



nema

TIGHTENING THE NOOSE ON ENVIRONMENTAL OFFENDERS

X NEMA

**Plastic
Bags**

Individuals using, manufacturing and importing Banned Plastic Bags to be nabbed

Number of facilities eligible for Effluent Discharge License in Kenya

16, 211



Nema Chairman, Mr. John Konchellah addressing the media during the launch of Rapid Results Initiative on Effluent Discharge License at NEMA Headquarters. Looking on are NEMA board members and management.

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Comply to environmental laws or else...

In Kenya, noncompliance to environmental laws is costly as the penalties are very harsh. Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA), provides that penalties range between 2 to 4 million or an imprisonment term not less than 2 years. As the principle instrument of government in coordinating all matters relating to environment, NEMA has been living to its purpose.

Consequently, NEMA launched the Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) on Effluent Discharge License (EDL) in line with Water Quality Regulations (2006) on 8th May 2019. The exercise which began in Nairobi had been undertaken in the 47 Counties where NEMA inspectors have visited all facilities eligible for EDL licensing, issuing them with improvement notices and accordingly directing them on how to apply for the EDL licenses. A country-wide rapid results initiative by the NEMA board of management was also undertaken to enhance compliance and monitoring.

During the exercise, several facilities countrywide have been closed due to failure to comply with the set standards. Other facilities were issued with Improvement Orders and set timelines to implement the Authority's recommendations.

The Authority also undertook inspections on premises encroaching, and polluting riparian land along the Nairobi River. The premises were mapped out and issued with improvement orders demanding their compliance, following a stern directive by Environment and Forestry CS, Mr. Keriako Tobiko. Essentially, experts term pollution of rivers as deterrent to realization of the Big Four Agenda of universal health and food security.

During the period, the Authority celebrated World Environment Day and World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. The days are universally celebrated to take stock of various environmental gains the world has made in regards to environmental management and chart the way forward. The World Environment Day was celebrated at Railway Training Ground in Nairobi County and World Day to Combat Desertification was celebrated in Makindu in Makueni County.

During the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA4) at UN Gigiri in Nairobi, Kenya's President H.E Uhuru Kenyatta expressed a strong resolve to end plastic

pollution in Kenya. This came at a time when the Authority continues to implement the plastic bags ban that began in August 2017. In the same period, the Authority banned non-woven bags in March 2019, however, the ban was stopped by the court paving the way for further engagement with stakeholders.

In an expression of persistent resolve to enforce the plastic ban, the Authority has earned the support of many interested parties including the general public in the bid to get rid of plastic bags menace. The Authority continues to provide clarifications on acceptable alternative options to the plastic carrier bags.

Owing to the critical role of chemicals in Kenya, the Authority also embarked on a journey to develop chemicals regulations which will provide a framework for sustainable management in Kenya. As such, NEMA held a national validation meeting of the draft toxic and hazardous chemicals and materials management regulations 2018 at Boma Hotel on 6th February 2019, where the need to integrate sound management of chemicals into environment, public health and economic development policy was echoed.

The Authority is also developing its 2019-2023 Strategic Plan which will go a long way in providing a strategic and policy direction for the Authority.

As you will see in the stories herein, during the period, the Authority had good tidings in its effort to coordinate and manage environment in the country.

Evans Nyabuto,
Chief Corporate Communications Manager





NEMA bans non-woven bags

By Samwel Irungu

The ban on plastic bags came into effect on the 28th of August 2017, the Authority has made great strides in providing clarifications on acceptable alternative options to the plastic carrier bags which were affected by the Ban.

During this period, the Kenyan market has been flooded with non-woven Polypropylene bags to replace the carrier bags in various outlets. The Non-woven bags are known to bear positive characteristics in terms of reusability and durability as opposed to the conventional plastic carrier bags.

Due to the rising need of the non-woven bags in the market, it has been noted over time that Manufacturers of these bags are producing very **'low gauge'** poor quality non-woven bags which cannot be used multiple times but are disposed of after single use.

This single-usage of these bags will eventually lead to heavy environmental consequences due to poor disposal practices currently being experienced in the country coupled with the lack of requisite infrastructure to sustainably manage these bags.



NEMA DG Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu (2ND L) holding sample bags during a media interview at NEMA headquarters [PHOTO: L. WAWIRA/NEMA]

As a result, the Authority has stopped manufacturing, importation, supplying, distribution or even use of these non-woven polypropylene bags effective from 31st March 2019.

[The writer is a Corporate Communications Officer]

NEMA ISO certificated

By Paul Nguru

ISO standards are reviewed every five years to incorporate changing ways of doing business and emerging expectations from customers and other interested parties.

NEMA has been certified for ISO 9001: 2015 Standard. ISO (International Organization for Standardization) is an independent, non-governmental, international organization that develops standards to ensure the quality, safety, and efficiency of products, services, and systems.

It is made up of members from the national standards bodies of over 160 countries that set international standards related to products and services. ISO has published over 13,000 standards. The number appearing after ISO classifies the standard.

ISO 9000 is a series, or family of quality management standards, while ISO 9001 is a standard within the family. The final number in an ISO certification refers to the version of the standard that's being met and is represented by the calendar year those standards were launched.



NEMA Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu (R) receives the ISO certificate from Director Finance and Administration, Kennedy Ochuka at his office [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

A new version of the standard ISO 9001:2015, was launched in September 2015, replacing the previous version (ISO 9001:2008). Organizations that were certified to ISO 9001:2008 were given three-year transition period from September 2015 to move to the 2015 version by September 2018.

This meant that, after the end of September 2018, a certificate to ISO 9001:2008 would no longer be valid.

The object of the standards is to provide organizations with the guidance and tools needed to demonstrate the ability to consistently provide products and services that meet customer and regulatory requirements and drive consistent quality improvement.

NEMA attained its ISO 9001:2008 Standard certification on 4th October 2011. ISO standards are reviewed every five years to incorporate changing ways of doing business and emerging expectations from customers and other interested parties.

NEMA has upgraded her Quality Management System to the new edition of the standard (ISO 9001:2015) and successfully sought Re-Certification.

The scope of certification includes NEMA offices at all Counties and Coast, Western, Eastern and Nairobi Regional Headquarters. The Recertification cycle start date is 27th June 2018.

Subject to the continued satisfactory operations of the Authority's Management system, the certificate will expire on 18th February 2021. This was achieved through the continuous support of the Director General, Management, NEMA Board and commitment of all NEMA staff.

For NEMA to retain its ISO 9001:2015 Standard certification it must demonstrate ability to follow the guidelines within the standard; meet its own; customer; statutory and regulatory requirements; and maintain documentation of its performance.

This could enhance the Authority's credibility as it shows customers that the organization's products and services meet quality expectations.

[The writer is NEMA's Principal Research Officer]

Regulations to manage chemicals developed

By Samwel Irungu

Chemicals regulations are critical in provision of framework for sustainable management of chemicals in Kenya. This includes labelling, classification, registration, manufacture, storage, transport and distribution.

NEMA held a national validation meeting of the draft toxic and hazardous chemicals and materials management regulations 2018 at Boma Hotel on 6th February 2019.

