

Editorial

What is your dream for environment?

Every year, the United Nations Environment Programme honours World Environment Day on June 5 to raise awareness about environmental issues and call for action. This year the global theme challenges all people to adapt to sustainable lifestyles.

The theme 'Seven Billion Dreams; One Planet, Consume with care' sought to persuade everyone to take a moment to question how we live and how it impacts the planet. The theme asked everyone to evaluate our consumer habits: how we shop, eat and travel. The theme is focussed on the increasing global population which is currently estimated at seven billion people who draw their livelihoods from dwindling environmental resources. The theme is therefore emphasizing the need to embrace sustainable exploitation of resources in order to live within the planet's limits thus the need to "consume with care".

The UN Environment Programme says creating more sustainable lifestyles is crucial: "By 2050, if current consumption and production patterns remain the same and with a rising population expected to reach 9.6 billion, we will need three planets to sustain our way of life. Living well within planetary boundaries is the most promising strategy for ensuring a healthy future."

In Kenya, the World Environment Day was marked in Narok County where the guest of honour Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources Prof Judi Wakhungu urged all Kenyans not to take for granted the importance of the environment as a common resource for all which provides livelihood to mankind and the need to safeguard the same through our collective action and responsibility. Kenya also joins the rest of the world in commemorating World Day to Combat Desertification. It is also a day when we take stock of our efforts and challenges in combating desertification, land degradation and drought. One of the key deliverables of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

(UNCCD) is advocacy, awareness-raising and education.

This year's commemoration theme "Food Security for all through Sustainable Production Systems" with the slogan "Invest in Healthy Soils" was well interpreted by local exhibitors who turned up in large numbers at Matuu, Machakos County to join hands in marking the national commemoration. The commemoration was indeed important for the country as it helps us to reflect on the many challenges facing us in our effort to combat Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD).

Finally, the Kenyan public and schools now have an opportunity to make their contribution towards clean and healthy rivers and other wetlands. The NEMA is promoting an initiative whereby schools and community groups undertake regular monitoring of rivers using benthic invertebrates (animals that inhabit the floor of the river/wetland). This method is simple and cheap and has been used successfully in South Africa.

The participants then upload their findings into a Google map platform called MiniSASS (Mini Stream Assessment) that has been developed by multiple partners. The platform is sensitive and can tell the health of a river immediately after the findings by the participating groups have been uploaded.

The initiative is a national 'people-driven' wetlands monitoring and restoration project that is being piloted within Nairobi River Basin before up scaling to other parts of the country. How cool can it get?



Anthony Ngare
Ag Chief Corporate Communications Manager

Editorial

Editorial Team

Anthony Ngare
Samwel Irungu
Micheal Nderitu

Contributors

Agnes Kamiri
Anthony Ngare
Samwel Irungu
Michael Nderitu
Rebecca Oloo
Betty Nzioka
Antony Mwangi
Godfrey Mwangi
Joseph Masinde
Kimiti Isaac
Bernard Opaa

Photography

Anthony Mwangi
Samwel Irungu
Anthony Ngare
Michael Nderitu

Designed & printed by



Paperline Office Supplies Ltd.
P.o Box 56418-00200 Nairobi
Mobile:+254 722 857 889 /
+254 731 294 389
Email: paperline10@gmail.com
paperline.supplies@gmail.com

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Adhere To Professionalism, Environmental experts warned

By Samwel Irungu

Lead experts play a critical role in the field of environmental management. The experts have pushing for them to have a duly registered society so that they can be able regulate the industry. NEMA has been on the frontline in this call to have a regulated industry of lead experts. It is this regard that the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and Environmental Institute of Kenya (EIK) held a meeting of the Environmental Assessment Experts on 3rd June, 2015 at KICC, Amphitheatre. The meeting brought together registered lead experts all over Kenya. This was the first meeting since EIK was registered as a society last year.

Since its inception, EIK has made major achievements such as; EIK is now registered as a society with about 1400 experts with a steady increase in the number of experts who have applied for practicing licences.

In his opening remarks, NEMA DG, Prof Geoffrey Wahungu was happy to report that there are 7683 duly registered experts while the number of experts who obtain annual practising licence annually on average is 1400.

Despite the role that the lead experts play in environment matters, Prof Wahungu did not mince his words when he stated that most of cases that NEMA has handled have resulted from controversial environmental impact assessments done by some experts. "Some experts fail to document the accurate information required in certain projects. From now henceforth,



NEMA DG Prof Geoffrey Wahungu (right) and Herbert Mwachiro, EIK chairman during the launch of the EIK at KICC (PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU / NEMA)

appropriate disciplinary action against any lead expert involved in malpractice will be taken" Prof. Wahungu said.

The Director General informed the experts that any member of the public is empowered under EMCA to sue an expert upon conviction that the expert has contributed to interference with right to clean and health environment during the practice. The EMCA amendment Bill 2014 also defines heavy penalties for such crimes. Hence, the Prof Wahungu urged them to adhere to professionalism in their practice.

Mr. Herbert Mwachiro, EIK chairman expressed his hope that EIK will continue to grow

as a society with more members coming in and endorsing the need to have a society. He added that this will enhance professionalism and ensure the set rules and regulations are adhered to by the members in their practice.

Mr. Zephania Ouma, Director Compliance and Enforcement focused on the need to create an open and participatory process when conducting the environment assessment. He added that there is need to create adequacy in the way environmental assessment has been done. He informed the members that NEMA has developed the EIA guide book which will guide experts in their practice. He expressed his hope that the experts will now be able to



NEMA Director Prof General Geoffrey Wahungu responding to media queries after the event [PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU / NEMA]

address issues at the local context by involving the public in every step of the process.

In his presentation, Mr. Jeremiah Wahome delved on the status of Environmental Assessment Experts and the nature of challenges that have been experienced. He informed the members that although there are 7683 lead experts registered by NEMA, only 1400 obtain their annual license. This has created a huge variation leading to a conclusion that some experts do not renew their license something that results into unprofessionalism in the practice. He stated that those who have not been renewing their license will have them stricken off.

The writer is a Corporate Communications Officer

Later, the NEMA Director General launched the Environmental Impact Assessment guide book which will be pivotal in conducting environmental assessment. He was hopeful that EIK will provide professional advice to proponents, provide a technical voice on matters touching on environment, ensure professionalism, compliment NEMA efforts to ensure every Kenyan enjoys the right to a clean and healthy environment as well as help the Authority in regulating the behavior of experts and adherence to the code of practice and professional ethics.



Mr. Zephania Ouma, Ag director compliance and enforcement makes a presentation during the EIK meeting [PHOTO ; SAMWEL IRUNGU / NEMA]

We Will Support The Authority Fully , Parliamentary Committee Assures Nema

By Anthony Ngare



Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Natural Resources meeting with NEMA in progress at Pangoni Beach Resort. [PHOTO: ANTHONY NGARE / NEMA]

The National Environment Management Authority has held a successful retreat with members of the Parliamentary Committee of Environment and Natural Resources where the committee expressed its willingness to closely work with NEMA for better environmental conservation.

