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nema news

The National Environment Management Authority

July-September 2017



PLASTIC BAGS ILLEGALIZED IN KENYA

The use, manufacture and importation of plastic bags is banned



Ministry of Environment
and National Resources

EFFECTING THE GAZETTE NOTICE ON THE BAN ON PLASTIC BAGS



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National Environment
Management Authority

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Question 1: Which plastics have been banned?

Answer: The ban applies to all plastic carrier bags and flat bags used for commercial and household packaging.

Question 2: What is a plastic carrier bag?

Answer: This is any bag regardless of its thickness or colour, used at the supermarkets, retail stores, shopping malls and grocery stores as secondary packages.

Question 3: What is a flat bag?

Answer: A flat bag is a plastic bag constructed without handles and may have a gusset or not.

Question 4: What are the major concerns of plastics bags?

Answer: Plastic bags are usually manufactured for single use and generally tear or puncture after a first use. They are easily transported by the wind and are some of the most visible components of roadside and shoreline litter. Plastic bags are produced from oil and natural gas, and never fully biodegrade, remaining in the environment as small or even microscopic particles, essentially forever.

Question 5: Are plastics used for primary industrial packaging also banned by the Gazette Notice?

Answer: No, plastic bags used for industrial packaging are exempted so long as they are used for industrial primary packaging at the source of the product and are not available on sale at the counter or given freely outside the industrial setting. Furthermore, the bags must be labelled clearly by the industry manufacturing the product.

Question 6: When are manufacturers and importers required to stop providing plastic single-use carrier bags to customers?

Answer: By August 28th, 2017. Furthermore all manufacturers and importers shall declare all their remaining stocks by the due date to the National Environment Management Authority for necessary action.

Question 7: Will exporters of plastic single-use carrier bags continue to manufacture the bags?

Answer: NO. The manufacturing of all plastic carrier bags shall cease by 28th August 2017.

Question 8: Will there be a "grace period" for retailers to comply?

Answer: The Gazette Notice was published on 28th February, 2017, allowing six (6) months grace period for necessary adjustments and compliance.

Question 9: Are retailers allowed to use up existing stocks of plastic bags after August 28th 2017?

Answer: No, retailers are required to clear stocks within the grace period. Furthermore, all retailers shall declare all the remaining stocks by the due date to the National Environment Management Authority for necessary action.

Question 10: Can retailers provide paper bags as an alternative to plastic carrier bags?

Answer: Yes.

Question 11: What are the alternatives to plastic carrier bags?

Answer:

1. All bags made of non-plastic materials e.g. jute/sisal bags, cloth bags, papyrus bags, canvas bags and buyers/shoppers own shopping bags.
2. Woven Polypropylene plastic bags (gunny bags)
3. Non-woven polypropylene plastic bags (cloth like bags)
4. Laminated polypropylene bags
5. Polyolefin fibre bags

Question 12: Which retailers are affected?

Answer: All Retailers

Question 13: Are small retail businesses exempt?

Answer: No.

Question 14: Are bin liners exempted?

Answer: Yes. Bin liners have been exempted for the following categories of waste;

1. Biomedical waste,
2. Hazardous waste
3. Garbage

On condition that they are legibly and permanently labelled the name of the industry manufacturing the product and the end-user (here being NEMA licensed waste handler/Transporter).

Question 15: Is there an exemption for clothing stores?

Answer: No. Exemptions apply to only primary industrial packaging which is in accordance with approved standards as indicated in 5 and 14 above.

Question 16: Are duty free bags exempted?

Answer: Yes. Duty free bags are not affected by the ban though they use is restricted within the Duty free shop and they should not be available for sale or use within the Kenyan market. Furthermore any traveller coming into Kenya with duty free bags shall be required to dispose the same at the entry points or in the aircrafts prior to disembarking their flights.



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National Environment Management Authority - Kenya



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Report environmental incidences on: 0786 101 100, incidence@nema.go.ke



Our Environment, Our Life, Our Responsibility



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Editorial

Kenyans embrace plastic bags ban

The Cabinet Secretary for Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Prof. Judi Wakhungu, through Gazette Notice 2536 banned the use, manufacture and importation of plastic bags used for commercial and household packaging on 28th February 2017. The ban came to effect on 28th August 2017.

Kenya joins 15 other African countries that have either adopted or proposed such bans including Rwanda – the pioneer on the continent. As the ban continues to be effected, NEMA will focus on awareness and education to the public through various avenues so as to educate the public on the negative impacts of plastic carrier bags to the environment and human health.

NEMA will also seek to partner with counties in the implementation on the ban on Plastic bags. This issue gives a highlight on the Nema and Nandi County plastic mop out initiative. The county committed to ensure that the towns are maintained clean and people take responsibility over the waste they generate.

Necessity is the mother of invention. In this issue we feature Hilda Gaceri Bundi who caught the eyes of the nation with her innovation in light of the plastic bag ban. NEMA secured an accreditation with the Green climate Fund in March 2016. In this issue we focus on the recent visit by officials from GCF which was meant to strengthen relationship between the two institutions and also finalise the Nema's pipeline projects.

Find out why the Kachok dumpsite has become a stumbling block for investments in Kisumu County. The dumpsite has become an eyesore and a menace forcing the county to put plans of relocating the site.

Mathenge was introduced in the 80's to mitigate dust and pollution in Bura and Hola irrigation schemes. Read about how the weed has negatively impacted the communities posing a major socio-economic problems to them now and the future.

We celebrate Joseph Masinde for having been nominated as a member of the Informal Advisory committee (IAC) of ABS Clearing-House. Mr. Masinde who is a Desk Officer for Clearing- House Mechanism under Article 18 of Convention on Biological Diversity, will serve as a member for a period of two years.