The meeting attracted over 100 stakeholders from manufacturing sector, importers, users and even distributors from all corners of Kenya. Subsequent stakeholders meeting have been held in Nakuru, Thika, Mombasa, Kisumu, Kakamega and Eldoret.

The chief guest during the meeting was Environment and Forestry PS, Mr. Ali Noor Mohamed. Speaking at the event, Mr. Ali noted that Sound chemicals management and the related wastes, is essential for the environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainable development.



Environment and Forestry PS, Mr. Ali Noor Mohamed making his remarks during the chemicals validation meeting [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]



NEMA's Dr. John Mumbo presenting the regulations to stakeholders at Boma hotel, Nairobi [PHOTO: S. GITAU/NEMA] A

The PS added that there is need to integrate sound management of chemicals into environment, public health and economic development policy.

During the meeting, NEMA Director General Prof Geoffrey Wahungu was represented by NEMA's Deputy Director Enforcement, Ms. Salome Machua. The DG remarked that chemicals are an integral part of our daily life. They contribute positively to human well-being, if managed well. On the other hand, Prof. Wahungu warned that unsound management of chemicals and waste has serious negative impacts on sustainable development.

The regulations are being developed in line with Sections 92 and 147 of Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) which gives powers Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Forestry to make a regulation. After capturing all the views of the stakeholders, the developed regulation will then be cascaded to the ministry from which it will undergo the process of gazettment.

The Authority is working closely with the Ministry to ensure the draft regulation is gazetted and implemented to protect Kenyans from hazards and exposure to risks caused by toxic and hazardous chemicals and materials.

{The writer is NEMA's Corporate Communications Officer}

NEMA nabs polluters of Nairobi River

By Samwel Irungu & Samuel Lengerpei



Raw sewerage flowing in Kirichwa River in Nairobi [PHOTO: S. LENGERPEI/NEMA]

NEMA led other agencies in the clean-up of Nairobi River in bid to conserve and reclaim its glory. The Authority partnered with a team from Nairobi County office, Water Resources Authority, Police Officers and Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company in the month of February 2019.



An officer checking on an illegal discharge at Kirichwa River, Nairobi [PHOTO: S. LENGERPEI/NEMA]

This follows a directive by Environment and Forestry CS, Mr. Keriako Tobiko who warned individuals, companies and public institutions discharging raw waste into Nairobi. The Cs noted that pollution of rivers undermines the realisation of universal health and food security which is among the Big four agenda.

NEMA officials are mapping out premises along Nairobi River that have encroached on the riparian reserve. The

affected property owners have been served with improvement notice orders as per EMCA CAP 387 Section 117.

Some of the most affected areas in Nairobi includes; Kinyanjui, Dagoretti, Kirichwa Kubwa, Kileleshwa and Westlands areas where Nairobi River passes.

The NEMA Director General, Prof Geoffrey Wahungu noted that courts were a challenge in enforcing the new order, with most landlords hurrying to seek court injunctions when NEMA officials visited their premises to enforce compliance.

Burst sewers were reconstructed by the Nairobi Water & Sewerage company as landlords are being encouraged to connect their buildings to the public sewer line to avoid spillage of raw sewage into the river. Prof. Wahungu also warned building owners that spew sewer into the waterways that they will be declared unfit for human habitation.

During the inspection, eight people were arrested for failure to produce evidence on biomedical waste disposal and lack of waste handling licence from NEMA. The environment Inspectors had noted some heaps of biomedical waste dumped along various points of the river which prompted the inspection of the medical facilities in Dagoretti.



NEMA officer from Nairobi County, Ms. Regina Kerubo marking a building for demolition in Nairobi [PHOTO: S. LENGERPEI/NEMA]

From the inspection, it was found that some of the landlords and property owners in informal settlements empty raw sewage into the river instead of channelling it to the sewer line.

The clean-up of the river also involved removal of sludge, clearing of the banks, unblocking of waterways and reforestation.

{The writer is NEMA's Communications Officer and an Intern}

Plastic revolution: Sailing on a plastic Dhow

By Agnes Kamiri & James Kamula



The FlipFlop boat

The Authority has continued to enforce the plastic ban since 28th August 2017. Besides the efforts by the Authority, implementation of the ban has won the support of many players including the general public.

The use of plastic carrier and flat bags had become a menace due to high rate of discharge into the environment and a leading cause of environmental pollution and degradation. This led to adverse effects to human health, livestock and marine life while contributing to flash floods in towns and cities due to blockage of drainage systems. The ban will therefore help to eradicate plastic bags menace in the country and improve the quality of the environment.

In Lamu County, a local community has over the last two years supported the war against plastic pollution by embarking on an innovative project to address marine pollution from plastics. The initiative involves construction of a boat made entirely from recycled marine plastics with an aim of creating awareness on impact of plastic pollution on the coastal and marine environment. Construction of the boat dubbed 'Flipflop boat' was completed late last year.

The local community seeks to achieve the flipflop project objective by doing a 500 km sail expedition starting from Lamu to Zanzibar. The expedition started in Lamu on 23rd January 2019. The launch of the boat sail in Lamu started with a beach clean-up and awareness baraza. The Authority, which participated in both the clean-up and the awareness baraza, commended the community for successfully working on the project which demonstrates innovative ways of managing marine litter including plastics.

The nine-meter flipflop boat will sail along the Kenyan coast with stopovers at Kipini, Malindi, Watamu, Mombasa, Diani and Shimoni before crossing into Tanzania. It is scheduled to get to its final destination, Stone town in Zanzibar, on 7th February 2019.

The boat is sailing approximately 50 to 80 km a day. During the stopovers along the Kenya coast awareness barazas are being held at the various beaches with attendance drawn from beach operators, fishermen, schools, hotels, tourists, representatives of government institutions, private sector, CBOs and the general public.

The first ever world traditional plastic dhow arrived in Mombasa on 30th January, 2019. The Dhow was received by the Environment and Forestry Principal Secretary Ali Noor and the Principal Secretary Maritime Authority Nancy Karigithu, at the Jomo Kenyatta Public Beach.

The project was founded in 2016 to transmit the message on the impact that plastics have on marine ecosystems, how this affects us, and most important of all, what we can do about it. Its founder, Ben Morison, was inspired to create a visually engaging plastic revolution after witnessing the shocking quantities of plastic on Kenya's beaches, an area where he spent much of his childhood. The project has always been about encouraging change in a positive way, making people smile first and then sharing the very simple message that single-use plastics really don't make sense.



A sailor inside the flipflop boat

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry is currently drafting the 'National Sustainable Waste Management Bill' which will promote sustainable waste management through reusing, recycling and composting waste materials into useful products, reducing land based pollution to the marine environment as well as income generating venture.

The Ministry through NEMA is also developing the plastic management regulation whose objective is to encourage zero waste generation by incorporating recyclable and biodegradable materials.

{The writer is NEMA's Communications Officer & CDE Lamu County Respectively}

UNEA4: Kenya commits to tackle plastic pollution

“It is amazing what we can achieve in the journey towards a pollution-free environment when we leverage on innovation.”