The high level delegation from NEMA was led by the Chairman Board of Management Mr Maluki Mwendwa, alongside his entire board and Management Committee under the guidance of Director General Prof Geoffrey Wahungu.

The NEMA Board and management met with the Committee so that they could discuss a number of critical issues touching on environment.

Some of the issues touched on closer collaborations with Parliament to ensure Bills touching on Environment are fast-tracked when they reach Parliament and also more allocation from the Exchequer so that the Authority can fully discharge its mandate. The main objective of the retreat is to get more resource allocations from Parliament and foster a better working relationship with the Parliamentary committee.

Speaking during the workshop the NEMA Board of Management Chairman Mr Maluki Mwendwa expressed his gratitude to the Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Natural Resources for the support and guidance they have been offering to NEMA.

“In particular, I want to single out the excellent stewardship that was exemplified by the Committee during the debate on the Environmental Management and Coordination (Amendment) Bill 2014, which is currently awaiting presidential assent.” Said the Board Chairman.

Speaking at the same meeting, the Director General Prof Geoffrey Wahungu noted that the Kenya Constitution has specially made provision for proper management of environment, although some people with little regard for environment were of the opinion that development ought to take centre stage.

“A collective responsibility in advancing and strengthening the interdependent and mutually

reinforcing pillars of sustainable development which include economic and social development and environmental protection at the local, national, regional and global levels must be adopted by all stakeholders” he reiterated.

Members of Parliament Committee were in agreement that the Authority needs to be funded better since it is charge of a delicate resource.

Making his contribution Ugunja MP Opiyo Wandayi said that NEMA needs to be funded by the Exchequer in the same way Constitutional Commissions are funded so that it can fully carry out the critical mandate of supervision and co-ordination of

the Environment. “Environment is a too important resource that needs to be guarded carefully hence the need to fully fund the Authority” noted Wandayi.

Besides the retreat the Board of Management took time to visit Kilifi County. While in Kilifi they visited Pwani University to familiarise and inspect the Botanical Garden at the institution. The garden is a collaboration between NEMA and Pwani University. The botanical garden is a haven for many endangered plant species at the coastal region.

The Board also visited the Kilifi Green Point to inspect the on-going construction of the green point.

When completed the green point will have two major areas; the ground floor will be used for exhibition by locals to showcase green technologies and innovations while the first floor will be used as the Kilifi County offices.

Other deliberations are the retreat featured NEMA’s re-categorization to reflect the status and mandate of the Authority as well as the establishment of a head office in Nairobi.

(The writer is the Ag. Chief Corporate communications manager at NEMA)



Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Natural Resources pose with NEMA board and staff during the retreat. [PHOTO: ANTHONY NGARE / NEMA]

NEMA Walking the PPP talk

By Antony Mwangi & Samwel Irungu



Deputy Director EAPP, Mrs. Betty Nzioka gives her keynote opening remarks during the meeting [PHOTO: FELIX MUGAMBI / NEMA]

The Authority has formulated a new initiative to support partnership with the Private Sector. The Authority has been collaborating with the Private Sector on environmental activities and events through the Private Sector Dialogue on Environment since 2012.

Mrs. Betty Nzioka, Deputy Director Environmental Awareness & Public Participation stated that the initiative was mooted during the preparations of the World Environment Day 2012 celebrations which focused on green economy through the theme dubbed, “Green Economy, Does It Include You?” The private sector was actively involved in the preparations

and participation in the event as the sector is a key stakeholder in the implementation of green economy principles. Through their operations, the private sector generates and emits carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to the atmosphere thus key polluters. In addition, private sector uses raw materials, water and energy resources from the environment. As such, it is expected to embrace efficient use of raw materials to avoid waste and formulate green initiatives and technologies in order to create green jobs.

Based on this relevance, the private sector devoted an entire week to showcase their achievements on environmental activities through their Corporate Social

Responsibility Programmes (CSR) which culminated in a Corporate Tree Planting Day in May 2012 as a buildup to World Environment Day 2012 celebrations.

This led to the formulation of the Private Sector Dialogue on Environment as a vehicle for continued engagement with the private sector and enhancing CSR performance on environment aimed at Greening CSR's. For the past three years, the Authority has sustained partnership with the private sector through this forum especially in holding joint preparations and participation in environmental events. The EAPP Section convenes these forums once every quarter since 2012.

It is during a similar meeting this quarter on 17th March, 2015 that the forum resolved that time has come for the Private Sector to enhance its CSR programmes to undertake tangible environmental projects with major positive impact for the environment. The sector resolved there has been enough “dialogue” and it is now time to take action for environment as way of up-scaling the previous engagements. This led to the formulation of Private Sector Platform for Action on Environment.

This platform provides a new collaborative arrangement between NEMA and the Private sector which is expected to take CSR programmes to the next level. The forum decided that the areas of operation will be based on diverse thematic area as will be guided by the Authority. On its part, NEMA disclosed the topical thematic areas that NEMA is currently spearheading for the environment which the private

sector are encouraged to align with for action either as single entities or as a corporate clusters namely; Waste Management and Recycling, rain Water Harvesting and Green Technologies, rehabilitation of degraded sites, support to Awareness creation and Initiative and support to Environmental Awards

During the same meeting, Ms. Anne Theuri challenged the corporates to embrace Corporate Sustainability Reporting as a best practice. This she said will emulate the on-going efforts by the public sector through the Environmental Sustainability.

It is important to note that private sector clusters are already forming around the above clusters while others are still consulting with their managements on the appropriate cluster to join. The meeting was well attended by various corporates including, Banks, Hotel industry, supermarket chains, Kenya

Association of Manufacturers and civil society organizations among others.

The meeting endorsed that NEMA will convene the 1st Private Sector Platform for Action on Environment 2nd week of April, 2015 to select the specific site for work to commence, discuss the available financial resources as well as formulate an implementation schedules.

The Private Sector Platform for Action on Environment will be cascaded to all counties across the country. The CDE's are therefore urged to convene this forum early next quarter preferably during the month of April in order to lobby support towards the County World Environment Day 2015 event preparations and participation.

The writers are graphic assistant and corporate communications Officer respectively at Nema



NEMA Premiers in Eldoret Ask Show

By Betty Nzioka

The National Environment Management Authority made its debut participation as an independent Exhibitor in the Eldoret National Show from 4th-7th March, 2015. The Authority has for years been housed in the Kenya Forest Service stand who have been extremely kind to give NEMA a space.