Have a great read!

Evans Nyabuto,
Chief Corporate Communications Manager



We are committed to implement the ban

By Samwel Irungu

Eight in every ten Kenyans support the ban on plastic carrier bags, the Permanent Secretary State Department of Environment Charles Sunkuli stated during a press conference on 23rd August 2017 at ministry of environment and natural resources headquarters.

Mr. Sunkuli who was accompanied by the NEMA Director General Prof Geoffrey Wahungu exuded confidence that the plastic bags ban has received wide support. The PS stated that the ban will be successful as it seeks to cut the production of plastic bags ban at source which will reduce consumption of plastics drastically.

“There is no adequate statistics to confirm that jobs will be lost but by and large, we expect rise in cottage industries manufacturing alternatives” Mr. Sunkuli stated. He added that the ministry is willing to offer incentives to enhance production of such alternatives. The PS added that the Ministry and NEMA are working with the County governments to ensure that already in possession of plastic bags are collected and recycled.

The ban is in line with the East Africa Legislative Assembly legislations that demands member countries to enforce the use, manufacture and importation of plastic bags.

The Cabinet Secretary, Prof Judi Wakhungu, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources through a Gazette Notice No. 2536 banned the use, manufacture and importation of plastic bags used for commercial and household packaging on 28th February 2017.

The ban applies to; Carrier bags constructed with handles and with or without gussets and Flat bags constructed without handles and with or without gussets. This time, the ban is broader and explores all angles regarding the ban with various considerations being put in place such as exemption of primary packaging and papers used in handling of hazardous and biomedical waste and bin liners that must be labelled (printed) with the name of the manufacturer and end user. The ban takes effect on 28th August 2017.

[The writer is NEMA's Corporate Communications officer]



PS State department of Environment, Mr. Charles Sunkuli (R) and NEMA Director General Prof Geoffrey Wahungu during the press conference at the ministry of environment headquarters [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU]

NEMA, Nandi County join hands to get rid of plastic bags

By Vincent Mahiva & Michael Njiru



H.E Deputy Governor Dr. Yulita Cheruiyot flags off the event

The County Director Environment (NEMA) commended Nandi County residents for taking the ban positively. However, he warned of the stiff penalties related to offences for those using the banned plastic carrier bags and flat bags.

On a very colorful event, H.E. the Governor Arap Sang made big move that pulled the whole County Government of Nandi to a cleanup exercise at Kapsabet town. Represented by his deputy, H.E Dr. Yulita Cheruiyot who flagged off the event at Kapsabet High School on 14th September, teams of garbage collectors penetrated all streets of Kapsabet town pulling out any plastic carrier bag or flat bags.

The whole town business came to a standstill as Kapsabet Brass Band with all Kapsabet High school students led the cleanup convoy across the main street with banners carrying the message on plastic ban. H.E the Deputy Governor led a team that sensitized traders at Kapsabet

Bus Park and main market. She demonstrated the ban by emptying peas that were packed in flat bags at the market place. Together with her were the County Commissioner representatives, speaker of the Nandi County assembly, CEC Lands, Environment and Natural Resources, MCAs among other dignitaries.

The Deputy Governor emphasized that all towns shall be maintained clean and all people must take responsibility over the waste they generate. She added that no more use of the banned plastic carrier bags and flat bags in Nandi County.

The speaker of the Nandi County assembly promised to have strong land and environment committee and pass laws that protect the environment as prompted by the executive.

The County Director Environment (NEMA) commended Nandi County residents for taking the ban positively. However, he warned of the stiff penalties related to offences for those using the banned plastic carrier bags and flat bags.

Other institutions that supported the day's event were the National Youth Service, Kenya Red cross society, and the National Chambers of Commerce and Industry Kapsabet branch.

On another clean up event on 20th September, H.E the Governor Commissioned a cleanup for Kokwet community in Chesumei Sub County. The Governor was represented by the Chief Officer Lands, Environment and Natural Resources Mr. David Kosgey. The event that covered a radius of 1.5 KM from Kokwet trading centre, was meant to sensitize the community on the ban of plastic carrier bag and flat bags, following the Gazette notice No. 2536 by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources.

The exercise involved St. Jude secondary, Kokwet Primary, Holy Rosary primary schools and the community members. The exercise involved collection of plastic carrier bags and awareness creation why plastics have been banned.

Speaker after speaker commended the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources and gave good will for the implementation.

After the cleanup all the waste collected was transported to a polythene bags transfer station at Kapsabet town.

[The writer are NEMA's Nandi County CDE and EO respectively]



Kapsabet High School marching along a street at Kapsabet town

Rehabilitation of Chemalal Dam and Mareba Wetland begins

By Catherine Adwong'a

In Kenya wetlands occupy 3% - 4% of the land surface, it is estimated that they constitute 6% of land in Uasin Gishu County. These include Marura Swamp, Kesses Dam, Two-River Dam and Sosiani River are among others.

An assessment and consultative forum headed by the Permanent Secretary Environment and Natural Resources Mr. Charles Sunkuli was undertaken from 25th August to 1st September 2017 targeting the rehabilitation and conservation of Chemalal Dam (Baharini) and

Mareba wetland. Chemalal dam was constructed by colonialists as a surface water pan in early 1901 to meet their domestic, livestock needs as well as recreational fishing.