- President Uhuru Kenyatta

By Samwel Irungu



H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta addressing the participants at UNEA 4 at UN Gigiri Complex [PHOTO: COURTESY]

The fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly gathered in Nairobi, Kenya from 11th to 15th March 2019. The assembly is one of the world’s highest-level decision-making body on environment and brings together governments, entrepreneurs, among others to share ideas and commit to action.



NEMA Board member, Mr. John Konchellah at the NEMA booth during the UNEA 4. He was received by NEMA’s senior Awareness Officer, Anne Theuri [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]



DG NEMA, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu making a presentation during a side-event on plastic pollution [PHOTO: J. OCHIENO/NEMA] County

The 2019 Assembly brought people together to build policies, partnerships and a culture of innovation that will support solutions and systemic change needed for sustainability to thrive. This is expected to foster the need to invest in education for green-collared jobs of the future and the need to channel sustainable financing towards the green investments that accelerates innovation.

The three areas of focus for the conference includes; tackling the environmental challenges related to poverty and natural resources management, introducing life-cycle approaches to resource efficiency, energy, chemicals and waste management as well as ensuring sustainable business development at a time of rapid technological change.



Cabinet Secretary for Tourism, Najib Balala when he visited NEMA stand. He was received by NEMA's Maureen Kwamboka [PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]

The conference was officially opened on 14th March 2019 by H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta. The president expressed the government's resolve to reduce pollution by initiating various environmental measures such as the ban on plastic carrier bags. "It is amazing what we can achieve in the journey towards a pollution-free environment when we leverage on innovation," Uhuru stated as he inspected the FlipFlop boat made from waste plastic located at the UN Environment in Gigiri.



Environment and Forestry CS, Mr. Keriako Tobiko at the NEMA exhibition stand during the conference [PHOTO: COURTESY]



NEMA Board member, Prof. Peninah Aloo Obudho when she visited NEMA stand during the conference [PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]

The Environment and Forestry Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Keriako Tobiko called for utilization of knowledge to make policies that facilitate sustainability. The CS added that securing the financing of eco-innovative business activities is important.

Speaking on the side-lines of the event on "Strengthening the Global Momentum to Tackle Plastic Pollution", NEMA Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu remarked that since 2017, Kenya legally banned the manufacture, import and use of plastic carrier bags as they were some of highest contributors of environmental pollution. He noted that the ban has been successful

as Kenyans have embraced this decision that has led to significant change in adoption of sustainable innovative alternatives.

The conference was attended by French President, Emmanuel Macron, President Andry Rajoelina (Madagascar), President Maithripala Sirisena (Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka), President Felix Antoine Tshisekedi (Democratic Republic of Congo) and Prime Minister of Rwanda, Edouard Ngirente who graced the high level summit where critical decisions and commitments were made during the “One Planet Summit”. President Uhuru Kenyatta committed to achieve 10 percent forest cover in Kenya by 2022.



Senate Speaker, Hon. Kenneth Lusaka when he visited NEMA exhibition booth. He was received by NEMA's Eunice Kubunga [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]



Environment and Forestry CS, Keriako Tobiko, NEMA Director General Prof Geoffrey Wahungu (C) among other dignitaries during a multilateral meeting with Denmark during the UNEA4

Other high profile individuals included President of UNEA4, Mr. Siim Kiisler, UN Deputy Secretary General, Amina Mohammed; Acting Executive director of UNEP, Joyce Msuya and Acting Director General of UN office in Nairobi and Executive Director of UN Habitat Maimunah Sharif.

The Assembly brought together over 4,000 heads of state, ministers, business leaders, senior UN officials and civil society representatives. The gathering made critical decisions and resolutions that are expected to move the global societies to a more sustainable path.

The closure of the conference saw adoption of 26 resolutions and 3 decisions that were arrived on. Some of the resolutions passed at the conference includes; addressing single-use plastic products pollution, strengthening coordination and cooperation to eliminate discharges of marine litter and micro plastics into the ocean, sound management of chemicals and waste, sustainable environmental practices, innovations on biodiversity and land degradation among others.

{The writer is NEMA's Corporate Communications Officer}

International Forest Day celebrated

By Agnes Kamiri & Michael Njiru

The International Day of Forests (IDF) was established on the 21st day of March, by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly. The decision was reached in November, 2012. The day was set aside to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests, and trees outside forests, and the need to protect and conserve forests for the benefit of present and future generations.

First observed in 2013, the IDF has become a useful platform to showcase the contributions of forests to global development the contributions of forests as well as the preservation of the world's global cultural heritage and diverse biological resources. The Day offers a unique opportunity to reflect on the state of forests and challenges confronting the world's forests in order to rally actions on how to tackle the threats and advocate for sustainable management of the global forest resources.



Participants holding tree seedlings during the international forest day in Meru County
[PHOTO: A. KAMIRI/NEMA]

In an effort to ensure that the environment is protected, preserved and rehabilitated and restored, Team Environment Kenya organized and identified Meru County as one of the county to benefit from a massive tree planting expedition. The Team in collaboration with the County Government of Meru organized to undertake a massive tree planting expedition that took place between 18th and 23rd March 2019.

In Nandi, the chief guest for the day was H. E the Governor Stephen Sang who was represented by the H. E the deputy Governor Dr Yuditia other guests were the area MCA, CEC-Environment and the chairman of the environment committee at the Nandi county Assembly. The county commissioner was represented by the Deputy county commissioner for the Nandi Hills sub county.

The CEC promised to enhance forestry activities and ensured protection of the water catchment areas. He emphasized on the removal of blue gum (eucalyptus) from the wetlands. The Deputy Governor assured the Counties of the government in programs for conservation of forests in the County.



NEMA staff with tree seedlings during the international forest day in Meru County
[PHOTO: A. KAMIRI/NEMA]

In 2019, the International Day of Forests in each year is guided by a specific theme to enhance the contributions of the global forest sector to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2019 IDF addressed the theme Forests and Education.

The theme resonated well with the youth who are the future generation that will take care of Mother Nature. This theme reminds us of the importance of forestry education at all levels towards achieving sustainable forest management and biodiversity education.

As the global communities commemorate the 2019 IDF under this theme, Kenya celebrated the Day in Bondo Teachers Training College, in Siaya County. The National celebrations were held in Busia County.



CS Keriako Tobiko at the NEMA exhibition stand during the International Forest Day at Bondo Teachers Training College, in Siaya County

{The writers are NEMA's Corporate Communications Officer & Environment Office in Nandi}

State of coast report launched

By Samwel Irungu



Participants during the launch of state of coastal report

NEMA launched the second edition of State of Coast Report in Mombasa on 29th March 2019.

The report was prepared in line with EMCA that mandates NEMA to prepare a survey of the coastal zone and prepare an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) plan based on the report of such survey. Development of the report is a key requirement to inform the ICZM plan development process.

The report highlights the status, trends, threats and emerging issues facing the coastal and marine resources in Kenya and makes recommendations to address the issues. It also identifies the opportunities which exist in the coast for socio-economic development and the challenges that need to be addressed in order to ensure a healthy marine and coastal environment.



