



# EcoFlash

Official NEMA Weekly Internal Bulletin

**Ecoflash** is recognized by the Management as the official internal communication bulletin in matters relating to staff welfare and work-related information. Departments are encouraged to forward information by Wednesday every week for inclusion in the subsequent issue. The editor reserves the right to publication.

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## DG on the status of current floods

**T**he NEMA Director General, Prof Geoffrey Wahungu has advised Kenyans to stay vigilant as the country continues to receive heavy rains.

Prof. Wahungu was speaking while visiting a section of Nairobi River at Kerichwa Kubwa along St. Mary's Primary School on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 where large amounts of plastic bottles has been washed up by floods.



NEMA Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu addressing the media on the status of floods in the country at Kerichwa Kubwa River along St. Mary's Primary School [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

The Director General urged counties to mop up plastic bottles that have contributed to the blockage of drainages leading to overflowing in major areas in Nairobi and other parts of the country.

Prof. Wahungu added that plastic bags ban that is under implementation has successfully resulted in cleaning of the environment. He added that the Authority is in talks with stakeholders to ensure that the take back scheme of plastic bottles is in place by April 1.

## Combating global warming

**T**he government under the Ministry of Environment and Forestry led by the PS Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Charles Sunkuli in partnership with GIZ on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018 handed over modern carbon dioxide coolers to five training institutions worth 3 million.



GIZ Prokiime Project Manager, Neeta Sharma, PS Environment and Forestry, Mr. Charles Sunkuli and NEMA Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu speaking to the media during the event [PHOTO: D. KAHUTHU]

The event took place at NEMA headquarters. In attendance was NEMA Director General, Geoffrey Wahungu, Director General Nita Paul Kosgei, Director MEA's, Richard Mwendandu, GIZ Prokiime Project Manager, Neeta Sharma, National Ozone Unit Coordinator Kirui, Director of Administration in the ministry Charity Chepkonga among others.

The equipment is ozone and climate friendly hence will help the ministry join the world in fighting global warming. The Ministry is assisting in training institutions in capacity building towards conserving the environment.

The beneficiaries included Technical University of Mombasa, Technical University of Kenya, National Industrial Training Institute (NITA) of Mombasa and Kisumu and Nairobi Technical Training Institute who received one set each.

The Ministry through the National Ozone Unit in collaboration with GIZ Prokiime of the German government partnered with Frigoglass Company to acquire the modern cooling ozone and climate friendly equipment.

The equipment is one of the refrigerators being adopted in the world to replace ozone depleting substances and substances with negative impact on climate.

### **Kenya invited to Pollutec 2018**

**P**ollutec, is the leading environmental agency and energy trade show that brings together professionals from all over the world around innovative solutions that seek to reduce the impact of human activities on the environment.



**A team from Pollutec meeting with NEMA at the boardroom [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]**

A team from Pollutec led by its director, Ms Steoahnie Gay-Torrente visited NEMA on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The meeting was chaired by NEMA deputy director for enforcement, Ms. Salome Machua at NEMA boardroom.

Kenya has been earmarked to be the honorary country for Pollutec 2018

scheduled to be held from 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> November in Lyon, France.

### **NEMA strengthening its role as NIE**

**N**EMA has been implementing the Adaptation Fund (AF) programme in Kenya and has secured accreditation with the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Towards, strengthening NEMA's role as the National Implementing Entity (NIE) and the Accredited Entity (AE), a strategic level committee has been established whose role is to offer strategic guidance in the execution of NEMA's mandate as NIE and AE.

The inaugural meeting for the committee was held on 23<sup>th</sup> March chaired by the Director General. The committee is composed of Director Finance and Administration, Director for Compliance and Enforcement, Director legal services, Chief procurement officer, Chief Corporate Communications manager and NIE/AE coordinator.

### **Suspects charged over plastic bags**

**N**EMA has continued with the crackdown on plastic bags ban. In Mombasa, 21 suspects on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 were charged before a Mombasa court for using plastic bags. The suspects were arrested in Kongowea, Marikiti, Majengo and Mwembe Tayari markets.

Eighteen (18) of the suspects pleaded guilty and were each charged Ksh 30,000 each or a jail term of eight months. One pleaded not guilty, one was released on medical grounds and one released for being underage.

The crackdown was carried by NEMA Mombasa office in collaboration with the County inspectorate department. Offenders found producing, selling,

importing or using plastic bags risk imprisonment of up to four years or fines of up to Sh 4 million.

### **Safaricom launches a safety handbook on Base Transceiver Stations (BTS)**

**S**afaricom in conjunction with NEMA, CAK and other partners launched the safety handbook on BTS at Sankara hotel Nairobi.

The international Commission on Non-ionizing radiation protection (ICNIRP) has set guidelines for human exposure to Electro-Magnetic frequency. The guidelines include a substantial safety margin to ensure that no adverse health effects are experienced when EMF levels are within the established limits.

Mr. Thibaud Rerolle, Safaricom's Director in charge of Technology said that they are committed to Radio Frequency (RF) safety and that is why they ensure that all the equipment used meet the international standards. He further noted that they has invested heavily on training its engineers and contractors on Radio RF safety, providing devices that deter radiation and putting signage near the compliance zones boundaries.

"Prior to mounting of the BTS, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is carried out by experts. The goal of the EIA is to ensure that decisions on proposed project and activities are environmentally sustainable The EIA process requires that a proponent shall seek views of persons who may be affected by the project.

The proponent shall be issued with an EIA license before commencement of the project," said Mr. Osoro Newton, who represented the NEMA DG at the launch.

He applauded Safaricom for the noble idea of coming up with the safety book which clears the misconceptions on radio frequencies and BTS.

Some of the safe working practices at a base station site include; getting acquainted with the safety information and maintaining the compliance boundary, use of field monitors at the site, using appropriate precautions such as switching off RF transmissions from several or all antennae, avoid putting one's body near unterminated or damaged waveguides, people with medical implants should not enter areas above the general public limit.

### **Service Charter Corner**

Corporate Communication is required to monitor the implementation of the service delivery charter and therefore, the Ecoflash Team has introduced this corner to highlight the services under each section/department in NEMA.

This week, we look at the Library Section whose main function is to facilitate access to publications in various spheres of environmental management.

As a customer you should;

- ✓ be courteous and respectful,
- ✓ Adhere to the library rules;
- ✓ Handle materials with care and as per the rules
- ✓ Return library resources on stipulated dates (3 weeks)

**Contributors:** Dorcas Kahuthu, Grace Mesopirr, Judith Ochieno, Agnes Kamiri & Samwel Irungu

#### *Editorial Team*

Evans Nyabuto, Judith Ochieno, Agnes Kamiri & Samwel Irungu

#### *Have Your Say*

For news, information & complaints, kindly send an email to:  
ecoflash@nema.go.ke, pr@nema.go.ke