The land was later purchased by a group of farmers in 1982 and has since been registered as freehold although survey is on-going. The dam currently measures approximately 41.6 hectares, with an estimated 12.2 hectares of the riparian embankment. It has no known inlet but has a sustained outflow that stretches approximately



PS Mr. Charles Sunkuli addressing members of the public at the Chemalal Dam



PS Charles Sunkuli undertaking an inspection of the car washing activities at Chemalal Dam

The catchment consists of a rocky outcrop and is attractive to quarrying investments. The area has in the recent past attracted commercial settlement and oil sector retail outlets.

two and a half kilometres to Sosiani River across the main Kenya-Uganda highway and railway.

The catchment consists of a rocky outcrop and is attractive to quarrying investments. The area has in the recent past attracted commercial settlement and oil sector retail outlets. These developments have resulted to pollution and siltation loading in the water body from known point sources of carwash, open livestock watering points, sanitary utilities and erosion in the neighbourhood of the Dam. The community through Chemalal land buying company has set aside the dam as a public utility area but without proper demarcation making free access to the dam to car washing speculators.

In the neighbourhood of Chemalal Dam lies the Mareba wetland wholly located on Kenya Defence forces land but encroached by squatters constituting approximately 400 households with agricultural pursuits of their livelihood investments. Mareba wetland is heavily degraded but with no permanent structures or formalized demarcation. It is estimated to cover around 132 hectares and stretches about 26kms from the catchment to Sosiani River.

During the exercise the PS gave a directive to have the car washers identify an alternative site for development of a ramp, he recognised that indeed it was a livelihood activity but could not be undertaken at the expense of



Briefing session at the site

...the PS directed that NEMA spearheads rehabilitation and restoration with appropriate indigenous seedlings and construction of a site surveillance office.

the environment. The chiefs were to assist identify farmers who cultivate in the areas designated as wetlands for purposes of being issued with conservation orders to stop cultivation upon harvesting of the current crop.

Further the PS directed that NEMA spearheads rehabilitation and restoration with appropriate indigenous seedlings and construction of a site surveillance office. To these end, NEMA is working on budgetary modalities

for the ministries approval and funding.

The PS was accompanied by the Secretary of Administration Mr. William Kiprono, the Director of Administration Ms. Charity Chepkonga and NEMA's Regional Coordinator Mr. Baraza Wangwe.

{The writer is NEMA's Environment Officer in Uasin Gishu County}



The Consultative Forum On going
[PHOTO: COURTESY]

KPA removes asbestos roofing at Kilindini

By Mburu Moses



Asbestos disposal site at Mazeras

In April this year, Kenya Ports Authority commenced a major project on removal of asbestos roofing at the Kilindini Port. Most of the structures within the Kilindini Port were constructed with asbestos roofing. NEMA has been in the fore front in creating awareness on the health effects. KPA prepared and submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment report to NEMA which was issued with an EIA license in March 2017. KPA has contracted Saimbot Ship Contractors for the removal and disposal of the Asbestos containing material (ACM).

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral, made up of long thin fibres and was commonly used in roofing and construction for fire proofing, thermal insulation and as an acoustic insulator. However it was discovered that these fibres when inhaled as dust contributed to increased risk of lung cancer, asbestosis and mesothelioma.

Saimbot Ship Contractors is a NEMA licensed company for the disposal of asbestos. The disposal site is at Mazeras within Kilifi County. The Kenya Ports Authority undertook an Environmental Impact Assessment study for the removal of asbestos roofing at their facilities within Kilindini Port. The project was licensed by NEMA in March 2017.

Action taken

1. Copies of NEMA licenses (EIA, disposal & transport licences) and any other permits of works shall be kept at the site.
2. Adequate safety signage shall be put in place to inform members of public on the nature of the works in progress e.g “DANGER – ASBESTOS REMOVAL IN PROGRESS”

Further

1. Environmental Inspectors from Kilifi and Mombasa Counties will conduct impromptu site inspections to monitor compliance with EIA license conditions.
2. KPA shall ensure that the asbestos material are well covered before release of transport vehicles from the Port.

Inspection on plastic bags begins

By Samwel Irungu



NEMA Director General Prof Geoffrey Wahungu addressing plastic bags manufacturers and workers during the inspection [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

The Authority has a well-laid strategy on initiative the implementation of the ban where the NEMA Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu flagged off a team of inspectors to all the sub counties of Nairobi. The same exercises were carried out in all counties led by the NEMA County Directors of Environment.

With the lapse of the 6th month's grace period of the Gazette notice banning the use, manufacture and importation of plastic carrier bags by the Cabinet Secretary ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Prof Judi Wakhungu, NEMA as the implementing Authority swung into action.

The Authority has a well-laid strategy on initiative the implementation of the ban where the NEMA Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu flagged off a team of inspectors to all the sub counties of Nairobi. The same exercises were carried out in all counties led by the NEMA County Directors of Environment.

The Director General himself led a team of inspectors in various places targeting supermarkets and manufacturers of plastic bags in Industrial area. The inspections began at Uchumi supermarkets located at Capital Centre along Mombasa Road where cooperation to the ban had been observed. The supermarket had adopted the environment friendly and re-usable alternatives that were used to serve their customers. This was the same in most of supermarkets that the Authority visited.

While addressing a section of the media, the Director General did not mince his words as he confirmed the Authority's commitment to get rid of plastic carrier

bags from the environment. Prof Wahungu also affirmed that the Authority had not sanctioned arrests of civilians or inspection of private or public vehicles. He stated that the Authority is committed on urging Kenyans to change behaviors change through awareness to foster compliance with the ban without unnecessarily subjecting them to the penalties prescribed for the environmental crimes which are of not less than two million Kenya Shillings, and not more than four million Kenya shillings, or imprisonment of a term of not less than one year but not more than four years or to both such fine and imprisonment.

He added that the Director General and Inspector General of Police are in constant communication and coordinating what the Authority is doing. The police is aiding the NEMA officials to access business premises for inspections.



