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nema news

The National Environment Management Authority

April - June 2018



Keeping Kenya Clean

Kenya strives to beat plastic pollution



Ministry of Environment
and National Resources

EFFECTING THE GAZETTE NOTICE ON THE BAN ON PLASTIC BAGS



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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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Our Environment, Our Life, Our Responsibility

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Let's work together for a clean environment for All

appealed to Kenyans to embrace alternative carrier bags. A three-judge-bench ruling on declining to quash the gazette notice which prompted the ban on plastic bags in August last year served as a win to the Authority's decision to implement the ban.

This quarter, the Authority hosted the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat Readiness Package Workshop at Panari Hotel. This put Kenya and the Authority at large on the map with regards to Adaptation Funds Confidence with the Authority as the National Implementing Entity NIE).

Moreover, it became a beneficiary of the grant to mentor Malawi and Zimbabwe who are in the process of seeking approval with Africa Fund Board. The Authority also served as the host organizer for the 10th Africa Carbon Forum which brought forth 800 delegates from 59 motherlands. The forum served as the 1st Climate Action Week.

In pursuit for a clean and habitable environment, the Authority ordered the immediate closure of Kiamaiko slaughterhouses due to lack of waste and water pre-treatment facilities as required of them. The Authority also organized a Nairobi clean-up campaign launched by the President. Additionally, it went ahead to map out premises contributing to the pollution of Nairobi River and

establishing a central command centre for its cleaning. PS Sunkuli told the Nairobi River cleanup to involve a multiagency coordination where relevant stakeholders had been brought onboard. The Authority also had a remarkable triumph identifying and closing all the illegal discharge points to the river at Kawangware.

To combat the negative effects of climate change, the Authority went on to participate in the national tree-planting drive launched by President Uhuru Kenyatta in Moi Forces Academy Nairobi and Ol Bolossat Forest, Nyandarua County. The Authority also spearheaded the launch of tree planting in six counties.

The Authority achieved much during the quarter including appointment of a new board of management as captured in the stories herein.

Voila, Enjoy the read!

Evans Nyabuto

Chief Corporate Communications Manager

This year has come along with good tidings for the Authority. During the year, Kenya boosted herself as having implemented the ban on importation, use and manufacture of plastic bags joining the league of other nations that have done so.

The execution of the ban on plastic bags did not fuel down throughout the year as the Authority worked closely with other lead agencies such as County governments, Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM), the police as well as the ministry of environment and forestry among other partners.

Apart from enforcing the ban, the Authority has continually garnered effort to create awareness on the ban on plastic bags. During the quarter, the Authority liaised with ward administrators, departments of public health and office of the county commissioner to create awareness and sensitize the business community about the ban.

This ban was supported by the Deputy President who during World Environmental Day (WED) also

New NEMA board inaugurated

By Samwel Irungu



Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Mr. Keriako Tobiko (L) being welcome by the NEMA Chairman, John Konchellah during the meeting [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU]



From L-R, Board members Prof. Bernabas Mitaru, Prof. Peninah Aloo, Teresia Mbaika and Dr. Juma Ngeywa during the meeting [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU]

The board of management is critical in an organization as it is responsible for overseeing operations of the Authority and set the tone to foster ethical and responsible decision making as well as appropriate oversight of an organization.

It is for this reason that the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Mr. Keriako Tobiko met the newly appointed board of management at NEMA headquarters on 18th June, 2018 during their inauguration.

In attendance was the NEMA Chairman of management, Mr. John Konchellah and Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu. The new board members includes; Teresia Mbaika, Augustino Neto, Prof. Peninah Aloo, Halima Ware, Prof. Bernabas Mitaru and Dr. Juma Ngeywa.

The CS promised to offer his absolute support to the board of management to ensure the Authority continues to achieve its mandate. He stressed on the need for the Authority to excel on its mandate of providing a clean and healthy environment for All.



CS Environment and forestry, Keriako Tobiko with the NEMA board members during the visit [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

(The writer is NEMA's Corporate Communications Officer)

NEMA hosts delegates from Pakistan

By Samwel Irungu



NEMA Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu speaking with Waseem Jaffery from Pakistan during the visit
[PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]



The delegates being taken through the NEMA's mandate at the boardroom [PHOTO: D. KAHUTHU/NEMA]



The delegates in a group photo [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

NEMA hosted delegates from Pakistan's National Management College and National School of Public policy, Lahore on 3rd May 2018 at NEMA headquarters.

The delegates were interested to learn about Environmental policies and the mandate of the Authority.

