultural development that is sustainable and resilient to the variations and changes in climate. For example, climate information enables an understanding of shifting agro-climatic zones with implications on the types of crops that can do well in different areas.

Consequently, climate information informs the focus and development of agricultural value chains that are best suited to different climatic contexts. Actors of value chain can then make informed, appropriate and anticipatory decisions and plans on agricultural technologies and practices.

This is a multi-stakeholder forum for accessing seasonal climate forecasts and "translating" them to relate to local livelihoods and developments so as to generate information that is useful for decision making and planning at seasonal timescale. West Pokot County normally holds two PSP in a year during long and short rains.

Brace yourselves, El Niño rains are coming

By Michael Nderitu

For the past few weeks government agencies including the Kenya Meteorological Department and other government bodies have been in a protracted sensitisation campaign about the oncoming El Niño rains. The El Niño rains lastly ravaged many parts of the country back in 1997/98. El Niño which is Spanish for 'the little boy' is also known as El Niño-Southern Oscillation because of its habit of appearing around the Christmas festivities marking the birth of Christ (Business Daily; Agencies, October 19, 2015).

El Niño episodes have been occurring every 2 to 7 years, with its impacts being experienced across many parts of Kenya. These impacts mainly result from heavy rainfall and the resulting flooding that hits most of the country. One of the most intense El Niño's was experienced in 1997/1998 and caused widespread devastation across the country, causing death, displacement, destruction of property and infrastructure, environmental degradation.

Following the adverse effects of the El Niño rains within the country in the past and other parts of the world, the Kenya Meteorological Department issued a warning of the likely occurrence of El Niño Rains over the short rains season October to December 2015 whereas the rains might continue in some parts up to January 2016. Following the warning relevant National State Organs and the County Governments held a meeting on Tuesday 8th September, 2015, under the chairmanship of the Deputy President in order to develop strategies to minimize the negative effects of the phenomenon while at the same time maximizing on positive impact of the abundant rains.

Following this, the Kenya Meteorological Department has mapped out different parts of the country and classified them based on the amount of rainfall they will receive and the adverse effects which might be caused by the high amounts of rainfall in those regions. Some of the regions expected to receive above-normal amounts of rainfall include; Western Counties such as Busia, Vihiga, Kakamega, Bungoma, etc.; Nyanza Counties (Kisumu, Siaya, Homa Bay, Nyamira, Migori, Kisii, etc.); Counties in southern, central and north Rift Valley; (Kericho, Nandi, Bomet, Baringo, Uasin Gishu, Trans Nzoia, Nakuru, Narok, Laikipia, Kajiado, Samburu, Elgeyo Marakwet etc.); North Eastern Counties (Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Isiolo etc.); Counties in former Coast Province (Mombasa, Kilifi, Kwale, Lamu, Tana River, Taita Taveta), Counties in Central Kenya (Kiambu, Kirinyaga, Nyeri, Murang'a, Nyandarua), Nairobi County, Eastern Kenya Counties (Machakos, Kitui, Makueni, Meru, Embu, Tharaka, Isiolo, Marsabit) just to name a few.

Other areas likely to receive near normal or enhanced amounts of rainfall include Turkana and northern parts of West Pokot. The rains are expected to greatly affect the following sectors namely; the agricultural, livestock and fisheries sectors just to name a few. Cases of elevated risk of pests and diseases such as aflatoxin are likely to appear as a result of high moisture levels in the plants and soil. The rains will bring about flooding/flash floods in flood prone areas where they are likely to suffer as a result of the destruction of Infrastructure which will result in impassable roads.

Enhanced water levels in the rivers like Athi, Tana, Nyando, Ewaso Nyiro, Nzoia etc, this may affect the ability of farmers accessing markets

for their farm produce, growth/yield of crops, or might even wash away crops in the seedbeds or farms, requiring replanting. The high amounts of rainfall will also affect the livestock sector as cases of diseases such as the Rift Valley fever, East Coast Fever will be rampant and will be a major concern to the sector.

There are other losses that the sector will experience including washing away of livestock and the destruction of Livestock assets and infrastructure. Indirect impacts of importance will be loss of markets of livestock due to inaccessibility due to damages to road networks. In the fisheries sector, the massive weather event is expected to cause havoc to many fish farms countrywide. Some of the most striking ecological impacts involve the destruction of marine ecosystems and may affect the complex life cycle processes of fishery resource species. Some fish stocks may suffer severely and may take years to recover.

The anticipated impacts in the fisheries sector will affect both capture fisheries and aquaculture. As follows; the anticipated flush floods will result in loss and damage of fishing gears, facilities and livelihood to fishers and fish farmers. There will be destruction of fragile ecological zones e.g. the flooding of lakes and submerging of the breeding grounds. The government and other concerned agencies have warned residents who live close to flood prone areas to relocate to higher ground so as to avoid loss of life, livestock and property.

The writer is an Intern at NEMA's Corporate Communications Section



An NIE meeting in progress.

NIE develops a programme corruption prevention policy

By Rebecca Oloo

Corruption prevention policy mandates that all staff have a responsibility for the mitigation of fraud and corruption within their area of responsibility.

It is in this regard that NEMA's National Implementing Entity (NIE) held a workshop from 2nd to 3rd July 2015, in collaboration with Transparency International. The aim of the workshop was to develop a Corruption Prevention Policy for the Kenya Climate Change Adaptation Programme (KCCAP).

The policy development exercise is part the NIE Steering Committee efforts to set up mechanisms that would ensure transparent and accountable utilization of funds for more concrete adaptation results. The workshop concept was based on elements that allowed a high degree of participation, intensive and yet open and informed group presentations as well as valuable working group sessions.

The main participants of the workshop were from the NIE Secretariat, several members of the NIE Steering Committee and a team from Transparency International- Kenya.

This policy is expected to consist of the requisite structures to be set up to assist NIE Kenya in preventing, detecting, investigating and responding to corruption incidences that are likely to arise during KCCAP implementation.

The workshop was officially opened by Ms Sarah Muthoni; NIE Knowledge management and Documentation officer. She brought to the attention of the participants the main agenda of the workshop which was to develop a comprehensive anticorruption policy for NIE programme operations as well as ensure that the draft policy was in tandem with the current NEMA Corruption Prevention Policy.

Elijah Ambasafrom Transparency International-Kenya presented to the delegation the general overview of the Corruption Prevention Policy that would be adopted during the working sessions. The development of the NIE's anti-corruption policy would adhere to the guidelines of the Adaptation Fund (AF) on Anticorruption, Kenya's Leadership & Integrity Act, 2012 and the Public Officers and Ethics Act, 2003.

In the working sessions, the participants were divided into groups and each assigned specific sections of the policy to discuss and generate final drafts of the same. At the end of the two day workshop, it was agreed that NIE Secretariat would further fine tune the draft policy document in partnership with Transparency International through several working group sessions before holding its validation workshop.

Ms Wangare Kirumba, NIE Programme Coordinator closed the workshop and appreciated the delegation for their dedication in developing and scoping the corruption prevention tool.

This tool would further set NEMA as the NIE for Kenya to a benchmark for other countries to emulate in regards to good climate governance.

She further urged the participants to look at the bigger picture which was to position Kenya to be ready for more climate finance due to its vulnerability to climate change and set up the necessary structures and systems to absorb the funds for the benefit of the people of Kenya.



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