NEMA Environmental inspectors being addressed by the Director General [PHOTO: KELVIN: NEMA]

Apparently, the Authority appreciated the Kenyans support in behavior change and stop using plastic carrier bags. Individuals especially in supermarkets who still had stock of plastic carrier bags were required to declare their stock that such plastic bags will not be in use as they will be handed over to the recyclers. The Director General stated that the Authority is

working with relevant Authorities to establish drop-off points where the public can dispose off the plastic bags in their possession for recycling.

The inspections on plastic carrier bags continues all over the country.

[The writer is NEMA's Corporate Communication Officer]



NEMA officers Salome Machua-DDE, Wanjiru Kibunga, EO and Njoki Mukiri-CDE Nairobi County during the inspection in major supermarkets in Nairobi [PHOTO: KEVIN/NEMA]

Exhibition on Alternatives to plastics bags

By Samwel Irungu



Environment and Natural Resources CS, Prof Judi Wakhungu holding some of the alternative bags to plastic packaging

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in conjunction with National Environment Management Authority among other stakeholders organized an Alternative Eco-Friendly Exhibition at the KICC on the 24th and 25th August 2017 for the manufacturers, retailers, distributors and the general public.

The forum was opened by the Cabinet Secretary ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Prof Judi Wakhungu who stated that the Government was committed towards a clean and healthy environment for all.

During the exhibition that was attended by hundreds, there was a public forum on the plastic bags ban. The forum composed of the Permanent Secretary State Department of Environment, Mr. Charles Sunkuli, NEMA Director General Prof Geoffrey Wahungu, Kenya Association Manufacturers (KAM) Sector manager,

Samuel Matonda and Retail Trade Association of Kenya (Retrak) Chief Executive officer, Wambui Mbarire. The talk was moderated by the NTV's Smriti Vidyarthi.

During the forum, NEMA Director General informed the public of various salient issues surrounding the ban. On the question of fines, the Director General stated that, "The fines are based on the revised EMCA 2015 that was reviewed through public participation in order to make environmental crimes punishable enough." Prof Wahungu added that the county governments have a role in the implementation of the ban. "You heard about Kidero grass? How did they make into law that it is wrong to step on grass?", Prof Wahungu asked an enthusiastic listeners.

The success of the strategy in implementation of the plastic bags ban will be possible just like the way the littering regulations were enforced. The Director General expressed optimism that the ban will be successful as the Authority had laid down a clear strategy in implementation of the ban starting 28th August 2017. Prof Wahungu reiterated that the Gazette notice on the ban on plastic bags was done on February 28th 2017 giving the users, manufacturers and importers a six months grace period to comply with the notice.



NEMA's Anthony Mwangi and Anne Theuri showing some of the alternative bags at NEMA NEMA [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]



Some of the alternative bags



Environment and Natural CS Prof Judi Wakhungu making her remarks during the exhibition [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

Therefore, no one should say that the ban is being implemented hastily, Prof Wahungu stated. Moreover, the plastic bags ban debate has been ongoing since 2007 with two failed attempts in the past that sought to ban the plastic based on the composition of the microns.

The Director General informed the public that the Authority is setting up a take-back scheme and supermarkets have been requested to be in charge of the take-back from where licensed recyclers involved in the cleanup of plastics can pick up the bags. The DG however informed the public that the Authority is not interested in arresting the public rather the focus is on behavior change and get rid of plastics menace from the environment.

During the talk on plastic bags, the PS, State Department of Environment stated, "This is not a blanket ban as there are exemptions based on the assessment by NEMA and the ministry. "This is not a blanket ban as we have exempted primary packaging, hazardous, biomedical and garbage liners plastic bags" the PS said. The PS remarked that, "If you have any plastic bags in your house, please declare it to the County Governments."

Prof Wahungu asked the public to adhere with the notice since from Monday 28th August, no one will be allowed to use, manufacture or import plastic carrier bags.



NEMA Director General, Prof Geoffrey Wahungu live on NTV during the talk at KICC [PHOTO: COURTESY]



PS state department of Environment Charles Sunkuli during the exhibition at KICC [PHOTO: COURTESY]

Director General Prof Geoffrey Wahungu launching new vehicles to Counties



NEMA Chairman, Mr. John Konchellah meets members of CocaCola to discuss on plastic bottles



Conducting inspections at one of supermarkets in Nairobi County



Kadogo economy exhibition at Ngong town

CS Prof. Judi Wakhungu with NEMA staff during Ndakaini Half Marathon

NEMA officer nominated to Informal Advisory Committee of ABS Clearing-House

By Joseph Masinde

Mr. Joseph Masinde, Senior Environment Education and Information officer from NEMA headquarters has been nominated as a member of the Informal Advisory Committee (IAC) of ABS Clearing-House to assist the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with the implementation of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House (ABSCH) and to provide technical guidance with respect to the resolution of technical and practical issues arising from the ongoing development of the ABS Clearing-House.

Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House is established under article 14 of the Nagoya protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing. It is a platform for exchanging information on access and benefit-sharing. In particular, it provides access to information made

available by each Party relevant to the implementation of this Protocol.

The ABSCH is a key tool for facilitating the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol by enhancing legal certainty, clarity, and transparency on procedures for access and for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources along the value chain, including through the internationally recognized certificate of compliance (IRCC). By making relevant information regarding ABS available, the ABSCH offers opportunities for connecting providers and users of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

IAC is composed of 15 experts, primarily from Parties, selected on the basis of nominations provided by Parties. Mr. Joseph Masinde, who is also the desk officer for Clearing-House Mechanism under Article

18 of Convention on Biological Diversity, will serve as a member for a period of two years.