The delegates also paid a courtesy call to the Director General who briefed them on the recent Authority's undertakings such as the progress of plastic bags ban. The delegates were also taken through the NEMA's mandate by various sections and departments representatives.

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(The writer is NEMA's Corporate Communications Officer)

Don Bosco launches an environmental song

By Agnes Kamiri



Participants in a group photo during the event [PHOTO: COURTESY]



NEMA's Dr. Catherine Mbaisi (L) gives a copy of NEMA magazine to a teacher during the event [PHOTO: A. KAMIRI/NEMA]

Don Bosco day Secondary School is a school that was officially opened in January 2005 as a response to the growing need of a school to cater for under privileged within the local community of Makuyu and the surroundings.

The school is run by the Salestina Sisters of St. John. The school runs an environmental conservation project which aims to expose the young students, parents and other stakeholders on the importance of taking care of the environment.

The objective of the project is to

raise awareness on environmental conservation through music. The school raises the awareness through various ways, among them music. The students have produced two songs whose theme is conserving the nature given to mankind by God. The songs were launched on 16th June, 2018. The CD entitled ***"Make the world a better place. – Its about time"*** and is highlight that it is the responsibility of all of us to conserve the environment.

The event was attended by the Representatives from Muranga County Government, Muranga County Education Office, and NEMA. The

students were encouraged to participate in various environmental activities and think about new innovations on environmental conservation. They were also encouraged to participate and compete in the schools festivals on environmental songs.

The school Principal sister Lucy Wegoki thanked NEMA for gracing the occasion and also commended the Authority for the good work in conserving the environment. She indicated that the school would welcome any partnership that may come along.

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(The writer is NEMA's Corporate Communications Officer)

NEMA at the 5th Devolution Conference

By Anthony Waswa

NEMA participated in the 5th devolution conference that took place from 23rd to 27th April 2018 at Kakamega County.

The theme for this year's conference was 'Sustainable, productive, effective and efficient governments for results delivery'

The aim of the conference was to share lessons and experiences and reaffirm commitment to the devolution

process but also to interrogate the challenges and commitments. NEMA mounted a successful exhibition that showcased NEMA mandate and activities such as plastic bags ban.

The exhibition also served to create awareness on the Authority's role in guiding Counties implement the devolved functions mainly waste management, noise pollution and the up-coming Air Quality regulations.



NEMA's deputy director, Mr. Mamo Boru speaking to visitors at the NEMA booth during the event [PHOTO: A. MWANGI/ NEMA]

(The writer is NEMA's Senior Graphics Officer)

Laikipia County complies with plastic bag ban

By Fanuel Mosago

Plastic bags have been used over the years in Kenya to package bread, shopping, cereals and vegetables among others. However with effect from August 2017, the use, manufacture and importation of plastic carrier bags was banned nationwide which required NEMA to ensure traders, vendors, distributors and retailers comply by using alternatives in their transactions. Although plastic ban is an initial loss to the manufacturing industries, shift to eco-friendly bags will have long-term environmental benefits.

Plastic bags have over a long time been associated with adverse environmental and health effects. It has been identified with killing of birds, animals and fish that mistake them for food or get entangled by polythene bags. Due to the non-biodegradable nature of plastic, less than 30 microns damages agricultural land, clog waterways and litter streets hence take a long period to be disintegrated. Synthetic compounds in plastics especially Bisphenol A (also known as BPA) has been known to stimulate breast cancer cells and damage the quality of rat sperm. Proponents of plastic bags however argue that they are hygienic and preserve food in this case bread. Plastics make up most of the waste that leak into the ocean every year.

The negative impacts of plastics outweigh the positive effects hence justifying the ban. This crucial information is not conversant among a high number of citizens. Given Kenya's need for environmental sustainability, it is mandatory that NEMA works to sensitize our present and future generations to curb environmental degradation and destruction.

For this reason a need arose to sensitize the public towards environmental protection. Knowledge is power which facilitates individuals and social groups to play a proactive role in environmental conservation.

NEMA in conjunction with ward administrators, department of public health, office of the county

commissioner liaised to create awareness and sensitize the business community in all market centers in Laikipia east and west. This took about four months to accomplish. The meetings targeted the business community, explaining the banned plastics. The community thus has been informed that there will be no more grace period and anyone found with the banned plastic bags will be arrested and charged. The chiefs and the police in these markets were also requested and accepted to assist in enforcement of the ban.



