

## AWARDS GALORE

**NEMA has won three awards: African Environmental Regulator of the Year, UN Person of the Year 2022 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) award under the national government: Parastatals category. This awards, according to NEMA Director General Mamo B. Mamo, EBS is a result of staff dedication, team spirit and hard work.**



# AWARDS



nema

mazingira yetu | uhai wetu | wajibu wetu



*United Nations Persons of the Year award*

*Africa Environmental Regulator of year 2022*

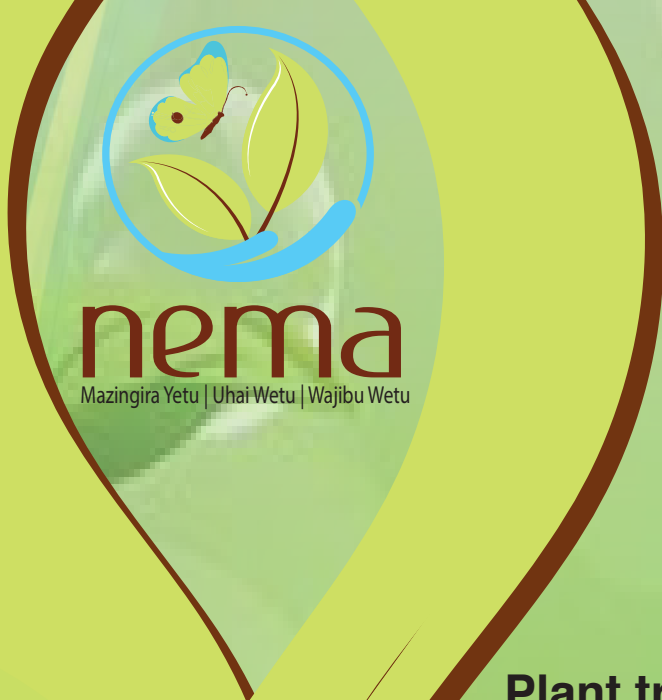


*Africa Public Sector CEO of the Year*

*Outstanding SDGs implementor under the national government*



*Public sector legal department of the year*



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# Editorial

## NEMA feted for environmental stewardship

**T**he Authority experienced the best tidings during the half year 2022/2023, this because, the National Environment Management Authority was feted by renown local and international organizations for her role in environmental management and coordination in Kenya.

NEMA has received the following awards; United Nations Person of the year award for effort in safeguarding the environment in Kenya, 2nd Runner Up in the Parastatals category in recognition of their impressive efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the national government, the African regulator environmental of the year 2022 during the ceremony held in Accra Ghana for its role in environmental management especially the plastic bags ban. This placed the Authority and Kenya on the global map.

During the year, the Authority participated in the national launch of the 15 billion tree planting campaign by the President at Ngong Hills Forest. During the event, NEMA took the opportunity to pilot the use of biodegradable bags that can be planted with the seedling and decompose within only 6 months.

The bags will save the environment of plastic bags litter. The Authority has also participated in the planting and growing of thousands of tree seedlings in several parts of the country to plug into the national tree planting target.

The country also hosted the 12th Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) meeting at Kenyatta University. The conference brought together diverse stakeholders from around the globe to underscore the important role of education in achieving a sustainable future for the global communities.

During the period, the annual World Wetlands Day was held at Enkongu Enkare, in Narok County. The event was graced by the Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Cabinet Secretary Hon. Soipan Tuya who emphasized the need to protect wetlands to reduce the impact of climate change.

The Authority has also continued to implement the Adaptation Fund projects in the country by establishment and operationalization of adaptation villages to build communities' resilience towards the effects of climate change. Moreover, the World Bank Project-Africa Environmental Health and Pollution Management has continued to implement its projects across the country to enhance management and regulation of e-waste in the country.

*Evans Nyabuto,*

Deputy Director Corporate Communication

# Work with Counties, PS tells NEMA



**NEMA Board members, management and County Directors of Environment during a retreat in Naivasha**

BY S. IRUNGU

The PS for Environment and Climate Change, Eng. Festus Ng'eno has asked the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) to create a more harmonious and collaborative relationship with the County Governments to enhance environmental management in the Country and service delivery.

He noted that since some of the environmental functions are devolved, there should be a smooth working relationship with the Counties through the County Environment Committees for which NEMA acts as its Secretary.

The PS said this as he graced the annual NEMA County Director of Environment meeting in Naivasha. The meeting offers an ample opportunity for the Directors to interact with the Board and Management to iron issues on the Counties in regards to environmental management.

He singled out Solid Waste management and noise regulation which are devolved functions. He urged NEMA to work with Counties and build their capacity to handle these challenges facing most Counties.

“The emphasis should be placed on the need to establish more dumpsites to handle the menace of

solid waste,” PS Ng'eno said.

The PS directed the Authority especially through the County Directors of Environment to plug into the planting and growing of 15 Billion trees initiative.

Moreover, the PS urged the Authority to closely work with the communities through awareness and environmental education to ensure that the locals are involved in managing environment in their surroundings.

NEMA Director General, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS stated that the Authority closely works with the Council of Governors to easily coordinate environmental matters in the Country. He reiterated the Authority's commitment to environmental management and conservation across the country. He notified the PS that Authority is implementing projects under it and is ready for more programmes in future.

“The Authority is committed to environmental management and implementation of overall mandate under it in regards to coordination and supervision of environmental matters in the country,” Mamo said.

The Director General also pointed out that the Authority has already identified and developed projects and initiatives to plug into the national 15 Billion tree planting and growing campaign.

# Plant trees to conserve environ



NEMA Director General, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS, receives the President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E Dr. William Ruto, CGH at the NEMA demonstration booth during the 15 billion tree planting launch at Ngong Hills. Looking on are CS Environment and Forestry, Hon. Soipan Tuyu, NEMA Chairman, Eric Mungai and Chief Conservator of Forests, Julius Kamau.

The 15 billion tree growing campaign was launched on 21st December 2022 by the President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency, Dr. William Ruto, CGH.