Experts were selected, taking into account regional balance, relevant experience and engagement in the ABS Clearing-House. Other members from Africa include: Mr. Fikremariam Ghion Melaku from Ethiopia and Mr. Abnilde de Ceita Lima from Sao Tomé y Príncipe.

Recently Kenya was formally recognized for her significant progress made in the establishment and further development of the national clearing-house mechanisms. The award was granted through a certificate signed by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

{The writer is NEMA's EEO}

Recently Kenya was formally recognized for her significant progress made in the establishment and further development of the national clearing-house mechanisms.



NEMA booth during the Mombasa ASK show [PHOTO-A. MWANGI-NEMA]

NEMA shines at Mombasa ASK show

By Anthony Waswa

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF KENYA SHOWS ARE FORUMS THAT ATTRACT THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO ACCESS INFORMATION FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, PRIVATE SECTOR AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS ABOUT THE SERVICES THEY OFFER TO PROPEL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THIS COUNTRY.

Agricultural Society of Kenya shows are forums that attract the general public to access information from Government Agencies, Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations about the services they offer to propel economic development of this country. In this year, Mombasa International Show was scheduled for 30th August to 3rd September 2017.

The Mombasa International Show (MIS) was established in 1903 and is situated on the North Coast of the Coastal Resort City of Mombasa. It was elevated in 2002 to an International status to attract investors and players in the agriculture, trade and tourism sectors. Agricultural sector in Kenya is diverse and complex

The shows provides the best forums for promotion of agricultural innovations and technologies that offer

suitable alternatives in their farming pursuit. This is aimed at ultimately improving the livelihood of the people. This was anchored in the Mombasa Vision 2035 that recognizes Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries as a key pillar in economic advancement.

This International show set the highest possible standards in terms of quality of exhibitions and service provision to all stakeholders. More than 150 local exhibitors participated in the exhibition besides other international exhibitors from different sectors who also showcased their products. This increased interaction and good networking opportunities among stakeholders.

National Environment Management Authority undertakes among other functions, creating awareness to the public on sustainable management of the



NEMA officers conducting impromptu inspections on plastic bags during the show [PHOTO-A. MWANGI-NEMA]

environment. One of the channels the Authority uses to deliver this function is through mounting exhibitions to showcase existing practical initiatives in the sustainable management of the environment. therefore, the Authority uses the annual Agricultural Society of Kenya shows to educate public on various environmental matters. The theme for this year's show was **"Promoting Innovations and Technology in Agriculture and Trade."**

As usual, the Authority, through the department of Environmental Education, Information and Public Participation prepared and participated in Mombasa International Trade Fair to enhance awareness for the Authority especially on the ban of plastics bags. The NEMA stand attracted diverse audience who sought clarification on the ban of plastic carrier bags, which took effect on 28th August 2017. NEMA staff also took the initiative to undertake impromptu inspection to ascertain the level of compliance to the ban of plastic carrier bags among the exhibitors and the general public. The team used this opportunity to create awareness on the impacts of plastics to the environment.

NEMA staff also took the initiative to undertake impromptu inspection to ascertain the level of compliance to the ban of plastic carrier bags among the exhibitors and the general public. The team used this opportunity to create awareness on the impacts of plastics to the environment.



NEMA's Anne Owino speaks to a visitor when he visited the booth during the Mombasa ASK show



NEMA's Anthony Waswa and Felix Mugambi hosts guests at the NEMA booth during the Mombasa ASK show
[PHOTO-A. MWANGI-NEMA]



Visitors at the NEMA booth during the ASK show

Scope of the Exhibition

The Authority prepared and mounted exhibition mainly focusing on the negative impacts of plastic carrier bags to the environment and human health. This was a deliberate effort to enhance support for the national ban of use, manufacture and importation of plastics for commercial and household packaging.

Inspection during the Show

The Environmental Inspectors of the Authority at headquarters and the county undertook joint inspection

for the stands that were exhibiting and selling merchandise to establish their compliance to Waste Management Regulations and in particular, compliance to the plastic bags ban.

The Mombasa International Show provided a good and timely platform for the Authority to create awareness on diverse environmental issues affecting the people of the coast region. The show also provided the Authority an opportunity to enhance its visibility and image.

[The writer is NEMA's Graphics design officer]



Participants visiting the NEMA booth during the Mombasa ASK show [PHOTO-A. MWANGI-NEMA]

Appreciating WED 2017

By Samwel Irungu



NEMA Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu speaking during the event at NEMA headquarters
(PHOTO: T. KOECH)

The National Environment Management Authority organized a meeting to appreciate stakeholders who were involved in the World Environment Day 2017 (WED) held at Egerton University on 5th June preparations. The meeting was held at NEMA Headquarters on 18th July 2017.

Speaking during the appreciation meeting, NEMA Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu stated that WED was the best national celebration ever in his time at NEMA. He thanked stakeholders for working with NEMA in terms of financial support, exhibitions as well as attending the event. He asked the stakeholders to continue working with NEMA on various fronts in

the management of environment as well as urging other stakeholders to join the wagon on environmental activities

On plastic carrier bags ban, the DG said, “the ministry and NEMA is willing to take to KAM who are opposed to the ban on plastics. The Authority is not interested in shutting down the businesses of individuals dealing with plastics” Prof. Wahungu added that manufacturers should declare their stock on and be open in addressing the issues around the ban on plastic carrier bags. “We are willing to negotiate with manufacturers as there is a place for everyone in the compliance arena”, Prof. Wahungu added.



NEMA's Deputy Director Mamo Boru receiving a certificate from DG Prof Geoffrey Wahungu

The DG thanked stakeholders who have embraced green initiatives in their activities such as green procurement that is being done by some institutions.

