



EcoFlash

Official NEMA Weekly Internal Bulletin

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

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Kenya to head the Nairobi convention

Kenya, through the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Forestry, Mr. Keriako Tobiko will be chairing the Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention for the next two years. Kenya was elected to head the convention during the COP 9 conference held in Mombasa on 30th and 31st August 2018.



NEMA Chairman Mr. John Konchellah (L) and DG Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu who represented Kenya during the COP 9 conference in Mombasa [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

This year's theme was 'sustainable Ocean Economy for Wealth Creation' and focused on tapping into the blue economy opportunities through the 2030 agenda on sustainable development. This is an initiative by the Western Indian Ocean states, private and public sector as well as the civil society groups to aid in the sustainable exploration of the coastal resources.



Environment & Forestry CS, Keriako Tobiko and outgoing COP to Nairobi Convention chairman, Mr. Wallace Cosgrow of Seychelles during the conference in Mombasa [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

The conference was hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in collaboration with UNEP. The conference was opened by CS Mr. Keriako Tobiko and was attended by ministers of member countries among other delegates. NEMA was represented by NEMA Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu and Board chairman, Mr. John Konchellah.



Delegates during the COP 9 conference in Mombasa English Point Hotel [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]



Director General NEMA, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu making a presentation during the conference [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

The conference attracted over 200 delegates from Comoros, Mauritius, Mozambique, Kenya, Madagascar, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania and Somalia.

The Nairobi convention operations begun in 1996, with the aim of controlling and addressing the increasing rates of coastal areas and the oceans. The core principles which form the basis for the COP operations are the sustainable exploration and the use of coastal resources by member states.

Plastic bags ban inspections ongoing

One year into the implementation of the plastic bags ban, the Authority has recorded commendable successes in getting the country rid of the menace of plastic bags.

Speaking in an interview to journalists, NEMA Director General Prof Geoffrey Wahungu that the Authority is at 85 percent implementation. Prof. Wahungu stated that despite the challenges that the Authority has experienced during the one year period, great strides have been made.

Nevertheless, the Authority is continuing with the enforcement especially in estates and markets where flat bags are still in use. He added that the Authority has heightened border surveillance to ensure that the banned plastic bags do not get into the country. He thanked the citizens for the support to get rid of plastic bags

Some of the challenges that the Authority has experienced included limited resources and personnel, lack of cooperation from neighboring countries, lack of cooperation from general public as well as some court penalties are not very harsh hence cannot deter the offenders.



Deputy Director EPRC, Dr. Charles Lange during a interview with BBC reporters at NEMA headquarters on plastic bags [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

However, the Authority is looking forward to facilitate cooperation by the East African states in enforcing the plastic ban as well as marshalling adequate resources to upscale enforcement actions with more involvement of county governments.

The Authority will also bank on awareness and information sharing with members of the public to ensure the ban is successful.

In the year 2018, the Authority has arrested over 505 people including manufacturers, distributors and users out of which 258 people have been prosecuted in the court of law.

Approximately 22,6339Kg bags of the banned plastic bags have been seized.



NEMA Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu during an interview with print media reporters on plastic bag ban at NEMA Boardroom [PHOTO: S. GITAU/NEMA]

This week, plastic bags inspections have been undertaken in Nairobi and Kajiado with more Counties slated for enforcement.



Nairobi County CDE Njoki Mukiri and Chris Muteti during an inspection in Donholm, Nairobi County [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]



NEMA officers with a trader during enforcement in Rongai, Kajiado County [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

To continue with this momentum, the Authority has embarked on sting inspections throughout the country to ensure those still using, manufacturing or importing the banned plastic bags are nabbed.

NEMA showcases at Mombasa ASK show

NEMA undertakes among other functions, creating awareness to the public on sustainable management of the environment.



NEMA's Deputy Director EEIPP, Mr. Mamo Boru speaking to participants during the Mombasa ASK show [PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]

The Organizing Committee and Management of the Mombasa International ASK show invited the Authority to participate in the 2018 show scheduled from 29th August to 2nd September 2018 at Mkomani showground under the theme "Promoting Innovations and Technology in Agriculture and Trade."

NEMA Inspectors used the forum to remind all stakeholders to observe and comply with the gazetted Regulations including Noise & Excessive Vibrations Pollution Control Regulation 2009 Part 11 (3.1) which stipulates that "No person shall make or cause to be made any loud, unreasonable, unnecessary, or unusual

noise which annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health or safety of others and the environment.”



NEMA Chairman Mr. John Konchellah being taken through the NEMA's exhibitions during the COP 9 conference at English Point Hotel, Mombasa [PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]

The Authority also exhibited during the ninth Conference of Parties (COP9) hosted by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat on 30 – 31 August 2018 at the Marina, English Point, Mombasa - Kenya.

The Authority showcased policy interventions in addressing regional environmental problems affecting coastal and marine environment and the country in general.



NEMA officers at the NEMA booth during the Mombasa ASK show [PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]

NEMA regional offices established

Following the introduction of NEMA regional offices throughout the country, the following officers have been posted as Regional Directors as follows;

- Marrian Kioko – Rift Valley
- Stella Kamulujji – North Lake
- Charles Bore – Mt. Kenya East
- Anne Owino – South Rift
- Jane Nyandika – South Lake
- John Wafula – North Eastern
- Stephen Njoka – Nairobi Metropolis
- Titus Simiyu – Coast



NEMA Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu with Regional Directors at NEMA Headquarters [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

The regional directors will help in coordinating operations within the Counties under them to enhance efficiency and service delivery. This will facilitate the Authority to achieve its mandate of a clean and healthy environment for all.

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Have Your Say

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