The campaign dubbed Mission 15B aims at planting 15 billion trees in the next 10 years translating to 30% tree cover.

The tree planting campaign is a move aimed at: reducing greenhouse emissions, stopping and reversing deforestation and, restoring 5.1 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes.

“Every parent should plant 100 trees for their child during birthday celebrations. We are facing a severe drought that has never been witnessed in 40 years as a result of climate change,” the President said.

The President said this will help curb the drought ravaging through different counties across the country. He said his administration targets to plant up to five billion trees in a bid to tackle climate change.

“Water increment goes hand-in-hand with conserving the environment. As a government we purpose to plant five billion trees in bid to combat climate change,” he said.

# ment

BY S. IRUNGU



The President called on all Kenyans to join in the challenge and inculcate the culture of tree planting. He said every Kenyan should take up the duty of planting at least 100 trees in their farms and homes to help meet the five billion target.

“The seedlings will be grown on 10.6 million hectares of degraded forests and rangelands. This will take our total national tree cover beyond 30 percent, surpassing all our present obligations and placing us firmly on course to restoring ecological integrity,” said the President.

## NEMA Promotes Biodegradable Bags

To booster the campaign and environmental conservation, the National Environment Management Authority is piloting the use of biodegradable bags that can be planted with the seedling and decompose within only six months as opposed to plastic polythene bags that take over 300 years to decompose.

During the launch at Ngong Hills, Kajiado County, the Authority led by the Director General, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS accompanied by the Chairman, Eric Mungai demonstrated to the President the use of biodegradable bags that can save the environment off the plastic bags litter as Kenya walks the journey to achieve 30% tree cover for the next 10 years.

This is in line with the plastic bags ban that the Authority has been implementing since 2017.

560,000 trees were planted countrywide to mark the launch.



Some of the biodegradable bags for planting seedlings

# NEMA wins UN Person of the year

BY S. IRUNGU



Front Row: NEMA Chairman, Eric Mungai (L), DG Mamo B. Mamo, EBS and Coordinator UNEP Kenya Country Programme Africa Office, Dr. Cyrill Siewe holds the NEMA awards certificate in a group at UN complex, Nairobi

**N**EMA received a prestigious award under the United Nations Person of the year (2022) category, in recognition of her effort in promoting and safeguarding the environment in Kenya and vehemently working towards enforcement of the plastic bags ban.

The ban on plastic carrier bags was a key player in working towards the historic plastic resolution adopted by UN members states in March 2022 and was hailed as the biggest moment for the environment since the Paris Agreement.

NEMA becomes the first national institution to scoop the UN persons of the year award.

The award was received by the Director General, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS accompanied by the Chairman, Eric Mungai, Board members and management team.

The ceremony was held at UN Complex,

Gigiri, Nairobi on 24th October 2022. Speaking at the event, the DG noted that the recognition of the Authority by the United Nations in its effort to implement and enforce the plastic ban since 2017 is a milestone towards achieving a clean and healthy environment.

He added that the Authority has continuously enforced the ban by working with 47 County Governments.

He noted that the Authority has gazetted over 200 environmental inspectors in the Counties to support with the enforcement actions.

“As NEMA family we feel honored as an institution to receive this award. This award gives us the motivation we need to continue inventing new ways of making our environment clean and healthy. This award is for all our stakeholders, our partners and indeed the Kenyans citizens whose lives we strive to improve,” Mamo said.



“The problem of plastic pollution is cross boundary and cross-cutting, and it requires systemic solutions covering policy, technology, management, financing, knowledge and research, awareness raising and behaviour change,” the DG said.

He observed that the main challenge is the unwillingness of the public to desist from the using the bags although the ban has had a tremendous change in Kenyans attitude towards the bags.

The NEMA Chairman, Eric Mungai asked the neighbouring countries to also ban the plastic bags. He pointed out that the Authority has experienced challenges with influx of the illegal plastic bags into Kenyan markets through the porous borders.

He warned that the enforcement of the ban on importation, manufacture and use of the banned bags is active and those violating the law will be arrested and prosecuted.



**NEMA DG Mamo B. Mamo, EBS (L) receives certificate from Dr. Cyrill Siewe at UN Complex in Nairobi during the awards ceremony**



**Participants during the awards ceremony at UN complex, Nairobi**

# NEMA awarded SDGs award

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has been awarded in recognition of outstanding contribution on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation under the national government: Parastatals category. The Authority was the 2nd Runners Up.

The objective of the awards is to recognize and award outstanding stakeholders' initiatives and progressive delivery in SDGs implementation.

The award was received by Ag. Director Legal Services, Linda Kosgei and Godfrey Mwangi on behalf of DG, NEMA, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS in Mombasa.

The awards ceremony was officiated by Katherine Muoki Economic Planning Secretary State Department of Economic Planning. In attendance was also the former PS Saitoti Torome of the State Department of Economic Planning.



From: NEMA's legal Ag. Legal Services Director, Linda Kosgei (C) accompanied by Godfrey Mwangi receives the award from Katherine Muoki, secretary, state department of Economic Planning

# NEMA Bags Continental Awards

In the Month of May during the 3rd Africa Public Sector Conference held in Accra Ghana, the NEMA Director General, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS was awarded the prestigious Africa Public Sector CEO of the Year Award. The ceremony graced by H.E the Vice President of the Republic of Ghana Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia.

The award was to reward and promote Excellence in Public Sector in Africa. Mamo also received an award for the Africa top 50 Public Sector leader. NEMA Kenya received the prestigious award of Africa Environmental Regulator of year 2022.

High Commissioner of Kenya to the Republic of Ghana H.E Amb. Eliphaz Barine was in attendance among other dignitaries.

While appearing in the National Television Station in Ghana, GTV Breakfast Show, Mr. Mamo revealed that the citizens and government officials had addressed issues about the ban on plastic bags decades before it was implemented.