NEMA DG Prof Geoffrey Wahungu displaying the State of Coastal Report in Mombasa [PHOTO-COURTESY]

The Authority coordinated preparation of the report while the Government led institution on Coastal and marine research such as Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRRI), The preparation of the report was funded by partners such as Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Speaking during the launch, NEMA Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu noted that the preparation of the report has not only contributed to realization of our national priorities on conservation of the coastal and marine environment but also contributed to the country's regional obligations on implementation of the Nairobi Convention and

its protocols as well as implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Prof Wahungu noted that, *"The report provides a good platform for us to continue sharing experiences and lessons on management of our coastal and marine resources."*



Launch of the Coastal report in Mombasa

The launch of the report offered an opportunity to come together and witness one of the key achievements that our country has made in a collaborative effort involving the Government of Kenya and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) through the EU Funded Regional Biodiversity Project, where Kenya is one of the participating countries. The report will also provide a good platform for us to continue sharing experiences and lessons on management of our coastal and marine resources.

{The writer is NEMA's Communications Officer}



CS Launches Green Week at Nazarene University

By Samwel Irungu

Participants led by Environment CS, Keriako Tobiko at Nazarene University during the launch of Green Week [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

Green is an annual campaign started by the Green Education Foundation. The event takes place annually in the first week of February. Schools and groups are encouraged to grasp this opportunity to spend time with students' discussing sustainability issues and exploring ways to make a difference.

The Environment and Forestry Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Keriako Tobiko launched the annual Africa Nazarene University Green Week on 8th February 2019 at its main campus in Ongata Rongai.

The university has been organising the event to transfer knowledge to the local community to encourage environmental sustainability. The Green Week offers opportunity for students and stakeholders to share environmental success stories and opportunities. The Green Week took place from 4th to 10th February 2019 at the university.



The panelists during the discussion at Nazarene University [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]



NEMA Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu (L), receives a gift pack from Nazarene University Vice Chancellor, Stanley Bhebhe during the launch [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]



Environment and Forestry CS, Keriako Tobiko, Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs Nazarene University, Prof. Rodney Reed (C) and NEMA DG Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu during the launch of Green Week at the University [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]



CS Environment and Forestry, Mr. Keriako Tobiko and Laikipia Governor, Nderitu Miriithi takes a jig during the wetlands celebrations at Rumuruti, Laikipia County



Hon. John Mututho speaks to NEMA's Ann Theuri during the devolution conference in Kirinyaga County



Tomiso Mathenge receives her award from Makueni OCPD after participating in WED 2019 essay competition as her father Nameless looks on. She was awarded during the WDCD celebrations in Makueni



L-R_NEMA officers Stephen Kimutu_ CDE Makueni, Patricia Wambua_ Director Compliance and Enforcement, David Ongare and RDE Nairobi Region, Stephen Njoka during a visit to Kiboko oil spillage site



NEMA DG with members from Kenya Property Developers when they paid him a courtesy call at his office



NEMA DG Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu (L), PS Environment and Forestry, Ali Noor (2nd L) and Mombasa Governor, Ali Hassan Joho (4th L) among other guest during a visit to Kibarani dumpsite

During the event, over 1000 trees were planted at the institution. The heads of institutions under the Ministry of environment led by the Environment CS visited several



CS Environment and Forestry, Mr. Keriako Tobiko planting a tree during the launch of green week at Nazarene University [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

exhibition stands among them the NEMA Kenya, Wee Centre, Netfund and Kool Kibanda-an innovation by the university students that keeps vegetables and fruits for a longer period to minimise wastage.

The CS was accompanied by NEMA Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu; Nazarene University Vice Chancellor, Stanley Bhebhe; Kenya Wildlife Service, Ag. Chief Conservator of Forests, Dr. Monica Kalenda; Environmental Complaints Committee chief Executive Officer, Dr. John Chumo; Netfund Ag. CEO, Samson Toniok, KEFRI Ag. Director Dr. Jane Njuguna, Conservation Secretary Gideon Gathaara among other dignitaries.

Speaking during the event, the CS acknowledged that local knowledge should be tapped and mainstreamed to mitigate environmental challenges. "People who destroy the environment are not the ones who end up directly experiencing the effects of their actions," the CS said. He appealed to citizens to take responsibility, in their day today activities while conserving the environment.

While responding to queries from students during a panel discussion, NEMA Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu appealed to citizens to take responsibility towards conservation of the environment. He noted that some people in residential areas release sewage into the rivers at night yet they are the one who keeps complaining about environmental pollution. He appealed to Kenyans to report such incidents as the Authority has intensified on is surveillance to nub all those polluting the environment.

{The writer is NEMA's Corporate Communications Officer}



NEMA officers from Kajiado County office (L-R), Phyllis Mueni, Godfrey Wafula, Mary Rita and Collins Omuto exhibiting during the launch of Green Week at Nazarene University [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

Authority trained on mine water and waste management

By Reagan Awino & Marcellah Ojiambo



Reagan Owino with Marcellah Ojiambo during the visit to the Director General's office [PHOTO: S. GITAU/NEMA]

NEMA staff underwent an International training programme (ITP) on Mine Water and Mine Waste Management which is being financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

The programme is organised by the Geological Survey of Sweden (SGU) with the support from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Swedish EPA) and Luleå University of Technology (LTU). The aim of the short course is to support participants from developing countries as they strive to apply plans for positive change on organizational and sectoral levels.

Mr. Mattias Fackel, programme Coordinator and Ms. Jonnina Karlsson, the project manager from the Swedish Geological Survey were received by the Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu who was accompanied by Ag. Director Compliance and Enforcement, Ms. Salome Machua and the programme participants from NEMA, Mr. Reagan Awino and Ms. Marcella Ojiambo.

The programme is primarily offered to staff and management at government authorities tasked with permitting and inspecting mines.

The training presents the science behind management of mine water and mine waste and integrates several principles equally important to prevent and mitigate environmental impacts: professionalism, transparent processes and a human rights perspective.

The aim of the programme is to reduce knowledge gaps between authorities and the industry and to ensure availability of information about mining and the environment to all stakeholders.

The training focuses on mine waste and mine water and aims to improve permitting of procedures, the quality of inspection and reporting at the participating agencies. The course will run for five years (2018-2022) with two cycles per year (May and October) and with 25 participants per cycle; a projected number of 250 participants are to be trained at the end of the programme. The participants are to be drawn from Kenya, Zambia, Tanzania and Ethiopia.

Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu thanked the mentors for considering Kenya to participate in the short course despite it not being among the priority countries. The DG added that it is a very timely course which will enhance the capacity of NEMA staff who deal with mining issues because of the rising activity of the mining sector. The upcoming programme is recommended to have NEMA's representatives to create a critical mass within the institution with the knowledge on mining activities.

[The writer is NEMA's Environment Officer at KenInvest & an Environment Officer at NEMA respectively]



The meeting taking place at NEMA headquarters, Nairobi [PHOTO: S. GITAU/NEMA]

NEMA committed to conserve wetlands

By Samwel Irungu



CS Environment and Forestry, Keriako Tobiko, Laikipia Governor, H.E Ndiritu Muriithi and Laikipia West MP, Patrick Mariru rides on camels to Ewaso Narok, Rumuruti during the wetlands celebrations [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

Each year, Kenya commemorates World Wetlands Day to mark the adoption of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in Iran like the rest of the World. The convention came in force in Kenya in 1990. Hitherto, the country has been celebrating the event annually on 2nd February. The convention aims at promotion of conservation and sustainable utilisation of wetlands. In Kenya, wetlands occupy approximately three to four percent of the Kenya's landmass.