However, this time round, NEMA was able to acquire its own space in the Eldoret Show Ground through the successful negotiations with the County director of Environment UasinGishu County, Mr. Valentine Lala. The Authority was also able to set up a tented exhibition on the well located area thus making debut participation as an independent exhibitor in the Eldoret National Show.

The participation of NEMA in the Eldoret National Show is in-line with the expansion efforts of awareness and education programmes by the Department of Environmental Education Information & Public Participation. By holding a tented exhibition, the Authority saw this as a milestone in enhancing its corporate image in the public.

The ASK remains very important forums for creating public awareness through interaction with various stakeholders on diverse environmental issues. The large number of participants that flock the NEMA stand provides an opportunity and a cost effective way of disseminating environmental information. Today, the Authority can boast of having expanded its participation in ASK shows in cities and major towns across the country including, Nairobi,



Tented NEMA Stand at the Eldoret National show [PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI / NEMA]

Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru, Nyeri, Kakamega and Kisii.

It is through these forums that NEMA also receives feedback from the public on environmental challenges and incidences that require the intervention of the Authority. For instance, the officers had hardly completed setting up the stand in Eldoret before a resident approached to report an incident. The resident wanted to know what action the CDE will take to deal with the increased number of monkeys straying from the nearby forest into peoples' homes causing mayhem. The monkeys are not only damaging crops on the farms but also causing insecurity to residents.

He went on to report that in a recent incident, the monkeys strayed into a home and grabbed food from children and pinched them leaving a trail of frightened screams from the children which could be heard from a long distance. This attracted the attention of other

family members harvesting crop in the farm who hurriedly came back home. It was only until the monkeys saw a "man" approaching when they scattered in different directions otherwise they wouldn't have been moved if they saw a "woman" approaching.

As the CDE made efforts to explain that this was the role of KWS and the necessary action will be taken to tackle the monkey menace, the resident declared that he was happy that NEMA was finally "present" in Eldoret and hence hopeful that these environmental challenges will be tackled.

Mrs. Betty Nzioka, Deputy Director, Environmental Awareness & Public Participation who was present when this incident was reported to the CDE Uasin Gishu, narrated this story to Ecoflash while appreciating the mammoth task the NEMA staff have to undertake in the counties which often cut across the mandate of other agencies.

Mrs. Nzioka confirmed that the Eldoret National Show indeed made NEMA visible and prominent in the region which was a major milestone. She reiterated that the Authority will make efforts to sustain this status and hopefully establish a physical stand in future.

The Authority seeks to sustain the positive impact created at Eldoret show in all the upcoming environmental events in order to enhance the corporate image of the Authority.

The writer is the Deputy Director Environmental Awareness and Public Participation



Mrs. Betty Nzioka, Deputy Director, Environmental Awareness & Public Participation presenting during the exhibitions [PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI / NEMA]



Participants listening to presentations by NEMA Exhibitors [PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI / NEMA]



Mr. Anthony Mwangi speaking to members of the public during the show (PHOTO: COURTESY)

Generating wealth from waste

By Samwel Irungu & Michael Nderitu



Some of the workers at the Ngong dumpsite busy sorting solid waste [PHOTO: MICHAEL NDERITU / NEMA]

It is said that one man's trash is another man's treasure, nowhere is that statement clearly evident than at the Ngong dumpsite. A team of journalists from various media houses and NEMA visited the dumpsite on 28th April, 2015 and got to see first-hand how waste can be turned from an unpleasant, foul site to a money minting venture. The interest to visit the dumpsite arose during the media workshop at the coast last month.

NEMA has been working with the locals by building their capacity in waste recycling and well as giving them the necessary support such as building the shades and providing them with necessary gears.

Dr. Ayub Macharia, director Environmental Education, Information and Public Participation (EEI & PP) stated

that the project was started as a way to show the people that waste can be collected and recycled. He added that waste being dumped at the dumpsite is from people's houses and businesses premises

such as hotels. Dr. Macharia explained that diapers pose a threat to the environment as they cannot be recycled but NEMA has partnered with other research institutions such as JKUAT, KU



Dr. Ayub Macharia, director EEI & PP in an interview with journalists during the visit to Ngong dumpsite [PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU / NEMA]



Chairman of Nuru Youth, Peter Njoroge, speaking to the journalists during the visit {PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU/NEMA}

among others to find a way of disposing and recycling wastes such as diapers and sanitary towels. He reiterated that there is need for the segregation of waste materials at the source.

According to Peter Njoroge, the Chairman of Nuru Youth group, the dumpsite has helped them make a living through the collection of recyclable material which they in turn sell for a tidy sum. The dumpsite has also helped them branch out to other income generating activities such as pig rearing. Nothing goes to waste as the group uses waste food collected from hotels and homes in the county as animal feed for their pigs. This venture has helped to boost their income as they sell a kilo of meat for Ksh 200 a kilo. The group was started back in 2012 with the help of NEMA and which

now comprises of 125 men and women.

The dumpsite has also helped other people such as Benson Mwaura who hails from Gikambura in Kikuyu. He has been a pig farmer for four years and whose weekly schedule involves taking a very important visit to the dumpsite twice a week in order to buy some waste food for his 15 pigs. According to Benson, he buys ten buckets of waste food at Shs 60 per bucket. When asked as to why he doesn't visit the Dandora dumpsite as it closer to where his farm is located to purchase some waste food, Benson stated that the Dandora dumpsite is inaccessible to him as he doesn't have a car and has to solely rely on his motorcycle to ferry the waste food from the dumpsite to his farm. He also indicated that there was no dumpsite in Kikuyu.

According to Godfrey Wafula, the county director of environment for Kajiado County, stated that the biggest challenge facing the county is waste management. He argued that lack of proper infrastructure in waste management has led to the haphazard dumping of waste around the county in towns such as Kajiado, Rongai, Kiserian and Namanga.

According to Shieni Koiyet, Nairobi regional coordinator, transportation of waste can only be conducted after one acquires a license from NEMA. Before the project was started NEMA took the group through proper business practises such as safety and sensitization about child labour and where to find a market for their segregated waste. This helped the group to completely remove middle men from the picture and directly deal with the recycling waste buyers.

Mr. Shieni urged residents of the County to separate waste accordingly i.e. plastic, organic or paper waste as this would make it easy to collect, dispose or recycle the waste. Others who had accompanied the NEMA team were the area Member of the County Assembly Mr. Paul Suppet.

The writers are corporate communications officer & intern at NEMA

The RCE movement continue to grow

By Samwel Irungu



NEMA DG Prof Geoffrey Wahungu delivering his keynote address at the 2nd National RCE Conference at KICC [PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI / NEMA]

The establishment of the Regional Centres of Experts (RCEs) came as a clarion call for environmental sustainability in the world by the United Nations University. The establishment of Centres has had its own share of trouble although over time the Centres have grown to be Centres of promoting environmental sustainability.

