



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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NEMA Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu meeting manufacturers to assess level of Compliance with plastic bags ban. With him is Deputy Director for Enforcement, Ms. Salome Machua [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

DG assesses rehabilitation of Kajulu

NEMA Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu visited Kisumu to assess the ongoing rehabilitation of Kajulu quarry using inert waste from Kachok dumpsite on 27th February 2018.

The DG was accompanied by CDE Kisumu county, Antony Saisi and waste expert Dr. Philip Mwabe. The Director General also met the city manager and her environment team on site supervising the exercise. Prof. Wahungu appreciated the ongoing exercise of rehabilitating the quarry.



NEMA Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu (L), CDE Kisumu Antony Saisi (2nd L), Dr. Philip Mwabe meet a team working at Kajulu quarry in Kisumu [PHOTO: COURTESY]

Crackdown on plastic bags enhanced

Over the weekend of 24th and 25th February 2018, NEMA conducted massive crack in Narok, Bomet and Kisii Counties.

A team from Nairobi headquarters joined officers from each of the counties where crackdown on plastic bags was carried out. The team was led by NEMA Deputy Director for compliance, Mr. Zephania Ouma.



Deputy Director Compliance, Mr. Zephania Ouma during the inspections in Kisii counties [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

Speaking in Kisii during the inspection, Mr. Ouma stated that the inspectors were targeting small-scale traders who have continued to wrap foodstuffs in plastic bags in small quantities for sale.

Mr. Ouma said they were out to ensure that the sellers of plastic bags across the country had no market since most Kenyans had embraced other forms of carrying their goods.



NEMA's Wachira Bore and CDE Narok Patrick Lekenit inspect a PSV bus of plastic bags in Narok [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

Burma market closed over plastic bags

NEMA on Thursday 22nd February 2018 ordered the closure of Burma market in Nairobi for failure of the traders to comply with the plastic bags ban. In a letter signed by the Director General Geoffrey Wahungu and sent to acting Nairobi County Secretary Leboo Ole Morintat, NEMA said that the market will remain closed until the County demonstrates full compliance with the plastic bags ban. The ban on plastics was effected on August 2017.



NEMA's Deputy Director Enforcement, Ms Salome Machua, CDE Nairobi County, Njoki Mukiri and MP Kamukunji Yusuf Hassan at Burma Market [PHOTO: D. KAHUTHU/NEMA]

Ground inspection by the Authority had established that traders at Burma market were using the banned plastic bags. "The authority hereby orders the closure of

Burma market immediately and within 24 hours after the receipt of this order,' read the letter. NEMA had consulted with all law enforcement agencies in Nairobi, including the county police commander and his team and county askaris, all who will ensure the shutdown is enforced.

But on Friday 24th Feb 2018, NEMA officials, Burma Market Committee Members and the area MP held a meeting which aimed at coming up with a long term solution to the problem. Led by the committee chairman the members said that the traders at Burma market had agreed to comply and stop the use of plastic bags and surrendered all that they had in store. Several batches of plastic bags were surrendered by the traders.



NEMA's DD Enforcement Ms. Salome Machua speaking to the media flanked by CDE Nairobi, Njoki Mukiri and MP Kamukunji Yusuf Hassan and traders at Burma market [PHOTO: D. KAHUTHU/NEMA]

Speaking to the press after the meeting, NEMA Deputy Director Enforcement, Salome Machua said that they have gone around the market and have seen a high level of compliance by the traders and assured them that she will talk to the Director General so that he can pull down the closure but told the traders the closure is still on until the DG approves its re-opening.

Plastic bags inspections in Mlologo

NEMA conducted an inspection on the banned plastic carrier bags on 22nd February 2018.

During the raid, several bags of plastic carrier bags were discovered. Although

the company had been licensed by NEMA to recycle plastic bags, it had not declared to the Authority the plastic bags in their possession. Mr. Simiyu said that a decision had been reached to destroy the plastics on site under the supervision of NEMA officials and the police.

The environmental inspectors and police from NEMA and Mlolongo police station were led by County Director of Environment in Machakos, Mr. Titus Simiyu. The operation led to a Godown in Mlolongo after being tipped that it was in possession of the banned plastic carrier bags.



CDE Machakos County, Titus Simiyu (L) with EO Grace Maina during the inspections in Mlolongo, Machakos county [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

Gem mining, a threat to environment

There have been recent publicity of gemstones, mainly in Tharaka Nithi County, Taita Taveta County and Baringo County, currently at Mbeere South Sub-County. According to research, mining sector has more prospects ahead of tourism, tea and coffee combined. However, dealers are trading the gemstones through an informal market.

It is estimated that about 100,000 people are directly engaged in artisanal mining in Kenya. In Kitharu village, Muminji location, Mbeere South Sub-County, the local miners look and excavate gemstones so as sell to one large-scale prospector of the gemstone who looks for market and pays them according to the grams they give.

There are major environmental issues related to gem stone mining in the area: Local miners excavate gemstones but do not rehabilitate the topography leading to encroachment of road reserves and land degradations, further posing risks to children, livestock and cars. The gem stone mining results into expansions of river boundary from the excavations.

NEMA is mandated under Environmental Management and Coordination Act, 1999 to regulate the mining activities. Mining Act, 2016 identifies NEMA as stakeholders in regulation of the mining sector in Kenya. Mining needs to be carried out in an environmentally friendly way.

Service Charter Corner

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

This week, we look at the Accounts Section which entails the following services;

- ❖ Receipts are issued immediately
- ❖ Receipts of bankers cheque to be issued after confirmation of cheque clearance.
- ❖ Payment of suppliers within 30 days upon receipt of required documents.
- ❖ Payment to internal customers processed in 5 working days
- ❖ Imprest processing undertaken with 5 days.
- ❖ Maintain accurate records

But then as a customer you ought to submit payment request and invoices on time and ensure all document are of integrity!

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Have Your Say

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