This year, Kenya held its national celebrations at Ewaso Narok Wetland at Rumuruti, Laikipia County. The chosen theme was "Wetlands and Climate Change", the Kenyans domesticated slogan was "Healthy wetlands, Healthy Communities." The theme aimed to highlight the critical role of wetlands in mitigation and adaption to climate change. Ewaso Narok wetland is the largest wetland in Laikipia covering 23 kilometre squared, rich in biodiversity of 172 birds and over 100 plant species.

The chief guest was Environment and Forestry Cabinet Secretary Hon. Keriako Tobiko. Speaking during the event, Mr. Keriako called on leaders to support the conservation agenda of the government and avoid politicising government efforts to save forests and wetlands in the



L-R Laikipia Governor Ndiritu Murithi, Environment CS, Keriako Tobiko and NEMA Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu during the World Wetlands Day Celebrations in Rumuruti [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

"NEMA will work to strengthen governance structures for wetlands and climate change to promote sustainable use of wetlands from local to national levels," - Mr. Konchellah



Environment CS, Keriako Tobiko addressing the gathering during the World Wetlands Celebrations in Ewaso Narok Rumuruti Laikipia County [PHOTO: S. LINGERPEI/NEMA]

country. Mr. Keriako called on the locals to take care of the environment and specifically water sources not only for their benefits but also for others. Mr. Keriako urged locals to focus on development and shun away from leaders politicking at the expense of development. The event was also graced by Laikipia Governor, H.E Ndiritu Muriithi, his Deputy Governor John Mwaniki, Laikipia West MP, Patrick Mariru, Laikipia North MP, Sarah Korere and Laikipia County Executive Committee Members.

Laikipia Governor, H.E Ndiritu Muriithi underscored the need to protect Ewaso Narok wetland as it forms the livelihoods not only of people of Laikipia but people downstream. Ewaso Narok wetland is a critical Section in the magement of Ewaso Nyiro basin with its source in the slopes of the Aberdares and Mount Kenya. NEMA was represented by the board of management led by Chairman, Mr. John Konchellah, board members, Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu and members of staff.



NEMA Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu addressing the gathering during the World Wetlands Celebrations in Ewaso Narok Rumuruti Laikipia County [PHOTO: S. LINGERPEI/NEMA]

NEMA Chairman, Mr. John Konchellah noted that wetlands are vital resources and the Authority has been working to conserve the wetlands all over the country. This involves facilitating the enactment of draft Wetlands Regulations. The Authority has also initiated mapping and gazetement of various wetlands in the country to enhance the conservation efforts. “NEMA will work to strengthen governance structures for wetlands and climate change to promote sustainable use of wetlands from local to national levels,” Mr. Konchellah stated.

Speaking during the celebrations, NEMA Director General, Prof Geoffrey Wahungu informed the public that wetlands and other water bodies should be taken care of to benefit all people. “Ewaso Narok wetland does not only benefit the people of Rumuruti, it also forms the livelihood of people upstream and downstream, hence we need to conserve and consider others,” Prof. Wahungu stated.

The government has published a notice of intent to declare Ewaso Narok Swamp in Laikipia County as a protected area pursuant to Section 42 of EMCA 1999 that mandates the CS for Environment and Forestry on recommendation from NEMA to impose such orders and restrictions on a wetland. This follows the ongoing efforts to rehabilitate the wetland that has been going through extensive pollution, over grazing, soil erosion, siltation and abstraction of water for irrigation.

The wetlands celebrations were also held in the rest of the 46 Counties led by NEMA’s County officials.



NEMA board member, Hon. Halima Ware plants a tree during the wetlands day celebrations at Rumuruti, Laikipia County [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

Panel discussion at Safaricom

NEMA partnered with Safaricom to host a successful World Wetlands Panel discussion at Safaricom Michael Joseph Centre on 30th January 2019. Safaricom is one of the leaders in promotion of sustainability.

The Panellists included; Stephen Katua-NE-MA, Patrick Muraguri, CANCO, Emma Miloyo- President of the Architectural Association of Kenya, Loice Mukami – Kenya Flower Council, Jackson Ole Sapit – Arch Bishop of the Anglican Church of Kenya and Orlando Liomo – CEO Standard Media Group.

Each panelists handled their respective organization's mandate in relation with the WWD 2019 theme i.e. "Wetlands and Climate Change". The discussions were moderated by Terryanne Chebet.

Invited guests were drawn from Private Corporate entities, NGO's, Universities, Council of Governors and Environmental clubs in selected Primary school.



Participants during the panel discussion at Safaricom Centre [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]



Dignitaries at exhibition stands during the event. They are received by NEMA Senior Awareness officer, Ms. Anne Theuri [PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]

Community forum

There was a Community forum at Rumuruti Catholic church on 1st February 2019. Over 300 local residents gathered to raise their views on the value of Ewaso Narok wetland and benefits they accrue from it. The community forum was graced by government officials and experts on environmental management and specifically wetlands. The forum was organized by NEMA, County Government of Laikipia, Netfund, Ministry of Environment and Forestry among other partners.

Action Points

- Intensive stakeholder consultations, education and creating awareness on gazettelement of the wetland by the CS Environment as a protected area.
- Development of a County wetlands policy in line with the national wetlands policy
- Development and implementation of an integrated wetlands management plan for Ewaso Narok
- Control of water abstraction in Ewaso Narok and other rivers that feed into the wetland.
- Mapping and delineation of the wetland boundary as initial step in management of the wetland.
- Resources to be mobilized from the National Government, County Governments, WRA, Conservancies and other stakeholders on establishment of alternative watering points such as dams and water pans to relieve pressure from the wetland.
- Enhanced protection of the water catchment areas of the wetland including Rumuruti and Marmaret Forests.
- Carry out collaborative tree planting.

{The writer is NEMA's Corporate Communications Officer}



Kenya commits to address air pollution

By Samwel Irungu, Esther Wambua & Andrew Musau

CEC Environment in Nairobi County, Ms. Vesca Kagongo launching the procession to Railway Training Institute during the WED Celebrations in Nairobi [PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]

The celebrations were spearheaded by NEMA and Nairobi County government. The leaders called on the government to adopt policies that reduce the emission of harmful greenhouse gases into the environment such as vehicle inspections, stop coal projects as well as inspection of industries to ensure they comply with air quality regulations. Promotion of clean energy will also go a long way in addressing air pollution.

The celebrations were also held in all counties spearheaded by NEMA County offices.

The World Environment Day (WED) is the United Nations Day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect the environment. The day was first commemorated in 1974. As such, the day is involves among other activities raising awareness on emerging environmental issues from marine pollution, human overpopulation, global warming, sustainable consumption and wildlife crime.