He added that the discussion on the ban on plastic took a decade for all stakeholders participate in the process especially the manufacturers of the plastics as well as political leaders. The Authority had to educate the public on the dangers of using plastics.

“My hearty congratulations to you, Mamo B Mamo, EBS for being awarded the Environmental Regulator of the year 2022. This is indeed a great inspiration to the public Sector in Kenya,” former CS Environment and Forestry, Keriako Tobiko stated.



NEMA Director General, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS (2nd R) receive a trophy from H.E the Vice President of the Republic of Ghana Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia (R)

# Take Care of Your Environment

BY S. IRUNGU



**NEMA Director General, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS addressing KU students during the 2022/2023 Growing Leaders Programme opening ceremony**

**T**he NEMA Director General, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS graced the official opening ceremony of the 2022/2023 Growing Leaders Programme on 19th October 2022 at Kenyatta University.

Speaking at the event, the Director General stated that Kenya has prioritized environmental protection as enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya 2010.

“We have a ‘green’ constitution, that considers a clean and healthy environment as a human right. However, the right bears a responsibility for individual to take care of their surroundings,” he remarked.

The DG urged the students to be responsible for their environment. “We throw away our waste and expect someone else to collect it,” Mamo said pointing out the need to exercise responsibility in life.

“A big dream aspires and energizes you. Nothing is

formed in reality unless it’s first conceived in the mind. We are created original, nobody can be you, stand out and be you, achieve your dreams,” the DG encouraged the students as he underscored the importance of pursuing individual visions and not throwing a towel.

The Ag. Vice-Chancellor of Kenyatta University, Prof. Waceke Wanjohi revealed that NEMA and Kenyatta University will develop an MoU to offer attachments positions with NEMA as well as to improve on the research component for the Authority to enable more scholars to delve into environmental studies.

Certificate in Leadership Development and Mentorship programme is offered to the final year students at the University for free to equip them with leadership skills as they graduate. The course has been expanded to cover emerging issues such as climate change, pollution, terrorism among others.

# Exercise your mandate fearlessly: CS Environment & Forestry

BY S. IRUNGU & V. BUSOLO



CS Environment and Forestry Hon. Sopian Tuya receives a gift package from NEMA Chairman, Eric Mungai during the event at Weston Hotel. Looking on is DG NEMA, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS, Board members-Dr. Lul Abdiwahid and Noordin Osman during the staff party.

The Environment and Forestry Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Soipan Tuya called on the NEMA to continue exercising its mandate in accordance with law without fear.

The CS said this as she graced the end of year NEMA staff get together party on 2nd December 2022 at Weston hotel, Nairobi.

“We are the custodians of the Constitution that grants Kenyans the right to a clean and healthy environment. It is upon us to protect the environment especially on waste management and pollution control,” CS Soipan Tuya.

The CS reiterated the support of the ministry to NEMA in ensuring continued compliance and enforcement actions with the plastic ban within

Kenya to completely get rid of plastic bags. “I will liaise with the neighboring countries to rally them to join in the ban the plastic bags so as to end the proliferation of the bags from neighboring countries that have not yet to ban use of plastic carrier bags,” she remarked.

She further congratulated NEMA for the tremendous success as an Authority and winning the coveted African Environmental Regulator of the Year 2022 during the 3rd Africa Public Sector Conference and Awards ceremony held in Accra, Ghana.

NEMA was also recognized for the United Nation’s Person of the Year 2022 by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in recognition of efforts in promoting and vehemently working towards enforcement of the plastic carrier bags ban.

The CS lauded the NEMA management board and staff for enforcing waste management rules especially the single use plastics and carrier bags. She pledged to support the Authority in enforcing the waste management rules and regulations.

Further Tuya said it is upon the Ministry to protect the environment especially on waste management and pollution control to ensure Kenyans enjoy this right.

The NEMA Chairman, Eric Mungai stated that the Authority takes pride in the momentous milestone of the implementation of the plastic bags ban on manufacturing, importation and use of plastic carriers in Kenya since August 28, 2017, implementation of 8 gazetted regulations on wetlands, EIA/EA, biodiversity, controlled substances, air quality, waste management and noise regulations.

“The inclusion of explicit environmental provisions in Kenya’s 2010 constitution is first and foremost recognition of the citizen’s right to an environment- every citizen has a right to a clean and healthy environment,” NEMA Chairman, Eric Mungai said.

He postulated that citizens have a duty to keep their environment clean as the future of our children depends on us.

“We grow and prosper as an authority because of your dedication, team spirit and hard work - I know the Journey has not been an easy one,” NEMA Director General, Mamo B. Mamo stated.

He noted that NEMA has achieved great milestones that has shaped the environment space in Kenya and beyond- indeed , Kenya is being looked at an an Environment leader in the Continent and the Environment Capital of the world.

The DG highlighted other achievements that the Authority has achieved including development of 10 green points, review of EMCA, improved score for the performance contract for last year, enhancing ease of doing business and digitizing of the licensing regime offered by the Authority among others.

The long serving staff who have exemplary contributed to the achievements of the Authority were awarded during the event.



CS Environment and Forestry Hon. Sopian Tuya (2nd L) DG NEMA, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS, (L) Chairman, Eric Mungai cutting a cake during the staff party. Looking on is NEMA's Patricia Wambua.



NEMA Board members in a group photo with CS Hon. Soipan Tuya



NEMA management team in a group photo with CS Hon. Soipan Tuya



CDE Kiambu Stephen Wambua receives a certificate from Board member Dr. Lul Abdiwahid



NEMA DG, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS speaking during the opening of 12th RCE conference at KU

## 12th Regional Center of Expertise held

**K**enya hosted the 12th Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) from 28-30 November 2022 at Kenyatta University.

This is the second time Kenya is hosting the regional RCE meeting. Kenya hosted the 8th Global RCE conference in November 2013 and 6th African RCE Conference in August, 2016.

Both conferences brought together diverse stakeholders from around the Globe – from cities, communities, governments, industry, international organizations, and academia to discuss, debate and launch activities that reinforce the fundamental role that education plays in achieving a sustainable future for all.

