

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

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## CS inaugurates NEMA Board



By S. Irungu

**Environment and Forestry CS Keriako Tobiko (C), Joel Kitili, Administrative and Support Services (L) when they received NEMA Board led by Chairman, John Konchellah (R). From R-L standing- Samson Nyangeso, DG Mamo B. Mamo, Shanu B. Abudho, Charles Mulilo and Dr. Lul Abdiwahid**

The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Keriako Tobiko inaugurated the newly appointed NEMA Board members at the Ministry's headquarters on 29th November 2021.

The CS engaged the members on various environmental issues regarding the Authority's mandate as well as the Big Four Agenda.

The CS asked the board to implement directives issued by President Uhuru Kenyatta including ban on plastic carrier bags, ban on single use plastic bags in parks, forests and public beaches, incorporation of environmental education in the school learning strategy and curriculum and cleanup of Nairobi River and its tributaries from the source.

The CS urged the board members to work with other SAGAs within the ministry as the mandate of most of them intertwines. He urged them to support the President's Big four Agenda as they all rely on environment. "Let us do our bit to ensure the President delivers on his legacy agenda," CS Tobiko said.

He further urged the Board to enforce its coordinative role especially on the devolved functions of waste management and pollution control. Under EMCA, the CS noted that NEMA has a statutory overarching coordinating function between the National Government and the Devolved units. This will ensure the Authority reins on the environmental offenders.

The CS assured the Board of his absolute support as they discharge their duties. The four newly appointed board members include; Shanu B. Abudho, Dr. Lul Abdiwahid, Samson Nyangeso and Charles Mulila.

The members were led by the NEMA Board of Management Chairman, John Konchellah. NEMA Director General, Mamo B. Mamo and Joel Kitili, head administrative and support services at the Ministry were also in attendance.

The Chair congratulated the new board for their appointment into the NEMA Board. The members assured the CS that they are equal to the task to deliver on the tasks ahead.

# NEMA launches its 10th Green Point



**NEMA Siaya Green Point**

**N**EMA launched its 10th Green Point in Siaya County on 26th October 2021.

A Green Point is a building that aims at interpreting the green and blue economy concept in the Kenyan context.

The design and functions of a green Point adopt green building technologies reducing ecological footprint and demonstrating environmental best practices.

“The Green Point concept combines a more decentralized approach to NEMAs role in environmental awareness, enforcement and compliance to environmental standards at national and County levels,” Mamo B. Mamo. The DG was represented by Director Corporate Services, Kennedy Ochuka.

**NEMA has Green Points in the following Counties;**

**HomaBay, Isiolo, Embu, Taita Taveta, Kajiado, Kilifi, Elgeyo-Marakwet, Samburu and Lamu and Siaya.**

NEMA Chairman John Konchellah who was the Chief Guest and represented the Environment and Forestry CS Keriako Tobiko noted that the established of Green Points has brought forth services to the people and stimulated green growth.

Other Green Points are in 9 Counties including; HomaBay, Isiolo, Embu, Taita Taveta, Kajiado, Kilifi, Elgeyo-Marakwet, Samburu and Lamu.

These centers are fully functional to demonstrate green technologies and environmental friendly innovations.



**NEMA Chairman, John Konchellah (L) with Deputy Governor Siaya, Dr. James Okumbe cutting the tape to launch the Siaya Green Point**

The Green Points have incorporated aspects of green technologies such as rainwater harvesting, waste water recycling, low energy consumption, solar power, and solid waste segregation among other green building features.

The Green Points acts as reference libraries to improve and expand the advisory role of NEMA in Counties especially on issues related to promotion of sound environmental management.

They also create a platform where County Government, County Ministries, Departments, private sector, civil societies, research institutions and academia, local communities and schools converge for knowledge sharing and exchange of ideas, information and education on environmental best practices to stimulate green growth.



**NEMA Director Corporate Services, Kennedy Ochuka planting a tree for planting at the Green Point launch**

## NEMA participates in Karen golf Championship

By Samwel Irungu & Grace Senewa



NEMA Chair John Konchellah (2nd R) and DG Mamo B. Mamo (C) awarding a trophy to Emmanuel Agengo the Men's Holes Silver Gross winner during the StokePlay Championship at KarenGolfClub. They are flanked by Allan Wainaina(L) and Gilbert Maina (R) club's Chair and Captain respectively.

**N**EMA sponsored the 2021 Karen Golf Club Stoke play championship from 16th to 17th October 2021 which was held at the club. This one of the Corporate Social Responsibility that the Authority engages in to reach to the communities including organized clubs, communities and societies.

The aim of the activity was to create awareness to the golfers on environmental management especially waste management, climate change, tree planting as well as the plastic ban.