This year, WED was celebrated on 5th June 2019 at Railways Training Institute in Nairobi County. The theme for this year's event was, "*Air Pollution, A Silent Killer*" and the domesticated slogan was "*Clean Air, Our Responsibility*" (*Hewa Safi, Jukumu Letu*).

The day involved rallying the governments, industries, communities and individuals worldwide to play their part towards improving the quality of air we breathe. Annually, seven million people are adversely affected annually due to air pollution both outdoor and ambient. Four million of this population is from developing countries and further, three million people suffer from diseases resulting from exposure to air pollution.

The public were also urged to stop using sources of fuel such as charcoal, stoves among other household activities that contribute to ambient air pollution. The public were also urged to adopt the use of electric cars as opposed to diesel or petrol cars that contributes to emission of harmful carbon products into the environment.



CEC Environment Nairobi County, Vesca Kagongo (C) and MCA South B, Waitihira Chege (L) at the NEMA Air Quality Mobile lab. They were received by a team from NEMA led by Dr. John Mumbo (R) [PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]



NEMA's Nairobi Director of Environment, Ms. Njoki Mukiri speaking during the World Environment Day celebrations at Railway Training Institute [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]



The launch of Nopia electric cars during the WED procession at Mombasa Road [PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]

Panel Discussion



NEMA's Dr. John Mumbo making his remarks during the World Environment Day Panel Discussion at Charter Hall, Nairobi [PHOTO: F. KATUA/NEMA]

NEMA held a panel discussion meeting on a joint ground with representatives from UN Habitat, the central Government, the County government of Nairobi, the World Wide Fund, and other stakeholders, including educational institutions, at Nairobi County's Charter Hall ahead of the World Environmental Day held on 4th June 2019. The discussion was themed; Air pollution: A silent killer.

Delegates from various government, and non-governmental groups were present at the forum and presented speeches and informed insights on the day's theme. Air pollution was notable as an apparent menace that our nation and the whole world is really struggling to get rid of.

Nairobi city was laid on the spot as one of the most affected areas by air pollution around the country. However, strategies are in place by plentiful interested parties to ensure the city and its environs are safe from the deadly hazards posed by the elements of air pollution.

NEMA's Dr. John Mumbo represented the Director General Prof Geoffrey Wahungu urged the public to support the Authority as it continues to implement the Air Quality Regulations 2014.

He noted that the Authority continues to implement various laws and regulations in its bid to deal with air pollution in the country.

The County Executive Committee Member for Environment in Nairobi County, Ms. Vesca Kagongo highlighted the activities the County is undertaking to address air pollution among them installing air quality monitoring systems within Nairobi.

Golf Tournament

NEMA sponsored a golf tournament at Kenya Railway Golf Club dubbed "NEMA Golf Day" on 7th June 2019. The tournament attracted tens of golfers who participated in the event.



NEMA Chairman, Mr. John Konchellah planting a tree at Railway Golf Club during the WED Golf Tournament. Looking on are golfers at the club [PHOTO: A. MUSAU/NEMA]

The Authority partnered with Isuzu East Africa who offered an Isuzu M-UX as the main prize for the 'Hole-in-One' winner. NEMA Chairman, Mr. John Konchellah participated in the tournament and rallied golfers and stakeholders in planting over 300 tree seedlings at the club. Mr. Konchellah urged the golfers to adopt a tree at the club and ensure that the planted trees grows. He also sensitized the golfers on the importance of addressing air pollution as individuals as well as in their places of work.



NEMA Chairman, Mr. John Konchellah speaking at Railway Golf Club during the WED Golf Tournament [PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]

"A cost effective way of handling urban air pollution is planting of trees which is a problem experienced by many cities. We can transform our environment by planting as many trees as possible as this also plays a great role in combating desertification," Mr. Konchellah stated.

[The writers are NEMA's Communications Officer & Interns respectively]

NEMA participates in Beyond Zero Marathon



Participants of the Beyond Zero Half Marathon with DG Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu (C), Deputy Director EEIPP, Mamo Boru (3rd L) at his office.

“Beyond Zero marathon proceeds is normally invested in interventions aimed at Advocating policy formulation to transform the lives of women and children.”

- The First Lady, Margaret Kenyatta

By Samuel Lengerpei

NEMA participated in the fourth edition of the Beyond Zero Half Marathon which was held on 10th March 2019 at Nyayo Stadium, Nairobi.

The campaign focused on UN Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 on reducing child mortality and improving maternal health in Kenya.

The Marathon had four races involved in it; The twenty one (21) Km , Ten (10) Km, Five (5) Km and Two (2) Km. The deputy president of Kenya, His Excellency Dr. William Samoei Ruto represented the presidency in 21 Km race while Her Excellency the First Lady of Kenya Margaret Kenyatta represented the presidency in 10 Km race.

The 2 Km race was for the expectant mothers who participated in a commendable number. A free antenatal test was offered to them after the race.

Persons living with disability also participated in all races in a high number. The top three who participated

in 21 Km were rewarded with Sh40, 000, 60, 000 and 100,000 for positions 3, 2, and 1 respectively.

The CS for sports Amina Mohamed and Health CS Sicily Kariuki, the former prime minister of Ethiopia Hailemariam Desalegn and former First Lady Roman Tesfaye, and other Excellences both from National and County Governments were also present.

The NEMA officials who represented the Authority participated in 10 Km race. They finished successfully coming out shining with the medals.

While thanking the participants for their commitment to the Beyond Zero initiative, the First Lady said proceeds from this year's marathon would be invested in interventions aimed at advocating policy formulation to transform the lives of women and children.

Dr. William Ruto commended the First Lady for her relentless efforts in ensuring access to quality health services for women and children, saying all Kenyans of goodwill should continue to support her noble efforts.

Mr. Desalegn praised the First Lady saying the entire region was inspired by her initiative that was worth emulating.

The president commended the First Lady for her efforts in helping mothers and children access quality healthcare services, saying the initiative had highly contributed to the decrease of maternal and child mortality rates. He added that this year the government will fully fund all national teams participating in international sports events.

[The writer is an intern at Communications Office]

Launch of RRI on Effluent Discharge License

By Samwel Irungu & Andrew Musau

The Environmental Management and Coordination (Water Quality) Regulations 2006 were gazetted in September 2006. The regulations cover a wide scope of sectors including: domestic water, industrial, agricultural, recreational, fisheries, wildlife and other prescribed water use under Section 71 of EMCA 1999 as well as penalties for non-compliance.

The increasing environmental degradation especially pollution to water bodies necessitated the need to formulate the regulations. NEMA launched the Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) on Effluent Discharge License (EDL) on 8th May 2019 at NEMA headquarters. The exercise will be implemented initially in two Counties in every region in the first six days. The exercise will then be cascaded into the rest of the Counties.



The launch of the RRI on EDL at NEMA HQ [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

The NEMA inspectors will be visit all facilities eligible for EDL licensing issuing them with improvement notices and directing them on how to apply for EDL licenses.

The board of management of NEMA has therefore planned for a rapid results initiate to catalyze compliance with our water quality regulations. The scope will be the entire country divided into zones as follows; coast, North and South Lake, Nairobi, North Eastern, Central region, North and South rift.

