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NEMA reviewing its Strategic Plan

NEMA is developing its strategic plan for 2018-2022. As a result, the Authority organized for a meeting from 5th to 9th November 2018 in Naivasha to discuss and share knowledge.



Participants during the workshop [PHOTO: E. NYABUTO/NEMA]

While making the opening remarks, NEMA Board of management chairman, Mr. John Konchellah noted that the Authority is committed to ensuring a clean and healthy environment for all Kenyans as provided for in the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA), Cap 387.

"The Authority initiated the process of developing a new strategic plan for 2018-2022. This is line with the Government policy direction that we align the strategic plan to MTP III which includes the "Big Four" Agenda among other national, regional and global sustainable development commitments. As such, and in consultation with the Strategy, Legal and Resource Mobilization Committee of the

Board and the Consultants from Kenya School of Government, my Board planned for this workshop to formulate the strategic direction for the Authority in the next Five (5) years." Mr. Konchellah said.

The NEMA Board and Management has put in place various interventions and allocated resources toward realization of the ultimate goal of a clean and healthy environment.

Kenya hosts PET bottles forum

Kenya hosted the international forum on recycling plastic bottles on 9th November 2018 at KICC. The use, manufacture and importation of plastic paper bags was banned in August 2017.



Environment CAS, Mohammed Elmi visits NEMA exhibition booth accompanied by DD EEIPP, Mamo Boru, Shieni Koiyet during the forum at KICC [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

The forum was organized by Kenya PET Recycling Company, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, NEMA and Embassy of Netherlands among other manufacturers' lobbies.

According to PET Recycling Company, the local plastic bottles recycling industry processes 20,000 tonnes annually.

World GIS Day celebrated

GIS Day is an annual event celebrating the technology of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) that was initiated by spatial analytics world-leader Esri in 1999.

Since then, GIS Day provides an international forum for users of GIS technology to demonstrate real-world applications that are making a difference in our society. This year, GIS Day was celebrated on Wednesday 14 November 2018.

To this effect, the NEMA's GIS Section held a two hour session at their offices on 14th November to showcase how organizations can make use of ArcGIS Online in day to day operations. The presentation was open to anyone at the Authority.

Sand harvesting hurting environment

In West Pokot County and in particular Kishaunet and Mtembur, sand harvesting is unsustainable. Sand harvesters pay owners of land some "goodwill fee" to collect sand from the luggas.

The loaders receive some wages too. They also pay some fee to the "community" who claim the money is used on community projects.



A Section of the river where sand harvesting is done in West Pokot

When visiting West Pokot County, you are likely to count innumerable trucks transporting sand from the County to be sold in Makutano, Kitale, Eldoret and even as far as Bungoma. This has become unsustainable as it has led to increased soil erosion, damaging of roads and general destruction of the environment.

NEMA urges all sand harvesting operators to comply with recommendations of the National Sand Harvesting Guidelines and the requirements of Environment Impact Assessment and Audit Regulations.

The County Government should also develop new policies on how the industry can be managed in an environmentally friendly manner instead of only focusing on revenue generation.

Sand harvesters should organize themselves into associations and strengthen these organizations to regulate the activities of sand harvesting in line with the laws. Environment fee should be levied to start tree nurseries and support other environmental conservation activities such as awareness creation and training.

Rehabilitation of degraded lands and river banks, control of off-road driving and integration of safety and health concerns in the whole value chain should be put in place.

Plastic bags regulations developed

NEMA is developing regulations on management and use of plastic carrier and flat bags. The regulations have been developed in line with Environmental Management and Coordination Act, Cap 387 and in adherence to Statutory instruments Act, 2018.

In the spirit of the constitution, NEMA held stakeholders' consultation meetings to enable the public submit their comments on the draft regulations in various regional

forums. The forums have been organized countrywide to enable the public have a say in the development of the regulations.



Participants during a forum at White Rhino Hotel, Mombasa [PHOTO: E. NYABUTO/NEMA]

The national validation workshop is scheduled to be held in Nairobi 5th December, 2018. This will eventually lead to gazettlement of the regulations.

The forums have brought together participants from manufacturers, retailers, importers and common users. The use, manufacture and importation of plastic bags was banned from August 2017.



Participants during a forum at Sunset hotel, Kisumu County [PHOTO: COURTESY]

Plastic mop up groups awarded

The groups that participated in the plastic mop up and innovation competition during this year's World Environment Day celebration held in Kwale County received their cash award

on 15th November 2018 at the NEMA's Coastal Regional Office.

The brief ceremony was a culmination of the awards scheme that was piloted in the Counties of Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale.

Having received their trophies on the 5th June 2018 from H.E. Deputy President, William Ruto the groups were promised to receive the cash award later. The cash award ceremony was presided over by a team from NEMA headquarters with the guest of honour being the Regional Director of Environment - Coast Region Mr. Titus Simiyu.



RDE Coast Region Mr. Titus Simiyu speaking to the awardees [PHOTO: S. KOIYET/NEMA]

The winner in the mop up category from each County was awarded with Ksh. 50,000, 1st runners up 25,000 and 2nd runners up 12,500. In the innovation category the winner received 100,000, 1st runners up 50,000 and 2nd runners up 25,000.

During the event the Deputy Director EEIPP Mr. Mamo B.Mamo was ably represented by Mr. Eric Deche who hailed the groups for being patient when the award was being processed. He promised that NEMA will be collaborating with them in similar activities in future.

National Defense College visits NEMA

NEMA hosted course participants and faculty members of National Defense College, Kenya on 21st November 2018.

The team came to learn about the operations of the Authority to understand its mandate and its role in national development and national security.



Participants from NEMA and National Defense College during the meeting at NEMA HQ
[PHOTO: S. GITAU/NEMA]

The delegation was led by Brigadier Rashid Elmi. Participants came from Egypt, Tanzania, Botswana, Kenya and Rwanda. They were of the ranks of colonels and above. NEMA made a presentation which was followed by a Questions & Answer session.

The visitors were taken through the Authority's effort in waste management, ease of doing business in Kenya through the EIA licensing regime and reduction of red tape in its process, collaborative efforts in protection of Kenyan water towers as well as successes in plastic management since plastic bags ban last year.

The participants were also taken through GIS lab, the water quality lab, NEMA police unit and the EIA sections.

In the next edition:

Kenya hosts blue Economy Conference

Kenya hosted the ongoing sustainable Blue Economy Conference from 26th to 28th November 2018 at KICC.

The conference seeks to harness potential of our oceans, seas, lakes and rivers to improve the lives of all people as well as harness latest innovations and scientific advances to build prosperity while

conserving our waters for future generations.

The conference was officially opened by H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta who pledged to foster a water resource-based economy that does not exclude environmental conservation.



Environment and Forestry CS, Mr. Keriako Tobiko (R) with DG NEMA Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu during a side event on building global momentum on marine plastics litter at KICC
[PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

NEMA Director General was among the panelists during a side event. The Director General presented on “Plastics Bags Ban implementation and experiences”

The Director General also attended a bilateral meeting with Sweden and Djibouti chaired by Environment and Forestry CS, Mr. Keriako Tobiko. NEMA is also exhibiting during the conference.

The conference is expected to capture commitments and practical actions that will help the world transition to the blue economy.

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Have Your Say

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