In this case, the National Environment Management Authority held the Second National Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) conference on 8th and 9th April 2015 at KICC. The two day conference brought together a wide range of stakeholders from cities, communities, governments, sector industries, regional organizations, and academia to discuss, debate and launch activities that reinforce the fundamental role that education plays in achieving sustainable development. The theme of the

conference was, "RCEs-Promoting Environmental Sustainability"

Mr. David Ongare, president, African RCEs, opened the conference. "It's a wonderful opportunity for all RCEs in Kenya to share a platform to exchange ideas and experiences over the last few years since we held such a meeting", Mr. Ongare said.

In his opening remarks, NEMA DG, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu highlighted some of the achievements made since the 1st RCE conference in 2011. These included the following; the 8th Global RCE Conference was held in Nairobi in 2013, NEMA currently holds the African RCE presidency, the draft national ESD policy is now a sessional paper and soon to be discussed and enacted. The DG added that there are currently seven fully recognized RCEs and three potential ones; which is the

highest number in Africa.

According to Dr. Abel Atiti, formerly at the UNU-IAS, there are a number of challenges facing RCEs in the region. Some of the challenges include; bringing together different stakeholders as they have different goal sets, RCEs are heterogeneous in nature, lack of sufficient social capital and inadequate finances. Dr. Ayub Macharia, Director EEI & PP also echoed some of these challenges facing RCEs at the national perspective.

The national Chair RCE, Dr. Gordon Nguka, gave an overview of RCEs in Kenya. He stated that despite the challenges, the growth of RCEs in Kenya has been positive as they have become the best in Africa with the majority already credited while a few having conditional acknowledgement. He went ahead to thank NEMA for spearheading



Dr. Dorcas Otieno, senior lecturer, KU makes a presentation on UNESCO roadmap on ESD implementation at 2nd RCE Conference at KICC (PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI / NEMA)

the acknowledgement process by the United Nations University. He expressed hope that RCEs will continue growing amid challenges facing them. However, he urged members to address the problems facing them as a shared responsibility between different RCEs in the region.

Dr. Dorcas Otieno, a senior lecturer at Kenyatta University delivered a speech on UNESCO's roadmap for implementing the global action programme on education for sustainable development. She highlighted some of the key achievements in the development of a sustainable education programmes in universities in line with RCEs. She stated that though there have been challenges in

management and commitment of some of the RCEs, she was happy that the programmes are gaining momentum in institutions of higher learning.

Mr. Mahesh Pradan from UNEP focused on Green Green Universities Network. He praised the nature of network that RCEs have established over the years with more than 16,000 universities worldwide. He noted that various universities have been involved in research in areas of development and ESD and was optimistic that Education for Sustainability Development (ESD) should be introduced in the universities as a curriculum to enhance students' involvement.

Other senior speakers included; Dr. Evangeline Njoka, Secretary General, KNATCOM, Dr. Edward Andama from RCE Eastern Uganda, Mr. Nickson Otieno, president WSCSD among others.

The writer is a corporate communications officer at NEMA

Let us all Adopt a river

By Samwel Irungu & Joseph Masinde

The Kenyan public and schools now have an opportunity to champion for clean and healthy rivers and other wetlands.

The National Environment Management Authority is promoting an initiative whereby schools and community groups undertake regular monitoring of rivers using benthic invertebrates (animals that inhabit the floor of the river/wetland). This method is simple and cheap and has been used successfully in South Africa.

The participants are expected to upload their findings into a Google map platform called MiniSASS (Mini Stream Assessment) that was developed by multiple partners including the Wildlife and Environment Society for Southern Africa (WESSA), GroundTruth and some water companies from South Africa. The platform is sensitive and can tell the health of a river immediately after the findings by the participating groups have been uploaded.

This project will initially involve schools and community groups within the Nairobi River Basin. It will be spearheaded by NEMA in collaboration with RCE Greater Nairobi. The technical leader for the project will be the University of Nairobi, School of Biological Sciences and National Museums of Kenya. The initiative is a national 'people-driven' wetlands monitoring and restoration project that is being piloted within Nairobi River Basin before up scaling to other parts of the country. The project aims to strengthen

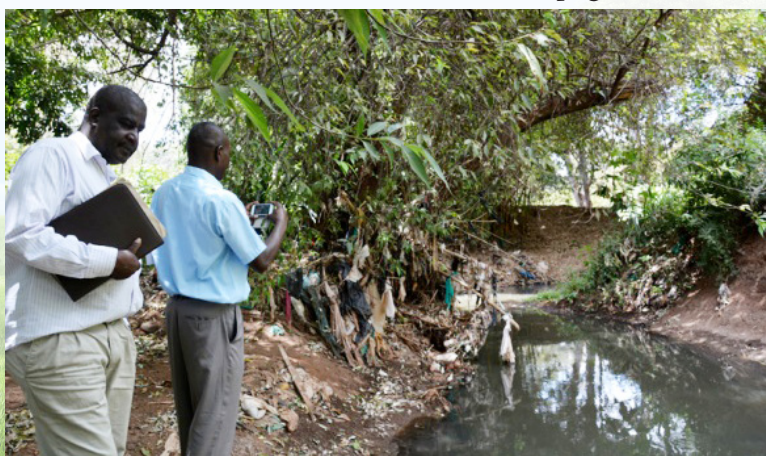


Participants of the project tour Nairobi river during a clean-up exercise [PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI / NEMA]

the link between the curricula and addressing real sustainability challenges. The curricula entry point is the dichotomous key that is a major topic in secondary schools. Hence secondary schools within the basin especially those who can easily access the nearby stream will participate in the project. Community conservation groups within the basin will also be given an opportunity to participate. Every effort will be made to make schools and community groups to work together.

The implantation of the project will be as follows; NEMA in collaboration with RCE Greater Nairobi, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) will identify schools to participate in the project. In addition, KNATCOM and Kiambu and Nairobi County Social Departments will propose community groups for the same. The University of Nairobi and National Museums of Kenya will

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Mr. Joseph Masinde (left) and Mr. Juma (UoN) at one of the project's sampling points (PHOTO COURTESY)



Thro The Nema Lenses



CS, Prof Judi Wakhungu tours Bishop Titus Masika farm during the WDCD celebrations in Matuu.
[PHOTO: MICHAEL NDERITU / NEMA]



Members of the Parliamentary Commission on Resources pose with NEMA board members.