Some of banned plastic bags confiscated during an inspection on plastic bags [PHOTO: COURTESY]

NEMA plants trees in Lamu, Nyandarua Counties

By Salim Bashir & Samwel Irungu



NEMA's Deputy Director Enforcement, Ms. Salome Machua speaking during the tree planting in Lamu. Looking is DFA, Mr. Kennedy Ochuka presiding over the event [PHOTO: COURTESY]

NEMA has been participating in planting of trees as directed by Environment and Forestry Mr. Keriako Tobiko. The Authority has spearheaded launch of tree planting in six Counties.

On 17th April 2018, the Authority presided over the launch of tree planting season for Lamu County at Manda Island Airstrip. The guest of honor during the event was NEMA's Director for Finance and Administration (DFA), Mr. Kennedy Ochuka who represented the Director General. He was accompanied by the Deputy Director for Enforcement, Ms. Salome Machua.

Mr. Ochuka also made a courtesy call to the Governor of Lamu County, Mr. Fahim Twaha accompanied by Ms. Salome Machua, Salim Bashir and Kahindi Yeri all from NEMA and the County Ecosystems Conservator, Mr. Maneno and the County Director of Environment and Natural Resources, County Government of Lamu, Mr. Mohammed Baishe.

During the courtesy call, Mr. Ochuka thanked the county government of Lamu for having given NEMA land that had enabled the Authority to construct a Green Point Office in the county. He also requested the governor's support in management of the environment in the county especially on the ban on use of plastic

bags. The exercise involved planting of mangroves at the Manda airstrip at Manda Island.

Planting trees at Ol Bolossat forest, Nyandarua County

NEMA participated in the planting of trees at Ol Bolossat Forest, Nyandarua County on April 10th 2018.

The ceremony was led by Nyandarua Governor H.E Francis Kimemia. NEMA was represented by Deputy Director Coastal Marine and Fresh Waters, Stephen Katua and County Director for Environment in Nyandarua County, Nancy Muui. More than 15,000 trees were planted.



NEMA Deputy Director, Mr. Stephen Katua planting a tree at Ol Bolossat Forest station [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]



Dignitaries joins dancers during the celebrations to mark launch of tree planting season in Nyandarua County [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU]

(The writer is NEMA's CDE, Lamu County & Communications Officer)

Judges uphold plastic bags ban

By Brendah Rajwayi

“The limitation of rights imposed by the impugned gazette notice was reasonable and justifiable...”



with the Constitution,” the judges said. They further added that although some ordinary Kenyans could suffer social and economic losses as a result of the ban, the plastic ban was for the common good of the general public and as such lawful.

The judgment was conveyed in a case in which the Kenya Association of Manufacturers, importers, exporters, wholesalers and retailers together with activists Okiya Omtatah had challenged the ban on the use, manufacture as well as importation of certain types of plastic bags used for commercial and household packaging.

The plaintiffs had in separate suits sued the Environment Cabinet Secretary, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and Attorney General. The judges said that the

suit entailed a lingering dispute of facts, which appeared straight forward on the surface but contained complex legal issues underneath.

The legal battle started soon after the environment CS published a gazette notice on the ban on usage, manufacturing and importation of plastic bags with at least five cases being filed. The plaintiffs claimed lack of public participation and their doom to suffer great economic losses but the ministry said it had engaged various stakeholders through Nema in 27 meetings since 2006. The ministry also articulated to the court that previous attempts to control the negative environmental impacts of plastics had been futile.

The Environment and Lands Court has ruled in favor of the plastic bag ban. Judges Samson Okong’o, Antonina Bor and Benard Eboso on Friday 22nd June 2018 declined to quash the gazette notice which prompted the ban on plastic bags in August last year.

The three-judge-bench stated that the government did not violate any rights in imposing the ban. They went further to point out the lack of evidence to prove increased cost of packaging or a health risk as a result hence the decline to invalidate the February 28th, 2017 gazette notice. Further, the judges noted that the benefits of the ban outweigh the harm caused by it. “The limitation of rights imposed by the impugned gazette notice was reasonable and justifiable and as such accords

(The writer is NEMA’s intern at Communications Section)



PS Environment and Forestry, Charles Sunkuli gives a book to a participant during the biodiversity day
 [PHOTO: D. KAHUTHU/NEMA]



NEMA's Dr. Catherine Mbaisi planting a tree during the International Biodiversity Day at Karura
 [PHOTO: D. KAHUTHU/NEMA]

Celebrating 25 years of Action for Biological Diversity

By Dorcas Kahuthu

International Day for Biodiversity is celebrated annually on 22nd May. The convention of Biological Diversity was opened for signatures in 1992 during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Rio 'Earth Summit'). The convention came into force in 1993.