This year, the theme is “Role of African RCEs in Climate Action”.

Kenya has 9 registered RCEs, the highest number of RCEs in Africa. All the RCEs are fully recognized by the United Nations University (UNU). These includes; Greater Nairobi- our Host, Kakamega Western, Mau

complex ecosystem, Greater Pwani, North Rift, Nyanza, Upper Eastern, Central Kenya and South Rift.

All the RCEs are hosted by our universities and they focus on specific areas of concern in the sustainable development space. However, all have a common focus on climate change.

The opening ceremony, was graced by Dr. Pacifica Ogolla, who represented Environment and Forestry CS Hon. Soipan Tuya who was the chief guest, The Vice Chancellor Kenyatta University, NEMA Chairman, Eric Mungai and Director General, Mamo B. Mamo also graced the event among other dignitaries from Kenya and global RCE networks.

The Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Forestry stated that the 3-day African RCE conference will provide RCEs with a platform to discuss how to further strengthen and engage with National and County governments to focus on RCE activities on climate change and set the agenda for future action to mitigate and adapt to climate change and protect our environment.

The CS added that the concern for the environmental crisis and more climate change is no longer confined to multilateral institutions or the non-governmental sector. It has become a responsibility of all.

In the context of these interlinked global risks, the role of RCEs in Africa in sharing best practices and promoting innovations to address climate change impacts has become more important than ever before. Equally important is the role of scientific research by our universities in finding innovative solutions to the existential challenges facing mankind.

“Climate change is a daily and dreadful event that faces us. We need to collectively act on climate change to turn the tides. The University has educational programs to educate the learners on climate change issues,” Prof. Paul Wainaina, Vice Chancellor Kenyatta University said.

The role of NEMA is to in facilitate RCE operations in Kenya pegged on its mandate of exercising general supervision and coordination over all matters relating to the environment and implementation of all policies

relating to the environment. In the constitution of Kenya 2010, every Kenyan has a right to a clean and healthy environment which is now echoed by the recent United Nations General Assembly resolution.

“The Authority recognizes that actions geared towards improving the quality of our environment. This will succeed if we take up individual and collective responsibility to manage our environment,” Chairman, NEMA said as he asked everyone to assume the role of environmental stewardship to ensure we all play a role in environmental conservation.

The NEMA Director General, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS exuded confidence that the many projects already ongoing within the Regional Centres of Expertise on waste management, Education for Sustainable Development, Biodiversity, watershed management, coastal management, green cities and climate change will transform the country. Notably, efforts are being made to mobilize more stakeholders to join the RCEs depending on their area of operations. The Authority has been organizing annual RCE coordinators meeting to share their experiences and best practices.



Dr. Pacifica Ogola flanked by other dignitaries plants a tree during the RCE conference at KU. She was representing CS Environment and Forestry Hon. Soipan Tuya.

Regional Centres of Expertise RCEs were created as effective strategies to promote Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

Lead by United Nations University, RCEs are aimed at overcoming the compartmentalization of knowledge and linking policy and practice. In this case, RCEs are supposed to promote “social learning” and “communities of practice.

Therefore, RCEs offer perfect opportunities for higher education institutions in contributing towards ESD. Higher education institutions globally are normally urged to adopt the use RCEs as value-adding learning networks at the local and global levels.

NEMA together with stakeholders spearheaded the development of Education for Sustainable Development Strategy in 2008 during the United

Nation Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) 2005-2014.

The strategy is being reviewed to capture the spirit of the ESD for 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals.

The lessons learnt from implementation of the decade culminated to development of National Education for Sustainable Development Policy (2014) and Regional Centres of Expertise identified as a flagship strategy to achieve sustainable development.

An RCE is a network of existing formal, non-formal and informal education organisations, mobilised to deliver education for sustainable development (ESD) to local and regional communities.

There are currently 127 recognized RCEs worldwide.



**Dr. Pacifica Ogolla receives a portrait of the CS Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Hon. Soipan Tuya from DG NEMA, Mamo B. Mamo, Chair Eric Mungai during the RCE conference. They were accompanied by other dignitaries**



# Be Conscious of Your e-Waste

BY S. IRUNGU

Less than 20% of e-waste is formally recycled, with 80% either ending up in landfill or being informally recycled – much of it by hand exposing workers to hazardous substances.

The Authority is implementing the African Environmental Health and Pollution management project (AEHPMP). The program is a Global Environment Facility with World Bank as the Implementing Agency.

In Kenya, NEMA is the executing agency and the project main objective is to strengthen institutional capacity to manage and regulate e-waste and related UPOPS in Kenya.

The project is implemented in five African countries notably; Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Ghana and Senegal with World Bank as the Implementing Agency.

The project is founded on the basis that Electronic and e-waste commonly referred to as e-waste is emerging as one of the most critical environmental challenge globally, regionally and nationally.

Currently e-waste accumulation is reaching

unsustainable level and owing to management challenges, they are becoming a major source of environmental pollution. In Kenya, electronic waste is the fastest growing waste component, with an estimated 51,300 tons of electronic waste being generated in annually.

It is in this regard that NEMA in conjunction with Africa Waste and Environment Management Centre (AWEMAC) conducted a training on e-waste management in Kenya at PrideInn, Mombasa. on 31st Oct- 3rd Nov 2022.

While making the introductory remarks, the project coordinator, Dr. Charles Lange called on stakeholders and Kenyans in general to be more conscious of their e-waste and dispose it wisely to facilitate recycling to maintain a clean and healthy environment.

The group also visited Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Centre (WEEE Centre) in Mombasa to learn about e-waste recycling and circular economy. The aim of the training is to build the capacity of County and national government officials to handle e-waste in the country.