“According to an analysis done in 2016, a potential no 16, 211 facilities require EDL. Therefore, there is need to utilize available tools and structures which will enhance awareness



NEMA Board member, Augustinoh Neto speaking during the RRI on EDL launch at NEMA HQ [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

and enforcement leading to understanding of the applicability of the regulation by all stakeholders thus contributing to improved compliance,” NEMA Chairman John Konchellah stated during the launch.

The main goals of the inspections will be to increase the number of facilities in compliance to EDL, improve efficiency in licensing process and awareness creation on the need to comply with water quality regulations.

In line with how RRI are run, the following shall be the focal persons; Political Leader, Mr. John Konchellah; Sponsor: Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu and Strategic Leader, Hon. Agostinho

Neto. The chairman has also warned those flouting regulations that stern action will be taken against them. The Authority hopes that within the first 100 days, every eligible operator will have been brought into the regulatory regime.

{The writer is NEMA's Corporate Communications Officer and Intern}



L-R_ Deputy Director M &E, Ms. Betty Nzioka, Director Legal services, Irene Kamunge, Principal Corporate planning, Godfrey Mwangi and Chief Compliance Officer, Margaret Njuki during the launch of RRI on EDL at NEMA HQ [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]



NEMA Board Chairman, Mr. John Konchellah speaking during the RRI on EDL launch at NEMA HQ [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

Firms shut for discharging untreated effluent

By Samwel Irungu & Agnes Kamiri



NEMA inspectors led by Chairman, John Konchellah and DG Prof Geoffrey Wahungu at Giloil company [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

“Business should not be allowed to operate at the expense of the environment.” John Konchellah

NEMA has shut down 12 companies for directing their untreated industrial discharge into rivers and streams within Nairobi. 24 companies have also been given improvement orders to put their houses in order before their companies are shut.

Most of the companies have been shut for not having waste water pre-treatment systems in place hence discharging raw sewage into the sewer line or into the environment.

According to Water Quality Regulations 2006, companies discharging into the environment are supposed to apply for the annual Effluent Discharge Licenses (EDL) from NEMA after undertaking annual audit. Those discharging into the sewer line are supposed to apply for discharge permits from Nairobi Water and Sewerage Company if within the city or in the respective Counties.

On 15th May 2019, NEMA board of management led inspections within industrial area in Nairobi. During the inspection, Giloil was closed for lacking a proper pre-treatment system hence discharging untreated waste into the sewer line.

Speaking during the inspection, NEMA Board chairman, Mr. John Konchellah warned all companies discharging untreated effluent into the environment that they face closure if they don't comply. He also urged those who have been issued with improvement orders to adhere to the conditions of the orders to avert closure.

Mr. Konchellah noted that the ongoing inspections against illegal discharges do not aim to hurt businesses as the Authority understands the importance of a thriving business economy. However, he said, “Business should not be allowed to operate at the expense of the environment.” He urged business operators to comply with various environmental laws.

NEMA Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu urged the public to offer information to the Authority on companies

discharging harmful effluent into the environment.

Prof. Wahungu also attributed the cleanliness of the environment to acceptance of the plastic bags ban from 2017 as the Authority is now mainly dealing with organic waste as plastic paper waste has reduced significantly.

“Imagine if we were dealing with plastic and organic waste in clean-up of Nairobi River,” Prof Wahungu remarked during a meeting with Nairobi CEC Environment Vesca Kagongo at Korogochu.

Ms Kagongo praised the working relations between NEMA, Nairobi County and the entire Nairobi Regeneration Team in cleaning Nairobi County especially the concerted effort to see Nairobi River regain its lost glory.



NEMA Chairman, Mr. John Konchellah speaking during an inspection in Industrial Area. He is with Board, Barnabas Mitaru (L) and DG Prof Geoffrey Wahungu [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

Illegal Discharges

The Authority's main focus has been in the Nairobi's industrial areas where issues of illegal discharges had been a concern.

As a result, the Authority has conducted stringent inspections leading to the arrest of several officials from industries without pre-treatment systems or those discharging into the environment.



NEMA officers during an inspection in Industrial Area, Nairobi [PHOTO: A. MUSAU/NEMA]

The agency has also closed down several companies including Africa Apparel Limited, Mass Tannery, Far Horizon, Hides and Skins, Amin Tanners and Nairobi Tanners limited, East Africa Tannery, Habatullah Brothers among others.

NEMA also directed Nairobi Water and Sewerage Company to address illegal discharge of effluent of untreated waste water in Nairobi's industrial area within seven days.

The Authority has noted that most industries are connected to defective sewer lines compelling Nairobi to address the issue, failure to which they will face prosecution.

The Authority's ongoing efforts to end pollution by industries are geared towards enforcing a presidential directive to clean the country's rivers and other water bodies.

{The writers are NEMA's Corporate Communications Officers}

Pollution killing Lake KampNarok

By Hellen Mandela

Baringo County has been blessed with plenty of natural resources. Among them is Lake Kampnarok which is a gazetted natural reserves.

Encroachment into the gazetted L. Kampnarok has led to issues of human wildlife conflicts, displacement of animal corridors and breeding grounds among other issues. KWS noted that they have received several complaints from the public on encroachment of individuals into the lake area up to the water shore.

Cutting of trees in that area has also led to high levels of soil erosion and degradation and destruction of habitats for wild animals. Wildlife have huge dependency on this lake as it acts as a breeding site for some, corridor for elephants and watering ground during dry seasons.

KWS and the County government had put in efforts to move people away from the lake but this may cause some indifferences and cause other people to move back into the reserve. Politics also played a big role in deterring efforts to conserve the L. Kampnarok. Promises by politicians to gift people land around the area led to high expectations by the locals. This action raised tension around the area and mixed reactions as they say that one person cannot take all the land.

Another issue that has been coming up is the level of cultivation going on along Kerio River. Cultivation of tomatoes, Sukuma wiki and maize is evident as the people fence the area off using thorny shrubs. Level of erosion along the river banks is at a very high rate heading out towards this enclosed shambas. This poses a risk to the river due to loose soil that will increase siltation. Once someone carries out this activity and the neighbor sees the benefit more and more people will be attracted to that activity.

The Chief Officer Mining in Baringo County highlighted what was witnessed by all. There is land grabbing whose evidence is the fencing that has already started in the game reserve. There is also cultivation along River Kerio as witnessed by the shambas along the river. Soil erosion was also evident, destruction of trees. He suggested that among the measures to be taken should include patrols. A form of record also need to be created of people living around L. Kampnarok.

A national Park, absolutely no human activity is allowed to be conducted within. It is a no go area. Revenue collected from here all goes to the National Government. A national reserve such as Lake Kampnarok, little human activity is agreeable to support surrounding communities living in the area. The funds collected go to the County government. Results of allowing human activities if not well managed and controlled can be disastrous to the reserve. Activities such as farming along river bank as witnessed today may lead to pollution as the crops may be treated with herbicides and pesticides which are washed into the river when it rains and eventually flow into the lake causing eutrophication.