NEMA Director General Prof Geoffrey Wahungu 3rd right and EIK chairman Herbat Mwachiro during the EIK meeting at KICC
[PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU / NEMA]



Pupils follow the proceedings of the EIK meeting.
[PHOTO: MICHAEL NDERITU / NEMA]



Thro The Nema Lenses



Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and staff during the retreat



NEMA Board chairman Mr. Muluki Mwendwa (2nd right) & NEMA DG Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu (3rd right) join Narok county commissioner, Mr. Arthur Osiya in leading the procession during the WED 2015 celebrations in Narok tour
[PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI / NEMA]



Children participating in WDCD celebrations
[PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI / NEMA]



RCE Africa Region president Mr. David Ongare speaking during the RCE conference [PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI / NEMA]

suggest appropriate equipment to be procured. NEMA will procure the equipment and with the other partners distribute them to the participating institutions after they attend relevant sensitization explained below.

Several institutions will collaborate to conduct training of trainer capacity building for the participating institutions and community groups. The players include University of Nairobi, National Museums of Kenya, KNATCOM, Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), and NEMA. The training will be both theoretical and practical using the dichotomous key and the MiniSASS.

The methodology used in wetland monitoring is simple. Participants will be provided with a chart showing pictures of different organisms inhabiting water bodies. After extensive research, scientists have discovered that animals tolerate different pollution levels, and hence there are organisms that inhabit polluted water while others only live in fresh water. The participants are hence expected to visit the water bodies nearest to them, collect the organisms in water, identify them with the help of a chart provided and upload the type of organisms and their counts to the MiniSASS website. The website provides a response immediately whereby the color of the frog changes.

The project is aimed at strengthening the links between the curricula and addressing real sustainability challenges in Kenya. It will entail mobilizing and empowering students in high schools, universities/colleges, community based youth groups and other interested institutions. Each of the targeted group is expected to adopt a nearby river, monitor water pollution levels at designated points and undertake its restoration and conservation.

The project kicked off with an introductory visit to targeted institutions and mapping of identified sampling points. The institutions visited were excited about the project and looked forward to spearheading the drive for clean and healthy rivers within the Nairobi River Basin.

The activities undertaken includes curriculum and training materials development workshop; Training of Trainers (ToTs); onsite training of participating institutions and youth groups; and procurement and distribution of sampling equipment. The initial sampling and uploading of pollution data started in May 2015.

The writer is a corporate communications officer and Environment management information Officer at NEMA



Participants of the Adopt a river project in a training
[PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI / NEMA]

Kenyan institutions aim for GCF funding

By Rebecca Oloo



Dr. Ayub Macharia, Director EEL & PP giving his take during the consultative workshop
[PHOTO: EMILY KARIUKI / NEMA]

A Green Climate Fund consultative workshop organised by NEMA was held at Utalii on 5th – 6th of March and was a success.

The workshop brought on board institutions of higher learning, Government ministries, Government Agencies, Government Development Authorities that are mandated in various aspects of development and environment to help in the development of project concepts that are to be submitted to the GCF secretariat for funding.

NEMA being the NIE for Adaptation Fund recently secured about Ksh.1 billion for climate change activities in Kenya. Based on NEMA's accreditation status with the Adaptation Fund, NEMA qualifies to undergo a fast-track accreditation with the new UNFCCC funding mechanism known as Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The Authority has already been nominated for this accreditation by the National Treasury who is the National Designation Authority for Kenya. Towards this end, NEMA has begun the accreditation application process with the GCF secretariat.

GCF is a new finance mechanism recently adopted by UNFCCC to support climate action in all developing countries parties to the Convention. This Fund seeks to provide simplified and improved access to funding, including direct access, basing its activities on a country-driven approach.

In December 2014, NEMA received a GCF mission accompanied by officials from the National Treasury in their role as the NDA for Kenya. In this meeting, NEMA was requested to submit potential project proposals for funding under the GCF. An internal decision was taken that development and prioritization of these proposals

must involve consultations with all government organs. It is with this background that NEMA organized a Government wide stakeholders' workshop to generate project concepts for submission to the GCF secretariat.

In the workshop the methodology employed for developing these concepts was clustering these institutions according to areas of competencies. Seven thematic clusters were formed namely; energy access and power generation, transport, buildings, cities industries, appliances and waste management, forestry and land use, livelihoods of people and communities, infrastructure and built communities and ecosystems and ecosystem services.

Different themes were developed that would guide the participants in the brainstorming process of the concept notes. Groups were then developed that were headed by representatives from the lead

agencies that have been mandated and well capacitated to deal with that area.

Arising from the above thematic clusters, the participant went through a rigorous brainstorming process from which seven concept notes were drawn. Presentation of these concept notes were later shared with all the participants in a plenary session. This generated strong discussions around the concepts and a lot of feedback and input was given. The authors of these concepts were requested to incorporate the new inputs into the concept notes and submit to NEMA - NIE secretariat for review.

It is planned that the developed concept notes will then be presented to the NDA for Kenya which is the National Treasury for endorsement. Thereafter, they will be submitted to the GCF secretariat as the official concepts for funding consideration using direct access modality through NEMA.

There were 4 main presentations delivered during this workshop namely; Green Climate Fund Architecture and Kenyan updates, Kenya's Country priority intervention areas on climate change, Experiences on climate finance in Kenya - Adaptation Fund and UNEP/UNDP/WRI climate finance readiness programme.

The first presentation was delivered by Mr. Peter Odhengo from the National Treasury, while the presentation on country priorities was given by Fatuma Hussein, the head of Climate Change Secretariat at the MEWNR. On the other hand,



Ms Wangari Kirumba the head of NIE Secretariat at NEMA making her presentation during the workshop [PHOTO: EMILY KARIUKI / NEMA]

Timothy Ranja, UNDP made a presentation on climate finance readiness while Wangare Kirumba, shared with the participants on climate financing in Kenya. All the presentations were geared towards creating a perspective on climate financing.



The NIE coordinator, Ms Wangari Kirumba addressing participants during one of the workshops with the Transparency International [PHOTO; ANTONY MWANGI / NEMA]

The writer is an intern at NEMA

Let's invest in healthy soils

By Michael Nderitu & Samwel Irungu

With the growth in population and changing climate patterns triggered by climate change, people have been compelled to think of alternative means to meet the unlimited human needs.

Investments in sustainable land practices and best practices have been some of the strategies that have been applied globally and locally to enhance food security. This has led to more effective action on desertification whose effects on security, peace and stability are invisible.

Located in a Semi-Arid region, Makutano in Yatta Sub-County seems like an area that cannot have much of agricultural importance. Contrary to this view, Bishop Dr. Titus Masika of the Christian Impact Mission saw an opportunity in the region which was the centre of attraction as this year's national event was being celebrated. The Centre has been able to adopt the use of best practices to make the area economically viable. This has positively affected

the environment. Through his effort, the event managed to create awareness, identify and adopt technologies and practices in tackling desertification, land degradation and drought challenges by various stakeholders including the county government. The World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD) is an annual event observed worldwide on 17 June every year. The focus this year was "Food Security for all through Sustainable Production Systems" The selected slogan was "Invest in healthy soil"

The theme focused on changes in our land use practices through smart agriculture and adaptation to changing climate, especially in the dry fragile parts of the world where food shortages are becoming more and more severe, access to technology and land rights for small holder farmers who safeguard the environment and meet the food needs of millions of households, especially among the poorest households.