During the meeting, institution, members of the WED 2017 National Steering Committees and NEMA staff

involved in the planning were awarded certificates. The speakers during the meeting expressed their interest for increased collaboration in various environmental activities.

{The writer is NEMA's Corporate Communications officer}

During the meeting, institution, members of the WED 2017 National Steering Committees and NEMA staff involved in the planning were awarded certificates. The speakers during the meeting expressed their interest for increased collaboration in various environmental activities.



NEMA staff and stakeholders during the awarding ceremony

Green Climate Fund Secretariat Visits NEMA

By Sarah Muthoni & Nancy Chacha

A visit that began on 5th Sept 2017 saw NEMA receive three visitors from the Green Climate Fund(GCF). Mr. Patrick van Laake (Senior Ecosystems Management Specialist), Mr. Brett Barstow(Associate Professional with GCF) and Ms. Dima S. Reda(consultant with GCF).

NEMA secured its accreditation with the Green Climate Fund in March 2016. As an accredited entity it is supposed to overlook projects that enhance mitigation and adaptation. Since March 2016, when NEMA became an accredited entity with GCF, we have been actively engaged in programme design processes. It has been done under close guidance from National Designated Authority (NDA, the programmes submitted so far cover the thematic areas, **Devolved Governance, Climate Smart Agriculture, Water, Environment and a livelihood based programme in Laikipia County.**

The main objective of the visit being to strengthen the relationship between the GCF, NEMA and the NDA also to finalize the NEMA's pipeline projects. Having accumulated the big pipeline projects, and made a call for proposal, we hope that once the submitted programmes are approved, then we can submit more from the best bidders from the call for proposal.

On the same day, the National Implementary Entity(NIE) team had a meeting with one of the GCF guests – DIMA- where she took us through the application of Project Preparation Facility (PPF) this is because the GCF has given NEMA a window of opportunity to apply for PPF to re-design the projects.

Some of the steps of the PPF that were highlighted included;

- Changing the name of the project
- The project preparation activities. The project activities were broken down into activities and sub-activities. This is to help GCF understand what NEMA will do in the re-designing phase. The activities were categorized into; pre-feasibility and feasibility studies, environment social and gender studies, risk assessments and identification of programme and project level indicators.
- Coming up with the budget for each activity and sub-activity.
- Justification of the project preparation request.

The second day, 6th Sept, a meeting was held at the NEMA boardroom that involved the NIE Secretariat and members of the NIE committee. Ms. Wangare (Coordinator of the NIE) began the meeting by giving out the agenda of the day which was to go through the Project Preparation Funding Application (PPFA) and Mr. Brett to take us through the technical application of the proposal.

Ms. Wangare went ahead and highlighted the four thematic areas where the projects came from in the ASALS. This were

- Devolution
- Forestry



The GCF Secretariat visitors and the NIE Committee representatives at NEMA Headquarters Boardroom.

- Smart agriculture
- Water.

Thereafter she left the floor to the GCF secretariat team to take us through the agenda of the day.



Dima's session on the development of PPF

Project Preparatory Facility

Ms. Dima, walked the panel through all the required submissions on the PPF and an explanation on the issues that were missing from the proposals that NEMA had submitted.

Technical Application Procedure of the Proposal

Mr. Brett, explained all the sections of a Funding proposal that required a lot of thought and some sections that required clarifications. A Q&A session was availed to everyone which was a major success to everyone in attendance.

7th September 2017, the GCF secretariat met the Project Design Team (PDTs) at Panari hotel in Nairobi. The present teams that represented Water, Climate smart agriculture and Devolution sectors included KEFRI, MPINDO, Transparency International, National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) and University of Nairobi. GCF team walked them through the changes they have to make in their proposals over a round table discussion. Mr. Brett explained to the representatives all



Groups in session

the necessary attachments for the proposal.

The teams also got a privilege to work directly with the GCF secretariat. Three groups were formed and a one on one discussion was created, they were able to help the various teams with their proposals and clarify issues regarding specific projects that missed a few documents.

In the afternoon and evening session, the GCF delegation were treated to a taste of the Kenyan culture by NEMA. Ms Wangare and some members of the NIE Committee accompanied them to Nairobi National Park for a game drive at the only park within a city in the world, and later on a sumptuous dinner at Carnivore restaurant to sample some of the country's game meat.

The visit has been a success and a pleasure to be part hosts of the GCF secretariat. Through the week, it's been a learning process to everyone who attended and we believe we have built a good relationship with the Green Climate Fund, our concerns were heard and the main objective of the trip was met. We look forward to pushing our objectives even further and deploying resources, towards building readiness, by enhancing GCF related capacities here at NEMA.

As NIE Secretariat we would like to thank everyone at NEMA who found time to participate in this process and contributed to its success.

[The writers are NEMA's Environmental officer and an intern at NIE Section]



Dinner at the Carnivore



A game drive at the Nairobi National Park

Kachok dumpsite, an environmental eyesore

By Cindy Shigoli

Kisumu County holds the largest percentage of one of Africa's largest fresh water lakes, Lake Victoria, source of R. Nile. The lake is a thriving ecosystem, housing different fish and reptilian species. The most common fish species in L. Victoria is the tilapia, a delicacy in Western Kenya, which has quickly warmed its way into most Kenyan households.

With devolution, Kisumu County has opened up its doors to both local and international tourism. A tourist planning an excursion of the County can only imagine the aesthetics of the region based on the reputation that precedes it. True to the fact, as tourists approach the county along the Nairobi-Kisumu Highway, they are taken in by the extensive scenic view of the city.