Actions is the best way to protect the environment. Article 42 of EMCA Cap 387 highlights the right to a clean and healthy environment for everybody and it is our duty to provide that to the community living around there and the country at large.

{The writer is NEMA's Environmental Officer Baringo}

NEMA develops South-South mentorship program

By Sarah Muthoni

NEMA as an accredited NIE of the Adaptation Fund wishes to extend its knowledge, experience by mentoring Malawi and Zimbabwe in their journey to achieve accreditation to enable to be eligible for the fund.

A workshop was held on 10th and 11th December at Burch Resort to formulate a plan on training and mentoring the two countries seeking accreditation. Various departments within NEMA developed modules and presented them.

The modules would act as guides of the expected structures to be laid by the Malawi Environment Trust Fund (MEET) in Malawi and Environmental Management Agency (EMA) in Zimbabwe.

To further development of the training programs and modules, a meeting was held on 18th January 2019 at the boardroom where various departments presented their developed modules.

NEMA is currently implementing Adaptation fund programs in 14 Counties in Kenya through its credited Executing Entities.

[The writer is NEMA's officer at NIE Section]

NEMA nabs plastic bags smugglers

By Samuel Lengerpei

The Director General lead a team of inspectors on enforcement of the plastic bag ban in Busia town. During the inspection a vehicle was intercepted along the Busia-Kisumu highway with assorted contraband goods.

A total of 22,000 pieces of flat flimsy bags and 100ml alcohol sachets stuffed in milk and egg boxes all valued at 2m Kenyan shillings were recovered. The vehicle involved in carrying the plastic bags was towed and impounded at the Busia Police Station with all the exhibit intact.

The DG had earlier on paid a courtesy call to Busia County Commissioner Mr. Jacob Narengo. Emphasis was placed on the need of cooperation in the implementation of the plastic ban and particularly on multi agency approach.

The DG underscored the need to do surveillance and declare the area plastic free market in the County as a way of dealing with re-emergency of plastics.

The DG noted that the porosity of the Kenya borders has resulted in the re-emergency of the banned plastic bags in the Country. He appreciated other lead agencies for their team work in the enforcement ban. He called on the members of public to volunteer information so as to assist NEMA in achieving its mandate of ensuring total compliance to the plastic ban.

The County Commissioner promised to assist in enforcement of the plastic paper bags on a daily basis. He further directed all the seven sub counties to take serious enforcement of the ban and other contraband goods.

[The writer is NEMA's Intern]

Managing waste in Embu County

By Elizabeth Ngotho



Waste, just like, poverty, is a vicious cycle in Embu County that has become a nuisance to the lives of urban and rural residents in Embu town. Waste management is a complex matter in most Counties. This is not exceptional in Embu County. Waste management has been undertaken by various agencies including the County government. However, poor coordination has resulted into increased environmental pollution resulting into loss of aesthetic value.

In Embu County, just like in other Counties the challenge of waste management is eminent. As a result, NEMA Embu County in conjunction with the National Environment Complaints Committee partnered to act on the worsening problem of waste management. The partnership also brought other institutions such as public health, County Government, Urban Planning among others. This has led to provision of financial, technical and infrastructural support to manage waste in the County. This has borne fruits since the partnership began in 2017.

The department of public health is mandated to inspect and regulate on matters of health including waste transportation from designated sites to central dumpsite which has been challenging. Mainly because the institutions do not have adequate resources and at times lack of commitment to ensure a clean and healthy environment.

To enhance compliance with waste management, there were plans to manage waste in 10 designated dumpsites with a theme: "Uzalendo ni jukumu." Embu County has 12 designated dumpsites; Miraa, Dallas, Embu Market, Majengo, Kangaru, Runyenjes, Kiritiri, Siakago, Manyata, Ishiara, Kianjokom and Liberty dumpsites.

Embu County and department of Environment and Natural Resources have shown compliance through licensing their waste trucks, applying EIA for decommissioning Gatondo and EIA for Meka dumpsite. However, there is more that need to be done on designated dumpsites. There is potential to eliminate the vicious cycle and improve other 11 designated dumpsites to get value from waste through a take back model and to create awareness through waste management campaign in schools.

With collaboration among various institutions, waste management has become easier. It has become possible to clean the environment leading to noticeable transformation in the County.

"Before the take back system, in 2017, the Liberty dumpsite had several incidents of littering, unmanned site hence a source of insecurity for residents and lack of aesthetic value further affecting nearby hotel businesses such as Minnin Inn"

{The writer is an Environment Officer, Embu County}

Zimbabwe Environment officials visits NEMA

By Linet Wawira

NEMA played host to dignitaries from the Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Hospitality in Zimbabwe on 25th January 2019.

The officials were on a benchmarking mission in Kenya to learn more about waste management in Kenya and in particular the ban on plastic bag in August 2017 and progress Kenya has made so far.

The officials also paid a courtesy call to the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Mr. Keriako Tobiko.

At NEMA, they were received by Deputy Director legal services, Ms. Linda Kosgei and Deputy Director Enforcement, Ms. Salome Machua among other officers. They were taken through a presentation on NEMA departments and Sections and on waste management. Thereafter, they were taken to Taka Taka Solutions Company, Waste Recycling Firm in Kiambu County.

{The writer is an intern at Communications Office}

NEMA apprehends fake field inspector

By Brian Ochieng

The ban on single-use plastic bags by NEMA has brought with it a plethora of reactions from the public.

Some received the ban positively by complying and adjusting to more acceptable carrier bags while others were quite resistant causing friction between them and the NEMA officials with some even being incarcerated and paying hefty fines.

On the other hand, some unscrupulous people have used the opportunity to make illegal gains by posing as NEMA officials and going around business centers getting money they termed as "fines" from business people who they found using the banned plastic bags.

Such was the case of one Samson Maina Mbugua who posed as a field inspector and an environmental activist from NEMA, Naivasha Sub-county, complete with fake staff identification cards as shown in the photos below. He was nabbed by NEMA environmental officers around Elburgon soliciting "fines" from dealers with plastic bags.

The swift action of the environmental officers saw to the arrest of the impersonator who is at the moment facing charges at Molo police station.

All NEMA official impersonators should therefore be warned, justice is the constant and perpetual will to allot to every man his due.

{The writer is NEMA's Environment Officer in Nakuru }

Core Services

- Registrations and Licensing of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Audit (EA) Experts
- Environmental Impact Assessment Licensing
- Environmental Auditing
- Environmental Incident Management
- Environmental Inspection
- Environmental Information, Education and Communication (IEC)
- Environmental Reporting
- Environmental Planning
- Development of Curriculum for Training of Environmental Impact Assessment/Audit experts

VISION

To coordinate, supervise and manage all matters relating to the environment in Kenya

MISSION

A clean, healthy and sustainable environment

MOTTO: Our Environment, Our Life, Our Responsibility
Mazingira Yetu, Uhai Wetu, Wajibu Wetu

Please Report Environmental Incidences to:

Lines: 0786 101 100 / 0741 101 100

Email: incidence@nema.go.ke

Contact us on:

National Environment Management Authority
Eland House, Popo Road, Off Mombasa Road, South C
P.O Box 67839-00200, Nairobi

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