The occasion which was graced by the Cabinet Secretary for



CS, Environment and Natural Resources, Prof Judi Wakhungu addressing the public during the WDCD celebrations

[PHOTO: MICHAEL NDERITU / Nema]

Environment and Natural Resources, Prof. Judi Wakhungu, who was the chief guest. People drawn from both government and private institutions all converged at the venue to take stock of the effects, challenges and positive actions that have been put into place to stop desertification, land degradation and drought in the country.

In her speech, Prof Judi Wakhungu, said that environmental sustainability is critical in ensuring productive food production systems are in place. She called for all Kenyans to cooperate towards protection and conservation of our natural ecosystems and



Senior guests led by the environment and natural resources CS, prof Judi Wakhungu joins dancers during the celebrations

[PHOTO' ANTONY MWANGI;NEMA]



Environment and Natural Resources CS, Prof. Judi Wakhungu hands over a dummy cheque from NEMA to Bishop Titus Masika (in blue) of Christian Impact Centre, Yatta as the NEMA Board Chairman looks on
[PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI / NEMA]

strengthening of environmental governance.

On the other hand, NEMA Chairman board of management, Mr. Maluki Mwendwa stated that NEMA has been working towards addressing issues of desertification, land degradation and drought.

He added that NEMA board of management has spearheaded the process of restoration of these landscapes across the country through an elaborate restoration strategy and allocation of funds. Some of the sites that have benefited include river Jordan in Vihiga County, Nyanturago swamp in Kisii County, Kigumo wetlands in Muranga County, Howe dam in Nyeri County and KwaNgwesu site in Machakos County among others.

NEMA Director General, Prof Geoffrey Wahungu informed the

public that NEMA has continuously worked with stakeholders in environmental management.

The Authority has engaged lead agencies, the private sector, the development partners such as UNEP and UNDP, the local communities and civil society organizations in mainstreaming the environmental planning at National, County and local community levels to ensure protection, restoration and conservation of environmental resources.

He emphasized that these initiatives among others are aimed at safeguarding the livelihoods of the local communities and utilization of natural resources in a sustainable manner

At the end, the visitors had a lot to learn from Bishop

Dr. Titus Masika's Mwolio Out project. Despite its location, the farm successfully adapted to environmentally friendly agricultural practices. This was a point to note for farmers and teams drawn from the area and other parts of the country and continent.

The teams were taken through various agricultural activities being carried out around the farm such as livestock farming and the bakery. To support and appreciate this work, NEMA handed a cash cheque of Sh 400,000 to the bishop for the work he was doing to the community.

(The writer is an intern and corporate communications officer respectively)

The seven Billion dream question

By Samwel Irungu & Michael Nderitu



Some of the senior guests present join the procession towards the venue of the event [PHOTO: MICHAEL NDERITU / NEMA]

World Environment Day (WED) took the centre stage on 5th June 2015 at Narok County, Maasai Girls Secondary school.

The global event was celebrated amid concerns that the rate of consumption of the planet's resources is now unsustainable and possibly at a tipping point where Earth's natural regenerative capacity could be lost forever. The event sought to express the challenge of creating opportunities for inclusive and sustainable economic development, while attempting to stabilize the rate of resource use and reduce environmental impacts.

This year's WED theme; Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care, which was echoed all over the world could not have come at a better time as the world is grappling with balancing consumption and stabilizing the resource available.

A panel discussion that was held on 21st May 2015 at Maasai Mara University as a build-up event and brought together policy-makers, elected leaders, researchers and general public to deliberate on lasting intervention to be implemented in the region to avert future environmental disasters such as the recent floods witnessed in Narok Town.

The choice of Narok, which has in the past experienced adverse effects of climate change, exemplified the need to balance consumption and the few resources available. Among the high profile guests present were the CS. Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Prof. Judi Wakhungu, NEMA Board, Narok County commissioner, Mr. Arthur Osiya, NEMA DG, Prof Geoffrey Wahungu, NEMA board chair, Mr. Maluki Mwendwa, County Executives, directors partners among others. The partners; Kenya Wildlife Service,

Ecosave and World Wide Fund among others erected exhibitions which attracted the crowd to learn more about the environment.

The event started with the County Commissioner, Arthur Osiya flagging off the procession of scouts and school children marching to the venue of the event. The event was also electrified by performances from local artists and art groups, whose performances left the crowd in stitches.

Speaking in his office earlier on when a team from NEMA paid him a courtesy call, Narok County commissioner, Mr. Arthur Osiya said over 30,000 acres of destroyed Mau Forest complex have been reclaimed in the last one month. He added that the government is determined to ensure all illegal settlers are removed from the forest to conserve the water catchment areas as Narok hosts the three blocks of the Mau Complex. "Politics should not come into the

picture while evictions in the Mau Forest were being carried out and that no life was lost during the eviction process” Mr. Arthur Osiya said.

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Prof. Judi Wakhungu led government and civic leaders and partners in tree planting, after which the celebrations started officially. In her speech, Prof. Wakhungu centred on the need to conserve and protect resources. “The bulging population is having an adverse effect on the earth’s dwindling resources and that people need to embrace sustainable exploitation of resources and live within the planet’s limits by consuming what’s available with care”, she said.

She reiterated that the environment is a common resource that provides livelihood to all mankind and that we all need to safeguard it as we are all the owners, users and protectors of the environment. She congratulated NEMA for the precise interpretation of the theme as it clearly resonated with what the country is going through as the utter disregard of the environment is causing catastrophic effects in the



Environment and Natural resources CS, Prof Judi Wakhungu addressing the public during the celebrations
[PHOTO: MICHAEL NDERITU / NEMA]



NEMA board of management chairman, Mr. Maluki Mwendwa giving his key note address during the celebrations
[PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU/ NEMA]

The mandate and role of NEMA is to ensure a clean, healthy and sustainable environment

country.

NEMA board chairman Mr. Maluki Mwendwa stated the mandate and role of NEMA is to ensure a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and coordinate various environmental management activities undertaken by lead agencies as well as promotion of the integration of environmental considerations into development policies, plans, programmes and projects with a view to ensuring the proper management and rational utilization of environmental resources. He went on further to introduce the newly incorporated board to the public and stated that it was a welcome relief as the Authority’s programmes can now continue with greater guidance.

In his keynote address, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu stated that it is important for us to put an end to environmental disasters like the ones experienced in Narok and other parts of the country so that they are not experienced again. “In order to ensure that such disasters are avoided, people should conserve and protect the environment as the continued degradation of the environment has to be reversed in order for us to have a safe, clean and healthy environment as provided in the constitution, Prof. Wahungu remarked.