Participants in a group photo during the training at Pridelnn in Mombasa



**Participants during the EIK annual conference at Panari Hotel, Nairobi**



**NEMA Director General, Mamo B Mamo, EBS made a courtesy call to the Speaker of the National Assembly Rt.Hon. Moses Wetangula at his office in Parliament Building to discuss partnership between the National Assembly and NEMA on matters environment in Kenya**



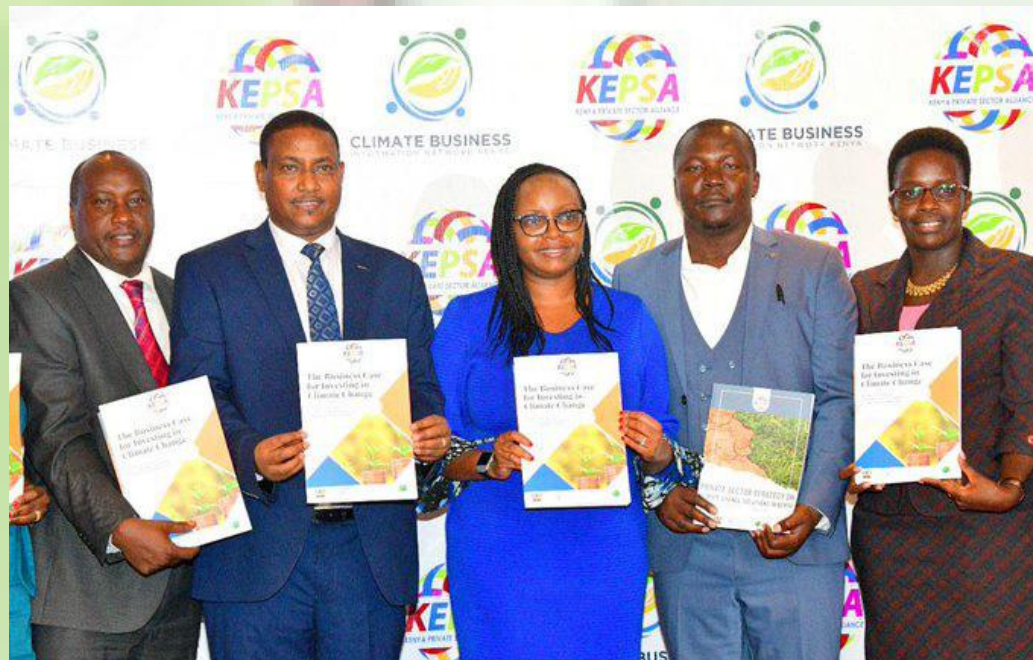
**CS Environment and Forestry, Hon. Soipan Tuya with, Climate Change DG NEMA Mamo B. Mamo, EBS during the staff party at Weston Hotel**



**From L: DG NEMA Mamo B. Mamo, EBS, KU VC Prof. Paul Wainaina and Dr. Pacifica Ogolla during the RCE conference at KU**



**NEMA's Ann Theuri receives dignitaries at the NEMA booth during the RCE conference at KU**



**DG NEMA Mamo B. Mamo with other dignitaries during the launch of the private sector strategy on climate change solution 2022/23 at Kempinski Hotel.**



**NEMA Board, management celebrate as they received the UN person of the year award**

# NEMC Tanzania visit Kenya

BY A. KAMIRI

**T**he National Environment Management Council in Tanzania (NEMC) visited Kenya on 21st November 2022.

The delegation was in the country to share experiences and lessons with NEMA Kenya on environmental management practices in both countries.

The delegation also visited various sites in the country to familiarize themselves with environmental operations of the Authority especially on the compliance and enforcement actions as well as the regulatory regimes. The activity offered an opportunity for both teams to learn about various ecosystems, partnerships and collaborations. The teams agreed to work together to enhance environmental management in East Africa.

Particularly, the delegation visited Mombasa County office and Bamburi cement in Mombasa as well as the rehabilitated sites at the facility. The team was led by Mr. Charles Wangwe from NEMC Tanzania.



**NEMC Tanzania delegation with NEMA Kenya officers in a group photo during the visit**

# LSK, NEMA meet over GMOs



**NEMA, LSK staff during the meeting**

**T**he Law Society of Kenya (LSK) public Interest Committee paid courtesy call to NEMA on 1st December 2022.

The committee of the Society was meeting the Authority's legal and technical officers to come up with an informed opinion on the ongoing discussions regarding Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) foods in the country.

The teams deliberated on possible and critical areas of the matters to enable the Committee come up with an informed paper in the interest of the Kenyan public.

The meeting focused on the legal, environmental, policy and regulatory framework and NEMA's role in biosciences technology, biotechnology and research and innovation processes.

# UNEP, NEMA partner to create awareness on Antimicrobial Resistance

BY S. IRUNGU

**A**ntimicrobial resistance (AMR) is the ability of microorganisms to persist or grow in the presence of drugs designed to kill them. These drugs, called antimicrobials, are used to treat infectious diseases caused by microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi, viruses.

When microorganisms become resistant to antimicrobials, standard treatments are often ineffective, and in some cases, no drugs provide effective therapy. Consequently, treatments fail. This increases illness and mortality in humans, animals and plants.

NEMA has partnered with other stakeholders to offer support and to contribute in preventing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by ensuring a clean and health environment and implementing of policies that relate to environmental management in Kenya. Through this partnership, the environmental dimension of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) will be enhanced through development of a national action plan and awareness creation in liaison with relevant sectors for behaviour change and advocacy.

The Conference followed the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) held in November this year under the theme “Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together” seeks to encourage stakeholder collaboration and involvement through a One Health Approach, to address the global challenge of drug resistance, and inability of antibiotics and antimicrobials to treat infections.

As lead agency and the AMR in the Environment Health Sector, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) undertakes its mandate in ensuring a clean and healthy environment in Kenya

thereby preventing the occurrence and increase in AMR. The Authority has developed and implemented policies that relate to environmental dimensions of AMR in Kenya. The team seeks to develop a National Action Plan on the Prevention and Containment of AMR that will provide a roadmap for this sector to prevent projections of up to 10 million AMR deaths per year, and cost of up to USD 100 trillion globally by 2050.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and NEMA Kenya held a three-day conference at Ole Sereni on 14th December 2022 to create awareness on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Kenya. The conference has brought together stakeholders from various sectors. This is a continuation of the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week held in November 2022.