It represents a step forward in conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of resources. This year the event took place at the Kenya Forest Service headquarters at Karura Forest.

The event was presided over by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry Mr. Charles Sunkuli.

The theme this year was 'Celebrating 25 years of Action for Biological Diversity.' Among the organizations that were in attendance include: NEMA, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, Kenya Water Tower Agency among others. The PS started by leading an exercise on tree planting which saw all the authority's heads plant a tree each. NEMA was represented by Dr. Catherine Mbaisi on behalf of the Director General.

The PS highlighted the importance of biological diversity and urged every Kenyan to improve the status of Kenya's biodiversity through tree planting and noted with appreciation the National tree planting exercise

launched by His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta. He pressed on the importance of healthy ecosystems and rich biodiversity and thanked all the organizations that are working tirelessly in the conservation of the environment.

The organizations in attendance had a chance to exhibit their work and what they do at large. NEMA also mounted a successful exhibition where the authority had an opportunity to explain to the PS the mandate of NEMA, some of the recent undertakings such as the plastic bag ban and its implementation and also explained on how they are taking an active part to ensure and improve Kenya's biodiversity.

During the event, the PS also awarded the authorities with awards from the Ministry of Environment, recognized them and encouraged them to continue with the good work of conserving the environment. They clearly demonstrated how biodiversity and development belong together, by showing how they depend on this ecosystem's services.

(The writer is an intern at Communications Section)



National workshop to validate SEA, IEIA, EA regulations held

By Agnes Kamiri

A section of the participants during the workshop at Intercontinental hotel, Nairobi [PHOTO: A. KAMIRI/NEMA]

The 2nd National validation workshop was held on 28th May, 2018 at the Intercontinental Hotel, Nairobi. The aim of the workshop was to present the draft Environmental Management (Strategic Assessment, Integrated Impact assessment and Audit) Regulations, 2018. The draft regulation was as a result of the comments raised during the various stakeholders workshops held previously country wide.

The overall objective of the Environmental Management (Strategic Assessment, Integrated Impact assessment and Audit Regulation, 2018 is to align it to the EMCA CAP 387 which was amended in 2015. The regulations also seek to address emerging issues such as Strategic Environmental Assessments, environmental and social safeguard procedures and climate change.



Director C & E, Mr. David Ongare speaking during the validation workshop at Intercontinental hotel Nairobi [PHOTO: A. KAMIRI/NEMA]

The Authority has undertaken various workshops countrywide on the same and has received comments from stakeholders and members of the public on the draft regulations. The workshops have been previously held in Coast Region, North Eastern, Rift Valley, Central, Western, and Nairobi.

In his remarks, the Director Compliance and Enforcement, Mr. David Ongare on behalf of the Director General thanked the participants for their fruitful engagement since the process started and urged them to continue consulting with NEMA if need be. The comments received during the 2nd National Validation Workshop will be incorporated to the main document. The Draft Regulation will be presented to the Director General for onward forwarding to the Cabinet Secretary.

(The writer is NEMA's Corporate Communications Officer)



NEMA officers closing one of the illegal discharge hotel at Kawangware [PHOTO: D. KAHUTHU/NEMA]

Authority closes illegal discharge points

By Dorcas Kahuthu

Nema has embarked on closing all illegal sewage discharge points to the river.

On 30th May 2018 a team led by Deputy Director Enforcement, Salome Machua and Nairobi County Director Environment Njoki Mukiri started to identify all the discharge points to the river at Kawangware. Among the identified points were the estates which are letting their waste freely out to the rivers leading to pollution of the rivers. All the identified discharge



NEMA officers during the inspection in Kawangware, Nairobi [PHOTO: D. KAHUTHU/NEMA]

points were closed and the owners were given warning to comply with the directives to have proper waste disposal mechanisms. Among them were Ebenezzar Estate, Gulf Estate, Benfah Court and Koinania Mother House Rescue Centre.

The area covered was Kinyanjui road and the team hopes to identify all the discharge points around the county. This is in line with cleaning the Nairobi River that was launched by the CS recently.

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(The writer is an Intern at Communications Section)

NEMA hosts Adaptation Fund board

By Samwel Irungu



Participants of the Adaptation Fund readiness package workshop at Masinga Resort during the event

[PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

NEMA hosted the Adaptation Fund Board secretariat readiness package workshop from 4th - 6th April 2018 at Panari Hotel.

NEMA was selected to host the workshop after successfully expressing interest to host the board and was selected among the five NIEs that had expressed their interests. This puts NEMA and Kenya on the map with regards to Adaptation Funds confidence with NEMA as an NIE.