Hon. Samuel Tunai, Narok governor’s speech also delved on some of the steps that the County government has taken in conservation of the resources such as preservation of the Mau complex.



Maasai dancers entertain the public during the WED celebrations
[PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI / NEMA]

Kitisuru Residents: Put proper mitigations first

By Samwel Irungu



Some of the officers moderating the public hearing led by Nairobi County Director of Environment, Mr. Titus Simuyu (left) and Prof Jacob Kibwage

Public participation is one of the provisions anchored in the constitution of Kenya. This requires that matters of public interest be subjected to public discussion.

In this regard, NEMA organized a public hearing on 25th June, 2015 at the site where the proposed commercial and recreational development has been identified.

Residents of the area left their daily busy schedule to avail themselves for this important occasion. Some of the basis for opposing by the residents included that; proper Environmental Impact Assessment was not carried out in respect to Nairobi County Map plan which had declared, Ngecha Road a non-commercial zone. The residents also raised queries on the process followed during the exchange user of the land. They urged NEMA to investigate this process.

Another concern was the impact of traffic flow once the Mall is complete. They argued that the Traffic Impact Assessment carried out was not conclusive as the area does not have a wide road that is enough to handle the traffic to be generated by the mall. The quantity of water to be used also raised another concern for the residents. They argued that water effluent is going to affect the area. According to Daniel Kige, an environmental expert, the report lacks hydrological information and hence cannot be rendered complete.

Speaking during the public hearing Charles Njenga, an Advocate argued that from a legal perspective, the project is illegal. He added that based on the zonal specification, this kind of development is not allowed. He also referred to letter from the minister of lands which has been issued to NEMA asking it

to stop the project.

However, responding to this argument, Prof. Jacob Kibwage stated that under EMCA, cabinet secretaries do not have Authority to issue such an order. There the order does not hold water in this particular matter, Prof Kibwage argued. He also sought to clear the argument that schools in the vicinity were not consulted during the impact assessment. He categorically stated that the expert involved the neighboring school where a memorandum was even signed.

The residents were also informed that 80 percent of water will be recycled. The recycled water will be used for cleaning and flushing toilets. He also confirmed to the residents that construction will not be done at night or during the weekends. In regards to the traffic flow in the area, the contractor promised to set aside

some resources to widen the road as well as put clearly demarcated road signs especially for the school going children or pedestrians.

He informed the residents that the developer was ready to work with the residents. He added that the project will meet the highest standards. The concerns of residents were also to be integrated and given considerations.

Nairobi County of Director, Mr. Titus Simiyu assured the residents that their concerns will be considered. Fair decision will be made after all the views have been put into consideration, Mr, Simiyu said.

Mr. Dickson Njora, who represented the NEMA Director General, also assured the residents that public interest must be considered before any decision is arrived at. He added that the Authority will also conduct other consultative meeting with the other



Nairobi County Director of Environment, Mr. Titus Simiyu, speaking at the public hearing [PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU / NEMA]

lead agencies before making the final decision. This is to ensure that all the concerns of the residents have been integrated into practical solution. Alluding to the late Prof Wangari Maathai saying that nature is unforgiving, he stated that the country needs sustainable development and decisions must

be made fairly and constitutionally. There was a moment silence when the residents were asked how many support the project. Through their residential associations, they stated that they are yet to make their final decision as they feel their views needs to be included in the report. They argued that their objections should be documented in the report for future reference.



Mr. Dickson Njora who represented the director general speaking at the public hearing [PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU / NEMA]

The Writer is a corporate communications officer at NEMA

NEMA Board of Management gets new members

By Anthony Ngare



NEMA board of management and CS, Environment and Natural resources,
Prof Judi Wakhungu [PHOTO: ANTHONY MWANGI / NEMA]

The President of the Republic of Kenya through the Cabinet Secretary Ministry for Environment and Natural Resources has appointed six eminent Kenyans into the Board of Management of National Environment Management Authority (NEMA).

The six gazetted members of the Board of management were appointed in April this year for a period of three years

They are Madam Susan Mwamlole, Madam Caroline Sonje, Dr Daniel Tuitoek, Prof Barnabas Mitaru, Mr Patrick Ngatia and Mr Charles Oluchina.

This new team is a balanced blend of seasoned professionals in environmental management and distinguished members of the academia in sustainable environmental management. The new board members join the chairman Mr Maluki Mwendwa

in steering the NEMA ship to prosperity.

The Board is now fully constituted as it still continues to enjoy the experience and guidance of three other board members Mr Erastus Wahome who is a representative of the PS, National Treasury, Mrs Agnes Yobterick who is a representative of our PS from the parent ministry of Environment and Natural Resources while Mr Alex Mbuvi is the representative of the Attorney General's Chambers.

Speaking during this year's World Environment Day, the Board Chairman said that the recent gazetment of the new Board members has rejuvenated the board to strive to higher levels of performance.

Among the priorities of the board is the operationalization of the third Corporate Strategic plan for the period 2013-2018 that endeavours

to coordinate stakeholders and lead agencies in order to create synergies in the management of environment as well as ensuring compliance with environmental legislation and policies in order to maintain a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

The Board has hit the ground running; already they have held several preliminary full board meetings and in addition have participated in marking World Environment Day and World Day to Combat Desertification.

Further, they were very instrumental in guiding management committee when NEMA held a workshop with the Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

The Board also spared time after the workshop to visit various projects in Kilifi that are being

undertaken by NEMA. They visited the Botanical Garden at Pwani University. This is a joint initiative between NEMA and the university to preserve endangered tree species, especially those found at the Coast.

The Board also visited the Kilifi Green Point to inspect the construction progress of the building. They were happy to note that on completion the green point will not only be a spacious and better office affording staff better working environment but will also give an opportunity to local community to exhibit local innovations as far as green growth and technology is concerned.

When the Authority met the members of Parliamentary Committee on Environment and natural Resources in June at a workshop organised to foster better working relationship between NEMA and the Parliamentary committee, the Chairman noted that the role of the Board of Management is to provide effective leadership, control and ensure best practice of corporate governance. This is achieved by protection of stakeholder and public interest from all risks as well as provision of oversight and risk management by the Board.

“Similarly, the Board has a collective responsibility for NEMA’s system of internal control and for reviewing its effectiveness. The said systems have defined operational procedures and financial controls to ensure that assets are safeguarded, and transactions appropriately authorized.” Mr Maluki added



Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Natural Resources meeting with NEMA Board and Management in progress at Pangoni Beach Resort.
[PHOTO: ANTHONY NGARE / NEMA]

in his speech delivered in Narok during the World Environment Day when the new members formally participated in a public event.

For NEMA, the Board would not have come at a better time with numerous projects that require Board approval have been piling up pending the Board appointment now back on course.