As the lead agency in the environmental sector, NEMA undertakes its mandate to ensure a clean and healthy environment thereby prevent occurrence and increase in AMR~DG NEMA Mamo B. Mamo, EBS stated in a statement read on his behalf by Director Compliance & Enforcement, David Ongare.

“We first need to collect data on Antimicrobial Resistance to make informed decisions. This will entail strengthening AMR environmental dimensions by addressing issues such as pollution,” Dr. Cyrille-Lazare Siewe, UNEP Kenya country program Africa Office stated.

According to Dr. Lilian Musila, Principal Research Scientist at KEMRI, 1.9 million people died in 2019 as a direct result of Antimicrobial Resistance. She adds that by 2050, 10 million people will be affected globally.



Participants during the Conference at Emara Ole Sereni Hotel



Enkongu Enkare Spring in Narok South, Narok County

# World Wetlands Day Commemorations

BY S. IRUNGU, B. NYUNJA & E. NGOTHO

**T**he World Wetlands Day is an environmentally related celebration which dates back to the year 1971 when several environmentalists gathered to reaffirm protection and love for wetlands, which are water ecosystems containing plant life and other organisms.

Kenya ratified the Ramsar convention in 1990 and has since embarked on comprehensive reforms to address sustainable utilization of wetland resources.

This year, Kenya held the Wetlands Day commemorations at Enkongu Enkare, Narok South, Narok County on 2nd February 2023.

The event was graced by the Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Soipan Tuya. She was accompanied by the Principal Secretary Environment and Climate Change, Eng. Festus K. Ng'eno among other dignitaries.

The CS stated that Narok County has a forest cover of 14.0% and a tree cover of 20% besides the 300 hectares available for restoration. She added that the Ministry

will partner with the County to set aside land for green spaces which I will personally commission.

“The Government has prioritized growing of 15 billion trees over the next 10 years. This will ensure that in addition to having a 30% tree cover, the country’s water towers and sources are protected and well taken cares of Mission 15B,” Hon. Soipan stated.

She added that there is need to continuously expose local community to emerging knowledge on the impact of climate change for improved mitigation and adaptations that could be achieved through wetlands conservation and restoration.

Narok County Government Governor, Patrick Ntutu noted that there is need to conserve the available water sources within the County and prioritize tree growing to acquire the required tree cover.

The Governor pledged to support the locals to in conservation effort through development of water dams, planting trees and protection of public utilities especially water sources.

“There are 8,456 wetlands in Kenya. NEMA has mapped all these wetlands for protection and conservation through development of Integrated Management Plans for this wetlands as well as their gazettement.” NEMA DG Mamo B. Mamo, EBS.

He added that the Authority will undertake public education towards the gazettement of Enkongu Enkare and Motorok springs. The CS commissioned the rehabilitation of 120 acreage of Enkongu Enkare and fencing of the wetlands.

On his part, NEMA Chairman, Eric Mungai underscored the need to conserve the indigenous water sources to ensure they are sustainably used to meet the needs of the local. He urged the community to individually and collectively take the initiative to protect their environment.

The CS also commissioned the rehabilitation of 120 acreage of Enkongu Enkare and fencing of the wetland. The celebrations were done over several days with cleanups at Naroosura town, tree planting within schools and the wetland, community forums

at Naroosura catholic church hall and the final celebrations at Enkongu Enkare wetlands. There was also donation of 5 water tanks to nearby schools, tree seedlings to nearby schools for tree growing endeavors and the distribution of relief food as the area is semi-arid and under threat from climate change.

The theme of this year’s celebration was “Wetlands Restoration” and slogan, “Its time for wetlands restoration.” Over 12,000 trees were planted to mark the occasion. The Authority is geared towards supporting the national 15 billion tree planting and growing campaign.

Similar events were held countrywide to create awareness on the need to conserve wetlands.

The celebrations were coordinated by the NEMA County Directors of Environment in the all the Counties in conjunction with the County Governments.

**CS Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Hon. Soipan Tuya, CBS holds a tree during the wetlands day celebrations at Ekongu Enkare. She is assisted by KFS officials. Looking on is DG NEMA, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS among other officials**



# Operationalization of Adaptation Villages

BY AGNES KAMIRI & HARRON WANJOHI

The NEMA NIE secretariat held a two-day meeting with CDEs from counties implementing the Adaptation fund project. The meeting in Machakos held on 6th-7th March 2023 aimed at validating the operationalization and sustainability strategy for the adaptation villages.

An Adaptation village is a resilience building infrastructure premised on the need to avail systematic support for learning technology transfer and skills development for purposes of driving climate change resilience at community level.

The Authority has designed adaptation villages that consist of a solar powered borehole with an overhead water storage tank, a community water kiosk, cattle troughs, sanitation facilities, basic training hall and a fenced demonstration farm.

Through the adaptation villages, community resilience to climate change will be enhanced through availability of water for domestic and livestock use as well as training on livelihoods diversification and relevant technology transfer to help communities cope with the impacts of climate change.

The projects are located in remote rural settings across the counties where the Adaptation Fund project is being implemented. Some of the Counties that host the adaptation villages include Taita Taveta, Garissa, Wajir, Kitui, Machakos, Kilifi, Laikipia, Kajiado, Kisumu and Homabay.