This meeting brought together representatives from 24 selected developing countries, including 13 countries that have expressed a strong interest to progress. Further, in the accreditation application process, as well as 11 NIEs already accredited with the Fund that are eligible to provide south-south peer support through the Fund's South-South cooperation grants and staff from the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat.

The workshop sought to build a common understanding of the challenges and gaps in attaining accreditation with the Fund as provided by entities seeking accreditation

with the Fund as well as to provide capacity-building support to such entities through South-South cooperation grants, to be able to effectively provide peer support for accreditation.

The countries represented include Antigua and Barbuda, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, Costa Rica, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mali, Moldova, Peru, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, USA, and Kenya.

The workshop was officially opened by NEMA Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu. Prof. Wahungu lauded the Secretariat for selecting Kenya and by large NEMA to host the workshop. "This workshop is going to provide targeted and tailored support to address specific gap areas identified by entities seeking accreditation with the Fund as requiring further assistance and capacity support beyond the support already available through the Readiness Programme," Prof. Wahungu stated.

As part of the Climate Finance Readiness Programme of the Adaptation Fund Board's South-South Grants,

NEMA is a beneficiary of the grant to mentor Malawi and Zimbabwe who are in the process of seeking accreditation with AF Board.

NEMA has held a high level engagement with the two countries that enlisted their governments support and secured commitment to execute the AF South-South Grant towards achieving accreditation for Environmental Management Agency (EMA) and Malawi Environment Trust Fund (MEET) in Zimbabwe and Malawi respectively.



Manager Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) Secretariat, Mr. Mikko Ollikainen (L) and Ms. Wangare Kirumba, Adaptation Fund/Green Climate Fund Programmes making remarks during the field visit to AF project site at Ngetani in Masinga [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]



Participants during the visit to Masinga dam [PHOTO: IRUNGU/NEMA]

Through the Adaptation Funds accreditation, Kenya was able to secure funding to the tune of 1 Billion Kenya shillings. The implementation of the concrete climate change adaptation actions based on the needs, views and priorities of communities in vulnerable areas on the country. The works are being undertaken in 14 different counties spread throughout the country. While making her presentation, NIE Coordinator, Ms. Wangare Kirumba noted that they had learnt important lessons during the accreditation process, submission, and subsequent approval of the programme, and the on-going implementation.



Adaptation Fund/Green Climate Fund Programmes coordinator, Ms. Wangare Kirumba, making remarks during the conference at Panari Hotel [PHOTO: IRUNGU/NEMA]



Attendants participate in 'NEMA clap' during the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat Readiness Package Workshop at Panari Hotel, Nairobi [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

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(The writer is NEMA's Corporate Communications Officer)

Cleanup of Nairobi River Launched

By Samwel Irungu

The cleanup of Nairobi River was launched on 19th April 2018 at Michuki memorial park. The launch was led by the Permanent Secretary ministry of Environment and Forestry, Charles Sunkuli and NEMA Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu and representatives from the county government among other government departments. A central command centre for cleaning of the river has also been established. During the launch, PS Sunkuli announced that the cleanup will involve a multiagency coordination where relevant stakeholders have been brought onboard. NEMA has been mapping out premises contributing to the pollution of Nairobi River since Monday 16th April 2018.

Speaking at the launch, NEMA Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu warned those involved in pollution that the Authority will take action on them. “The Authority has been mapping premises in Dagoretti, Kawangware, Karen (Nairobi Dam), Kirichwa rivers, Mater and Kiamaiko in order to inform the cleaning of the river and take action against polluters,” Wahungu stated. He added that those who have encroached on riparian reserves and are polluting the rivers are advised to



From R_CS Environment and Forestry, Keriako Tobiko, CS Transport, James Macharia and Deputy head of civil service Wanyama Musiambo during the inspection of Nairobi River [PHOTO: J. OCHIENO/NEMA]



CS Environment and Forestry, Keriako Tobiko with NEMA DG, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu during the launch of Nairobi River cleanup [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU]



Officials participating in the cleanup of Nairobi River [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

vacate. Some of the polluters of the river include slaughterhouses, slums, businesses and residences.

The Environment and Forestry Cabinet Secretary Keriako Tobiko accompanied by his counterpart Transport CS, James Macharia also inspected Nairobi River on 20th April 2017 ahead of its planned cleanup and restoration programme next month. The exercise is part of the Nairobi Regeneration Program championed by President Uhuru Kenyatta. Tobiko urged Counties to carryout their mandate responsibly by utilizing the allocated funds for the intended purposes.