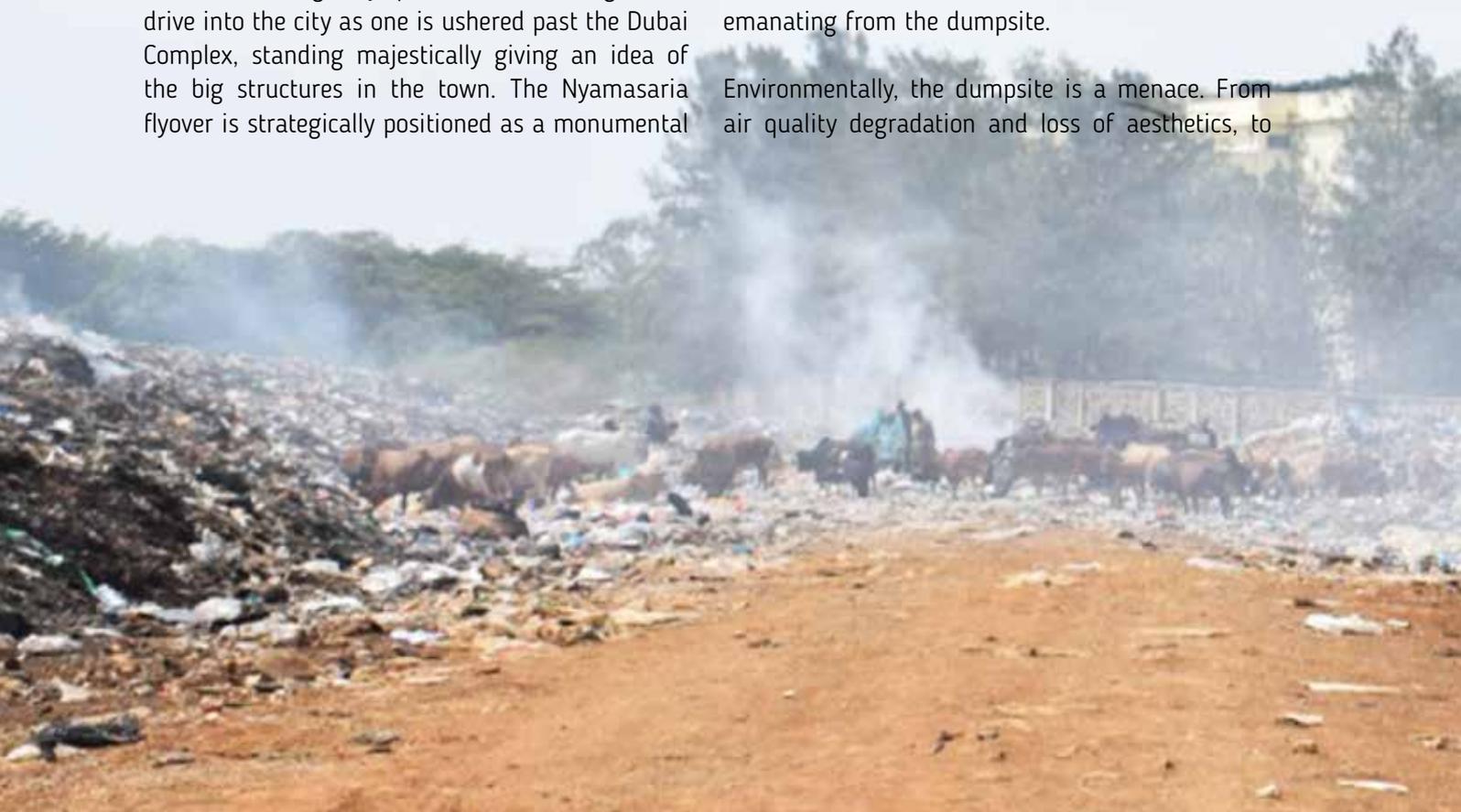
The well-lit Highway provides an unforgettable drive into the city as one is ushered past the Dubai Complex, standing majestically giving an idea of the big structures in the town. The Nyamasaria flyover is strategically positioned as a monumental

guide, and welcomes one to Kisumu town. Kachok junction fronts Nakumatt Mega plaza, one of the biggest malls in Kisumu, and behind it, the infamous Kisumu dumpsite, Kachok.

Kachok dumpsite is an eyesore to the people of Kisumu and a stumbling block for investments in the county. Bordering the dumpsite is the Moi stadium, which was to be upgraded to international standards, but because of Kisumu County Government's failure in relocating Kachok dumpsite, plans for upgrading the stadium have been paralyzed.

Economically, the dumpsite has led to loss of revenue to the County as the wall high heap of waste allows fans to jump over the wall into the stadium. Football associations and clubs prefer to hold their matches in other counties as opposed to Moi stadium because of the unmistakable stench emanating from the dumpsite.

Environmentally, the dumpsite is a menace. From air quality degradation and loss of aesthetics, to



Kachok dumpsite alongside Moi Stadium

chocking of animals by plastic bags while feeding, among others. The air quality around the area continues to be degraded on a daily basis due to illegal burning of waste at the dumpsite. In the afternoons, a thick hazy smoke can be spotted blanketing the region around the dumpsite.

Being an open dumpsite, Kachok has led to spilling of waste onto the streets along it, subsequently diminishing the aesthetics of the area. The Marabou stork, a bird species commonly found near dumpsites is precarious to aircrafts, as more often than not, some fly onto aircrafts ' windscreen and could be sucked into the engines of planes which could possibly cause fatal accidents. Kenya Airports Authority has lobbied for the dumpsite to be relocated due to an increase in bird species in the area so as to reduce chances of collision by birds.