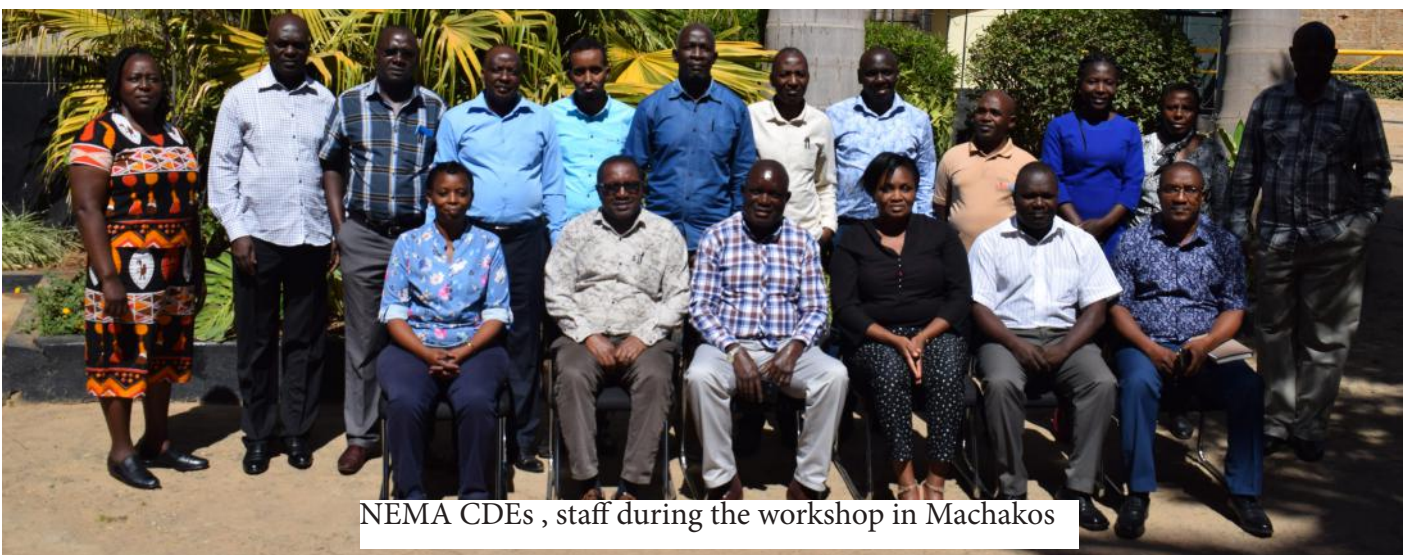
The Adaptation and sustainability strategy aims at ensuring that the resilience building assets developed by the project continue to offer benefits to the communities after NEMA's exit later in the year.

The Adaptation villages will continue to serve as centers of community outreach, learning and technology transfer in climate change adaptation. The facilities will also be used by both the National and County Government and other development actors in the localities for community outreach, information dissemination, community training and technology transfer.

Speaking during the workshop, the NIE Coordinator Ms Wangare Kirumba urged the County Directors of environment present to support the authority in ensuring seamless management of the assets after official handover. The CDEs will work with relevant county level stakeholders to deliver training to elected project committees to ensure proper management of the assets at the local level.

The adaptation villages have come in handy in supporting pastoral livelihoods in remote rural settings in far flung areas such as Lollol and Gutale villages both in Goreale Ward in Lagdera Constituency where over 5000 animals come to water daily. Other far-flung adaptation villages include the Sala and Shariffa sites both in Bananey Ward and the Waregadher site in Habaswein, Wajir County.

This programme has been a huge success to NEMA and indeed to the entire country, and has benefited the vulnerable communities who are susceptible to the adverse impacts of climate change.



NEMA CDEs , staff during the workshop in Machakos



# ELC in environmental conservation

BY MICHAEL NJIRU

The 10th birthday for Environmental and Land Court marked on 28th October, 2022 made a land mark event as NEMA and ELC joined hands in tree planting and clean-up activities.

The two and other major stake holders in environmental conservation; Kenya Forest Service, County Government of Kiambu, Public Health and the Kenya Prisons teamed up at Thika town, made a procession to Chania Boys High to plant variety of trees.

The occasion was graced by Hon. Bernard Eboso, Judge at Thika E.L.C. The occasion marked the launching of tree planting which targeted 10,000 seedlings to be planted. Chania Boys Joined with a lot of energy and made it possible to plant over 500 tree seedlings.

NEMA Kiambu team was represented by Michael Njiru. In his speech, he highly condemned the upsurge of the banned plastic bags and warned the vendors who use the same. He told the public that they risk jail and fines. The courts and prisons department present to get ready for the clients who defy the ban.

On tree planting, he encouraged students and the public to plant more trees at home and work places since trees are the only cure and prevention to environmental degradation.

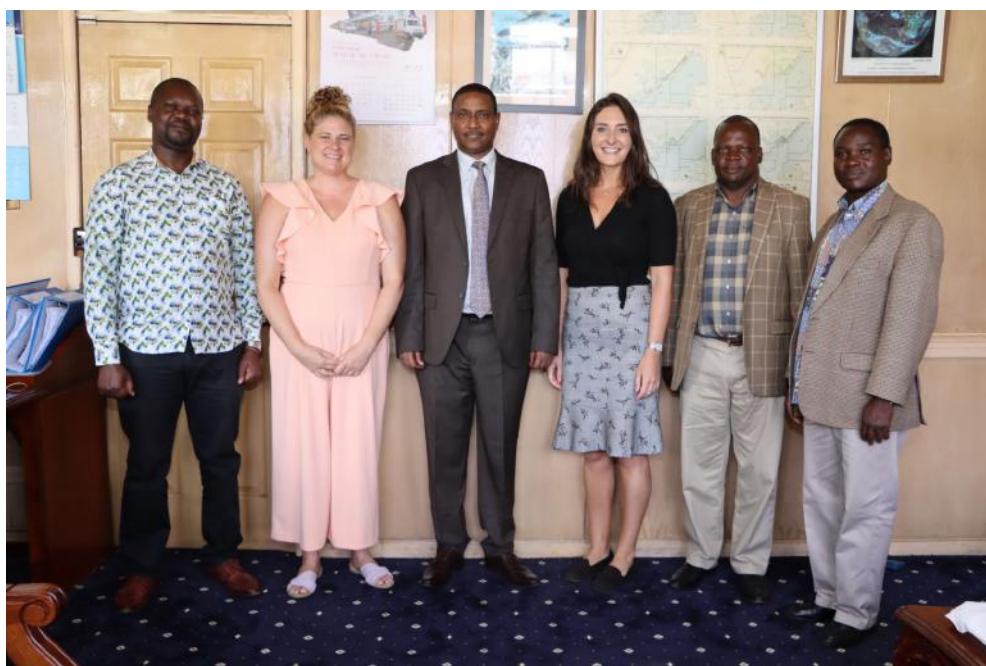
On closure, the guest of honor reminded the public that environmental conservation should not be enforced but at free will. It is our responsibility to care for God's creation and make our lives better today and tomorrow.