The CS Transport and Infrastructure, James Macharia was also present

during the launch. He stated that the regeneration of Nairobi City was critical to the National government to achieve Ksh 500,000 affordable housing units as part of the 4 pillars of development agenda. He added that filth that overflowed in Nairobi River must be removed urgently to attract investors in housing and other sectors. Others who accompanied the two CS' were the deputy head of civil service Mr. Wanyama Musiambo and NEMA Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu.

NEMA has already mapped out premises polluting the Nairobi Rivers and would be closed down soon.

“ *The exercise is part of the Nairobi Regeneration Program championed by President Uhuru Kenyatta.* ”

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(The writer is NEMA's Corporate Communications Officer)

ELC judges annual conference held

By Agnes Kamiri



Participants during the ELC conference in Serena Beach Hotel [PHOTO: A. KAMIRI/NEMA]

The annual Judges conference on Environment and Lands court was held between 4th and 9th June, 2018, at Serena Beach and Spa Resort in Mombasa. This was an initiative by Judges Training Institute (JTI), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), African Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW), Environment and Lands Court (ELC) and Wildlife Direct to bring all the stakeholders in the environmental and land adjudication together to discuss jurisdictional conflicts and other challenges facing adjudication in the Environment and Lands Court.

The Partnership between the Judiciary and NEMA was cemented during the inaugural conference held on 10th - 15th June 2014 in Mombasa and later in the training held on 4th - 6th June, 2016. This meeting has seen major milestones which can be attested by the quality of decisions on environmental issues churning out of the Environment and Land Court.

As far as the environmental issues are concerned, the judiciary has a role to play to ensure environmental management and attainment of sustainable development.

This role is to spare effort to free all of humanity from the threat of living on a planet irredeemably degraded by human activities and whose resources would no longer be sufficient for their needs. Further, the Judiciary is empowered to apply the judicial process independently to ensure implementation, development and enforcement of environmental law.

The training was graced by the Chief Justice and the President of the Supreme Court, Justice David Maraga. In his opening remarks, he thanked NEMA for inviting him to open the conference. He lauded the initiative by JTI, NEMA, ANAW, ELC and Wildlife Direct to bring all the stakeholders in the environmental and land adjudication together. He said he urged all the courts and tribunals to work together harmoniously, as the Constitution, 2010 require that all the courts and tribunals be brought under the judiciary. He said the process of integrating the tribunals into the judiciary is ongoing.

In his speech, NEMA Director General Prof. Wahungu called upon the Judiciary to enforce sustainable development policies owing to its crucial role in dispute

resolution and interpretation of laws. The DG said that the Judiciary is key in ensuring that contemporary developments in international environmental law can aid in strengthening national efforts in environmental protection as well as sustainable development. He said that the forum would serve as a platform for exchange of ideas and sharing of experiences that will shape the arena of environmental law and help in attaining the sustainable development goal. “The conference will be

a milestone in cementing the gains made in as far as the collaboration between NEMA and the Judiciary is concerned,” he added.

He thanked Judges and Deputy registrars of the Environment and Land Court (ELC) and staff of the Judiciary Training Institute for finding time to attend the forum.



The Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court, David Maraga giving his opening remarks
[PHOTO: A.KAMIRI/NEMA]



NEMA Director, Legal Services, Ms. Irene Kamunge speaking during the event [PHOTO: A. KAMIRI/NEMA]



The conference in progress at Serena Beach Hotel [PHOTO: A. KAMIRI/NEMA]

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(The writer is NEMA's Corporate Communications Officer)

Kenya hosts 10th Africa Carbon Forum

By Samwel Irungu & Dorcas Kahuthu



Delegates in a group photo during the carbon conference [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

Kenya was privileged to host the 10th Africa Carbon Forum from 9th to 13th April 2018 which is also serving as the 1st Climate Action Week. The event is being held at UN Gigiri Complex.

The theme for this year's forum, "Climate Action for Sustainable Development: Driving Change in Africa." This is an annual event held in the African Continent that draws members from government, private sector and non-state actors with the objective of acting as a carbon fare, capacity building forum and an exhibition event. The 1st Carbon Forum was held in Nairobi in 2009 and NEMA served as the host organizer since we serve as the Designated National Authority for the

Clean Development Mechanism. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other partner members are under Nairobi.

Framework Partnership (NFP) were the joint organizers of the Africa Carbon Forum (ACF). The forum was organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA).