On behalf of the NEMA family, NEMA News Magazine takes the opportunity to welcome the new board members into the fold.

The writer is NEMA’s Ag Chief Corporate Communication Manager at NEMA



The NEMA Board of Management when they toured the Green Point Kilifi to inspect construction progress.
[PHOTO: ANTHONY NGARE / NEMA]

NEMA in First Lady's Half Marathon

By Samwel Irungu



First lady Margaret Kenyatta touches the finishing line [PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI / NEMA]

NEMA Kenya was not left behind as thousands attended the First Lady's Beyond Zero Half Marathon at Nyayo stadium in an initiative aimed at improving maternal health care in Kenya.

A team of 10 members represented the Authority in an event that saw over 15,000 runners from all walks of life join the First Lady, Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta to raise money to purchase mobile clinics for mothers and children.

The event featured 21km, 10km, 2km and the wheelchair showpiece. The race was flagged off at Uhuru Highway near the Nyayo National Stadium with the athletes proceeding towards the Central

Business District.

The race also featured prominent persons in the government including Deputy President, William Ruto, CS Interior, Joseph Nkaiserry, CS foreign affairs, Amina Mohamed, Supreme Court Judge, NjokiNdung'u among others.

The road leading to and from Nyayo National stadium were closed for better part of the day to allow the athletes run smoothly on the busy roads. While some athletes were there on a serious business, some had come to support the initiative and have fun. This way, the athletes enjoyed the walk on the roads free of the normal traffic.

Politicians, most of whom opted

for the 10-kilometre stretch, swapped their regular three piece suits for track suits, tights and sweat pants. The NEMA team had also subscribed for this race. The race took off at 7.45 am with scores of people running towards the CBD, some just walking and others marching.

Prior to the race, NEMA team had engaged in a rigorous exercise that aimed at keeping everyone fit for the D-Day. As a result, the participants were well prepared to finish the 10KM with the first group.

The race sought to raise 600 million for maternal care. Statistics show that 108,000 children die in Kenya every year before their fifth

birthday. It also indicates that there are 72,000 infant deaths something that calls for everyone in Kenya to be involved to avert such a scenario in this time and age.

Nevertheless, some individuals got an opportunity to get cash as they went round collecting empty bottles that the athletes threw on the road after taking water.

The marathon ended at 12:30pm and winners received trophies from President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Nema's corporate image was well highlighted by the use of tailor made bib numbers which stood out from others. As the Nema team touched the finish line, the Athletics Kenya, who were the managers of the

event, could not miss to recognize the presence of the branded Nema team.

The Nema corporate team composed of Wangare Kirumba, Maurene Kwamboka, Cecilia Githaiga, Evangeline Kinya, Antony Mwangi, Evans Olunchiri, Silas Ngeyo, Shieni Koiyiet, Samwel Irungu and Eric Nyaga. Everyone was a winner in his or

her own way.

The winner of the 21km race for both men and women will took home Sh750, 000 with the runners up taking home Sh500,000 and third-placed athlete taking home Sh250,000. Winner of the 10km race in men and women races received Sh250, 000, with the runners up taking home Sh100,000 and third finisher taking home Sh50,000.



NEMA team jog before the start of the marathon
[PHOTO / COUTESY]



NEMA team in a group photo [PHOTO / COURTESY]

NEMA monitors Environmental Sustainability

By Godffrey Mwangi

Performance contracting was introduced in the public service eleven years ago and implemented by all Ministries, Departments and Agencies. On matters relating to environment, the target on environmental sustainability has been under implementation for the last three years. Performance contracting was a mega idea which has seen a lot achieved over the last few years.

The purpose of environmental sustainability targets is for MDAs to undertake concerted efforts to mitigate against environmental degradation. It is the maintenance of factors and practices that contribute to the quality of the environment on a long term basis.

The Authority is charged with the responsibility of liaising with the Division of Performance contracting in setting the targets, review the quarterly reports and provide feedback to reporting institutions.

During the period 23rd -26th June, the Corporate Planning Secretariat and EEI and PP undertook monitoring of activities being undertaken by the following



Environment committee members Karatina University with the Monitoring Team
[PHOTO: COURTESY]

institutions: Kamwenja Teachers Training college, Dedan Kimathi University, Karatina University, Kirinyaga University and Muranga Teachers Training College.

The purpose of the monitoring was to monitor actual achievements on the ground, document and compare with the quarterly reports and also sensitize the environment committee members and the lessons learnt to be shared with other agencies in the future.

Activities documented include, development of institutional environment policies, tree

planting, rehabilitations of water catchments and riverine areas, water harvesting, use of energy saving jikos, use of fibre canopies to improve lighting in corridors, waste management including segregations, use of gravity water purification system (in operations since 1927 in Kamwenja teachers college), use of biogas, removal of asbestos roofing, waste treatment such as construction of oxidation ponds, incinerators and contracting of NEMA licensed waste handlers.



The writer is the Principal Planning Officer at NEMA

Part of the gravity water purifications which saves on energy consumption compared to modern systems

Partnering to deal with noise and waste in the transport sector

By Agnes Kamiri



[From left] NEMA DG Prof Geoffrey Wahungu, Mathew Munyao, Titus Simiyu, Zephania Ouma and Betty Nzioka chatting after the meeting
[PHOTO: AGNES KAMIRI / NEMA]

NEMA will partner with the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) to promote compliance in Public Service Vehicles (PSV) in regard to noise control and waste management. This was agreed during a courtesy call paid by the NEMA Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu and some members of the NEMA management Team on 12th May, 2015, at the NTSA offices. The aim of the courtesy call was to rejuvenate partnership between

the two Agencies.

NEMA first partnered with the then Transport Licensing Board (TLB) to promote compliance in public service vehicles (PSV) in regard to noise control and Waste management. However, the implementation of the initiative faced some challenges and therefore the initiative was not implemented.

The Authority has seen it necessary to renew the partnership with NTSA, on the previous

engagement with the TLB, as the two Agencies had a great potential for collaboration in order to ensure the safety of Kenyans as well as create a conducive environment in the transport sector.

Areas of collaboration will include; joint inspections and surveillance on noise pollution, waste management and air pollution in the transport sector. The collaboration will bring order in the Matatu sector by helping reduce pollution generated through exhaust modification, waste disposal, and emissions among others.

A technical committee between the two institutions has been constituted, to meet and draw a Memorandum of understanding. The NEMA team will be led by the Deputy Director, Environmental Awareness and Public Participation, Mrs. Betty Nzioka.

The collaboration has come at the right time when the Authority is planning to launch the waste management strategy. The initiative is a good opportunity and both Institutions will work together and achieve their objectives.

The writer is a corporate communications officer at NEMA



The meeting in session at NTSA offices [PHOTO: AGNES KAMIRI / NEMA]