NEMA's Michael Njiru addressing the gathering during the event in Thika town

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## NEMA, USAID Kenya partner to address Ocean pollution



From L: Francia Chwanya, Sarah Jean, DG NEMA, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS, Anna Cahnonly, Enock Kanyanya and Winfred Osumo

USAID-Kenya paid courtesy call to NEMA Director General, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS on 22nd December 2022.

The deliberations focused on how to establish a mechanism for a funding support to prevent leakage of plastics from land-based sources, specifically from rapidly growing peri-urban areas to the Indian Ocean.

# National World Water Day Celebration in Samburu County

BY ANTONELLA DOKHE

This year the National World Water Day celebrations was held in Samburu County guided by the theme: ‘Accelerating Change’. The theme emphasizes the acceleration of change in aspects relevant to the availability of clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), in line with the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Access to safe, adequate and reliable water supply).

Water security is under threat worldwide, making it increasingly difficult for billions of people to access safe drinking water, for businesses to operate, and for farmers to grow crops and raise livestock. These challenges endanger health, prosperity, stability, and resilience to climate change.

The event won't have come at a right time when the country is grappling with one of the worst drought in four decades escalated by increasing desertification and climate change, causing uncountable losses of properties, livelihood and lives.

Several permanent rivers have dried up for the first time since existence e.g. River Chania. The ASAL counties including Samburu have been the worst hit with the epidemic and there has been call to invest in water harvesting, ground water harnessing, climate smart agriculture, conservation and management of natural resources i.e. forest, catchment areas, wetlands, rivers etc.

The Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation took the lead role in organizing the event, which is held annually worldwide. This years' celebrations took place at Lodokejek Primary School within Kirisia division of Samburu Central sub-county in Samburu County. The event was a culmination of various build up activities that had been executed in a span of about two month.

The celebration was marked by several events including exhibitions from relevant partners, government agencies and stakeholders; entertainments from nearby learning institutions and local groups; commissioning of various water and water related projects; awards; inspection of various projects in the county; tree planting and speeches from key speakers.

In marking the day, a total of 8,000 trees and fruit tree seedlings were planted within the schools in the area. This exercise was in support of the national tree growing and restoration campaign that is ongoing and targeting to plant 15 billion trees by 2032.

Project inspected & launched by the PS include Borehole, water storage and reticulation, one-acre demo farm under drip model irrigation, sanitation facilities for both children and teachers, renovation of schools' infrastructures.

In his speech the PS stressed on the government's commitment to improved water accessibility (connecting 200,000 people to water and 350,000 to sewerage systems annually throughout the country.) in line with SDG 6. He mentioned the rolled out Government program dubbed Water 10,000 Programme (Maji Nyumbani Initiative) which is being implemented in the short, medium and long term to ensure universal access to water and seeks to connect five million households with clean and safe water.

NEMA's effort of protecting and conserving the water resources in the country and fragile ecosystems. NEMA policy direction is that all projects listed in the 2nd Schedule to comply with EMCA, 1999 and subsequent regulations and the office will be keen to ensure the project implementation adhere to the provisions.



CDE Samburu & RDE-RV & NRB region at the event

# Plant at least 30 trees annually, public urged



**NEMA Chairman Emilio Mugo (R) is assisted to plant a tree by NEMA officers – CDE Kiambu, Stephen Wambua, Director Enforcement, Salome Machua and Deputy Director Education and Awareness, Dr. Catherine Mbaisi**

**BY JOSEPH M. MWANGI**

**T**he World International Day of Forests was held at Kereita forest in Kiambu County. This was a move to embrace the day which was themed forest and health. The event was graced by several dignitaries which included the Principal Secretary of Forest Mr. Ephantus Kimotho, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) representative Madam Carla Mucavi and the Board Chairman, NEMA Mr. Emilio Mugo among other dignitaries.

The Principal Secretary Mr. Kimotho said that it is wise to work closely with the private sector using the full government approach. This can be implemented by the green army project of adopting of a forest. By adopting of forests, the private sectors are called upon to purchase seedlings from the Kenya Forest Service and later fence the area after planting.

The private sectors were also urged to involve the youths as they implement such exercises. “Planting should not be done as a Corporate Social Responsibility but rather do it as a sustainable measure for the natural capital forest” said Kimani.

In the issue of financing Kimani said that they will involve international partners such as the United Nations (UN) and FAO.

NEMA Board Chair, Mr. Emilio Mugo stated that the authority has created a more symphonic and joint relationship with the County Governments to enhance environmental management in the Country and service delivery and insisted onto the government initiative of the national 15 Billion tree planting and growing campaign.

Mucavi highlighted that forest is an essential component because it is almost one billion people around the world depend on it as a source of food, by harvesting fruits, nuts, meat insects and even herbs which are used as medicine. She also added that from the year 2015 to 2021 a lot of forest was lost due to human activities.

The event was commemorated by a tree planting exercise in the forest contributing to the Panda Miti initiative that aims at planting at least 15 billion trees by the year 2032. The initiative has an app which can be easily downloaded on an Android that helps on to identify the favorable plant species to plant at a particular place and also keep track of the total number of trees planted by one person. The app is also easy to navigate without any assistance. With every individual planting at least thirty trees in a year it will amount to three hundred trees in the next ten years for every person.

## Vision

**A clean, healthy and sustainable environment**

## Mission

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

## Motto

**Our Environment, Our life, Our Responsibility**

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