The forum brought together 800 delegates from 59 countries, including ministers, experts, carbon market players, policy makers and other high-level government and international officials, together with non-state delegates, offered their insights into the challenges and



One of the sessions ongoing during the forum at UNEP
[PHOTO: D. KAHUTHU/NEMA]

possible responses to climate change, and harvested those insights for consideration in the official international climate negotiation process.

Some of the high-level ministerial delegation included CS Environment and Forestry, Mr. Keriako Tobiko; Executive Secretary UNFCCC, Patricia Espinosa; Executive Director, UN-Habitat, Maimunah Mohd; Tomasz Chruszczow, High level Champion for COP 24, Poland and Erik Solheim, Executive Director UN Environment.

Action on climate change and sustainable development together was the way forward for Africa. That is the top-line message that regional, public and private sector delegates carried to the international climate negotiations after a week of deliberations in the Kenyan capital. In coming to the climate agreement in Paris, countries recognized that success will require broad-based climate action by all sectors of society, both public and private, and by individuals. It is this action that the Africa Climate Week seeks to promote.



Executive Director, UN-Habitat, Maimunah Mohd at the NEMA exhibition booth during the event
[PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]

The Nairobi Framework Partnership members include: UNEP DTU Partnership, the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, International Emissions Trading Association, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, UN Climate Change, and World Bank Group.



CS Environment and Forestry, Keriako Tobiko (2nd L) with NEMA DG Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu (L) are received by Anne Mumbi (R) and Eunice Kibunga at the NEMA booth [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

(The writer is NEMA's Corporate Communications Officer and an intern)

National tree planting season launched

By Samwel Irungu



President Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto leads other government officials in a cleanup exercise at Moi Forces Academy during the launch of tree planting season [PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]

“Panda Miti,
Penda Kenya’
This years theme

President Uhuru Kenyatta launched the national tree planting drive in Nairobi Moi Forces Academy on 12th May 2018. The event was attended by Deputy President William Ruto, First Lady Margaret Kenyatta, Governor Nairobi County, various Cabinet Secretaries and other government officials.

The President also launched a campaign to clean up Nairobi City at the Juja, Outering road roundabout that was organized by NEMA and Nairobi County. The President regretted that the city was falling under the weight of garbage and reckless dumping of chemicals and other hazardous industrial waste on roads and rivers. He went ahead to demand the Governor of Nairobi County, Mike Sonko to ensure that all the sub counties in Nairobi are cleaned up.

NEMA also mounted a successful exhibition where the Authority had a rare opportunity to explain to the President and his deputy the mandate of NEMA and some of its recent undertakings such as plastic bags ban implementation.

During the event, the president announced the establishment of Presidential Environment Awards Scheme that will go towards recognizing individual's contributions in the management and conservation of the environment.

The government plans to plant at least 1.8 billion trees by 2022. The tree planting drive was replicated in 47 counties and targets to boost the country's forest cover by 10 percent by 2022.

This year's theme was, 'Panda Miti, Penda Kenya' that saw Kenyans mobilized from all over the country to plant trees.

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*(The writer is NEMA's
Communications Officer)*



President Uhuru Kenyatta, First Lady Margaret Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto at the NEMA booth during the launch of tree planting season
[PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]



CS Environment and Forestry, Keriako Tobiko watering a tree during the launch of tree planting season at Moi Forces Academy
[PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]



NEMA officers among other participants during the cleanup exercise along Juja Road in Nairobi
[PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]

WDCD 2018 Celebrations Held

By Samwel Irungu



Dignitaries put on lesos given by locals during the WDCD celebrations in Kajiado County [PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]

World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD) was celebrated at Oldonyonyokie Primary School in Magadi, Kajiado County. The day is observed annually every 17th as required by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) which Kenya signed in 1994 and ratified in 1997.

The theme for this year's event was "Land has true value-lets invest in it". The theme served to help us reflect on the many challenges facing us in our effort to combat desertification.

The chief guest was Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Forestry, Keriako Tobiko. The event was attended by Permanent



NEMA Board members, Bernabas Mitaru plants a tree assisted by NEMA Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu during the WDCD celebrations [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

Secretary, ministry of environment and forestry, Charles Sunkuli, Deputy Governor Kajiado, Martin Moshisho, NEMA board of management Chairman, John Konchellah, Board of directors, Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu and management team, area elected leaders and a host of other dignitaries and stakeholders.

Speaking during the event, CS Environment and Forestry, Mr. Keriako Tobiko noted the increased desertification of some areas in Kajiado County making it to experience prolonged droughts. The Area is also prone to flooding and siltation of existing water bodies which has contributed to loss of life and property.