As Kisumu county government plans on relocating the waste disposal site, it should emulate foreign cities such as Dublin in Ireland whose solid waste management strategy is a model system. In Ireland's waste management hierarchy, the most preferred mode of waste management is reduction at the source and the least preferred mode of waste management is the use of sanitary landfills. This should be espoused in Kisumu County Government's plans of relocating the Kachok dumpsite and Kenya's solid waste management at large.

[The writer is NEMA's Environmental Officer in Kisumu County]

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Mathenge (*Prosopis Juliflora*) disaster in Tana Basin

By Aden Bille



Invasion of Mathenge on farmland



Settlement camp for people displaced by Mathenge



Mathenge encroaching on the road



Settlement camp

First introduced in Hola and Bura irrigation schemes in early 80's to mitigate dust pollution in the mega schemes, Mathenge (*Prosopis Juliflora*) an unknown colonizing weed spread severely in the Tana Basin where the water table was high causing human and livelihood displacement and food insecurity.

What used to be biodiversity rich Tana riparian reserve and home to flourishing seasonal farms where food crops and fruits were abundant now is occupied by impeccable dense Mathenge forests.

The locals of Tana basin especially the Munyo's (Yaya's, Malakote and Pokomo's) who are the riverine communities of upper Tana basin have seriously been impacted negatively by these Mathenge weed posing a major socio-economic problems to them now an in future. After many years of trying to maintain their livelihood zones from the Mathenge spread menace, they got tired and gave up to these fast spreading prolific weed. In addition, many of them were maimed by the poisonous thorns of the Mathenge and a high number having un-healing wounds. It has also colonized the whole environment in the Tana basin denying them availability of many wild flora fruits and fauna meat from the Tana Basin.

Finally, social disruption, constant food shortages, and diseases associated with Mathenge menace have displaced them from their original homes of the Tana basin to upper grounds nicknamed Mathenge destitute camps. These communities are now in the above designated camps of Garissa and Tana River counties and depend on food handouts from individuals and non-governmental organizations.

NEMA in 2005 declared Mathenge as a national disaster and advocated for its eradication. However, the lead agency in forestry (Forest department) came out strongly to talk good of Mathenge and its social-economic benefits of being a source of wealth and good ground cover. They have not been able to translate their actions to benefit these Mathenge victims of Tana basin a far cry from their show talk.

The NEMA declaration of Mathenge eradication should be implemented fully now to save our natural environment, livestock and communities from displacement, poverty and food insecurity,

[The writer is NEMA's CDE, Garissa County]

Anti-plastic bags champion recognized

By Agnes Kamiri

Materi Girls harbors brilliant innovative minds but one in particular, attracted the attention of the Environment and Resources Cabinet Secretary Judi Wakhungu and NEMA Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu. Hilda Gaceri Bundi came up with an innovation that caught the eyes of many. This sparked an online conversation around plastic bags alternatives.

As her peers across the country trooped to shops to buy alternative carrier bags, the Form Three student of Materi Girls decided to use dry banana stalk bark to make her own considering her humble background, where her mother works as her social volunteer at their local church helping people with disabilities and her father a driver.

Hilda Gaceri became the center of attention as well as ridicule when she carried her banana bag to the supermarket in Nkubu, ready to do her shopping. "I spent 30 minutes working on the bag. I went with it to Nkubu Supermarket to do my shopping and headed back to school," she said clearly proud of her idea to not only save money but also make the best use of the environment.

Some of NEMA staff were sent on a fact finding mission to Gaceri's school to find out about her and have her interviewed about her invention. She explained how she learnt the skill from her late grandfather who taught her how to make them for use at home and so she thought she could use locally made materials at a free cost. Miss Bundi was awarded by the NEMA team with a NEMA bag and two NEMA key holders.

NEMA officials led by Salome Machua sensitized the girls during an assembly meeting in the school about the plastic bags ban; those subjected to the ban and encouraged them to come up with innovations just like miss Bundi which are eco-friendly. Ruth Mbaisi an enforcement officer at NEMA emphasized on the issue of reducing re-using and recycling as a way of conserving a healthy environment. Several media houses were on the ground to cover the whole event as it occurred and also interviewed Miss Bundi.



Hilda Gaceri holding a banana stalk bag during during the visit
(Photo J. Murikira)

As her peers across the country trooped to shops to buy alternative carrier bags, the Form Three student of Materi Girls decided to use dry banana stalk bark to make her own considering her humble background, where her mother works as her social volunteer at their local church helping people with disabilities and her father a driver.



NEMA's Chief EEI & PP, Dr. Catherine Mbaisi giving a bag and a key ring to Hilda Gaceri during the visit to Materi Girls
 (Photo J. Murikira)

The Materi Girls Principal Mr. Mbae highly commended Miss Bundi's innovation terming her as a courageous young lady with a lot of potential as a young innovative girl. despite of Gaceri being innovative she also proved to be an environmentalist and a conservationist as she is a disciplinarian in the school's Wildlife and Environment Club and she is a believer that we can

do without plastics. She has also spear headed a tree and flower planting campaign were she and other Wildlife and Environment Club members have grown diverse and indigenous tree and flower seedlings. Her inspiration and role model happens to be Wangari Maathai.

{The writer is NEMA's Corporate Communications officer}



NEMA staff with Materi Girls fraternity during the visit (Photo J. Murikira)

Core Services

The Authority core services include:

- Registration and Licensing of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Audit (EA)
- 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
- Administration of an Environmental Awards scheme

Our Vision

To be a World-class Environmental Management Authority

Our Mission

To ensure a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in Kenya through supervision and coordination of all matters relating to environment.

Our Motto

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

PLEASE

Report Environmental incidents to:

0786 101 100

Email: incidence@nema.go.ke

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