The County government of Kajiado was represented by the Deputy Governor, Martin Moshisho who praised the government's effort to get rid of plastic paper bags from the environment.

Prior to the cleanup, there was a cleanup at Kiserian town as a build up activity led by NEMA and the Kajiado County government.

The Cabinet Secretary also launched the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for the mining Sector in Kenya. The locals were awarded with donkeys and goats organized by the Authority.

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(The writer is NEMA's Communications Officer)



The dignitaries at the NEMA booth during the WDCD celebrations at Oldonyonyokie primary school [PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]



CS Environment Keriako Tobiko gives the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for the mining Sector in Kenya to Deputy Governor Martin Moshisho during the WDCD celebrations [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]



CS Environment, Keriako Tobiko donates a donkey to a local as DG NEMA Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu readsout the names of the people who were awarded [PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]



L-R-Governor Kwale County, Salim Mvurya, Deputy President, William Ruto and CS for Environment and Forestry, Keriako Tobiko during the event [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]

Kenyans join hands to beat plastic pollution

By Samwel Irungu

“ Eight million tonnes of plastic end up in the oceans every year, the United Nations estimates. Further, the world consumes 500 billion plastic bags annually.

It is against this backdrop that the World joined hands on 5th June 2018 to “Beat Plastic Pollution” during the World Environment Day (WED). In Kenya, national WED celebrations was at Kwale County, Baraza Park spearheaded by NEMA.

The event full of pomp and colour acted as a clarion call

to raise awareness towards marine pollution and raising awareness on the importance of saving our oceans. The domesticated slogan for this year’s event was “Greening the Blue” which called on concerted efforts to beat plastic pollution from our water bodies and the environment in general.

The Deputy President, William Ruto was the chief guest during the event. In his remarks, the Deputy President directed the ministry of Environment and Forestry to initiate monthly cleanup exercises in all counties in order to reduce pollution and enhance aesthetic value of the environment.

The Deputy President stated that the annual National Cleanup will be established to take place every



NEMA Chairman, Mr. John Konchellah signs the visitors book assisted by Anne Mumbi and Maureen Kwamboka when he visited the booth [PHOTO: S. IRUNGU/NEMA]



CS Environment and Forestry, Keriako Tobiko with NEMA Director General, Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu during the launch of Mangroves planting at Vanga in Kwale County [PHOTO: COURTESY]



The procession in progress during the WED celebrations in Kwale

September. He appealed to all Kenyans to embrace alternative carrier bags following a government ban on plastic bags last year. He noted that plastic bags have been a major pollutant of the environment in the country clogging drainages, killing livestock and threatening the entire ecosystem.

The Deputy President announced that the government

would set a side money in the Environmental budget to expand mangrove forests alongside planting other tree species in the coast region in a bid to conserve the environment and set up climate change mitigation. He further informed the public that the government will not rescind on the ban on plastic and urged manufacturers to expedite the newly introduced take-back scheme on used plastic bottles in a bid to promote reuse and recycling.



Deputy President, William Ruto awards certificates to winners of environmental conservation groups as the Director General, NEMA Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu reads out the names [PHOTO: A. MWANGI/NEMA]

The Deputy President also awarded certificates to individuals and groups involved in environmental conservation in the coastal region such as Mikoko Pamoja, a community initiative working to promote the blue carbon economy and climate mitigation.

The celebrations were attended by the Environment and Forestry Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Keriako Tobiko and ministry's Permanent Secretary, Charles Sunkuli, Kwale Governor, Mr. Salim Mvurya, Kwale Senator, Mr. Boy Juma, NEMA Chairman, Mr. John Konchellah and NEMA Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu among a host of other guests including Members of County Assembly and some Members of Parliament from the Coastal region.

The Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Forestry, Mr. Keriako Tobiko noted that Kenya has potential to plant more mangroves in the coastal region to mitigate effects of climate change as well as reap from Carbon credits. He noted that government's big four agenda of affordable housing, manufacturing, universal health and food security depended on the environment, calling for concerted efforts to save the environment.

Before the main celebrations, WED was preceded by various activities such as Mangrove planting at Vanga in Kwale County, a visit to Kinondo Mangrove plantations in Gazi Kwale, Cleanup exercises and Tree planting. The Authority also mounted a successful exhibition during the celebrations.

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“ ...the government would set a side money in the Environmental budget to expand mangrove forests alongside planting other tree species in the coast region..

- Deputy President -

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(The writer is NEMA's Communications Officer)

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 through:

Cell: 0786 101 100 or 0741 101 100

Email: incidence@nema.go.ke

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