NEMA Chairman, John Konchellah was among the golfers who participated in the two-day championship. During the event, Mr. Konchellah led in a tree planting ceremony at the club where about 50 trees were planted. He was accompanied by the club's Chairman and Captain Allan Wainaina and Gilbert Maina.

Mr. Konchellah urged the club members to support and engage in tree planting and general environmental cleanliness in their spheres. He further urged the

members to support Authority where possible in its endeavor to supervise and coordinate environmental management in the country.

On his part, NEMA Director General, Mamo B. Mamo urged the members to take charge of their environment especially waste management. "The right to a clean and health environment."



NEMA Chairman, John Konchellah planting a tree with Karen club Captain, Gilbert Maina. They were flanked by NEMA staff and Club's Captain Allan Wainaina

## NEMA participation in the COP 26, Glasgow



The launch of the Youth Climate Action Strategy for Kenya 2021-2030 in Glasgow during the COP26 in Glasgow



NEMA Director General Mamo B. Mamo paid a courtesy call on the CEO and Chairman of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez during COP26 in Glasgow



DG Mamo B. Mamo held a Consultative Meeting with the Executive Director of the African Development Bank Mr. Cheptoo Amos on the sidelines of the Climate Change Summit in Glasgow



NEMA Director General, Mamo B. Mamo held talks with the Executive Director of UNEP Ms. Inger Anderson at the Glasgow sides event of Stockholm + 50 where Kenya will be co-hosting with Sweden early next year.



NEMA staff, lecturers from Nairobi University and JKUAT among other stakeholders during the workshop at Boma Hotel, Nairobi

## Compliance Assistance Program

**N**EMA is undertaking a compliance assistance program in collaboration with academia and industries.

The aim of the program is to create linkage between regulator, the world of academic and the industries who normally shy away from seeking information for some of the basic requirement required even in compliance.

With this nature of linkage, it is envisioned that the industries will be able to comply with minimum assistance and more of guidance from the Authority.

Compliance Assistance program will provide stakeholders -businesses, County governments among others with tools to help meet environmental regulatory requirements.

This will enable the stakeholders to meet requirements of law and codes designed to protect the environment. This way, enforcement of environmental compliance will be reduced hence creating an enabling environment for businesses to thrive in the country. NEMA DG was represented by Director Compliance and Enforcement, David Ongare.



Director Compliance and Enforcement, David Ongare.

## Resist Antimicrobial Resistance in the Environment

By S. Irungu



**G**rowing antimicrobial resistance linked to discharge of drugs and particular chemicals into the environment is one of the most worrying health threats today.

**Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change over time and no longer respond to medicines making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death.**

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

Bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics

are more likely to survive and reproduce, passing on their genes for resistance. This is particularly true in an environment contaminated with antibiotics, as non-resistant bacteria that would otherwise compete for resources are killed.

The NEMA Director General Mamo B. Mamo participated in this year's Antimicrobial Week during the Antimicrobial Awareness week held from 15th to 19th November 2021. The week long event was themed, "Spread Awareness, Stop Resistance" and sought to create awareness on the use of Antimicrobial.

Speaking during the event at Sarova Panafric on 19th November 2021, the NEMA DG noted that NWMA through its coordinating role is implementing various regulations coupled with EMCA 1999 to help monitor samples in the environment as well as educate the public on responsible use of microbial Resistance. The Authority has also developed and cascaded the National Waste Management Strategy for use in the Counties to manage waste. In particular, the DG noted that the Authority has been enforcing against illegal effluent discharges in line with the Water Quality Regulations of 2006.

**NEMA DG Mamo B. Mamo (2nd L) together with other stakeholders launching several books during the event.**



NEMA DG Mamo B. Mamo speaking during the event



**NEMA Director General Mamo B Mamo (2nd L) participating in a session on waste management during the Devolution conference in Makueni**

By Sarah Muthoni & Samwel Irungu

## Climate change takes centre stage at the 7th devolution conference

The 7th devolution conference was held at Makueni Boys in Makueni County under the theme, “multi-level governance for climate action” where the sub-theme was- Sub-national mobilization in unlocking the full potential of climate action during and after pandemics.

The conference was held from 23rd to 26th November 2021.

The conference offers a key platform through which both the national and county governments come together to reflect upon and evaluate their achievements.

This conference a critical platform to reflect on issues of climate change and generally environment.

NEMA Director General Mamo B. Mamo participated in the 7th and final Devolution Conference 2021 at Makueni Boys High School, Makueni County on a Session on, “Effective Waste management and climate change to enhance livelihoods.” During the last day of the conference.

The DG informed the delegates that NEMA developed the National Waste Management Strategy and cascaded it to Counties with a 10 minimum points for management of waste.

The Counties are to abide with the provisions of this strategy in waste management to harmonize the manner in which waste is managed across the Country.

The DG also noted that waste management menace in the Country has been compounded by the throw-away culture by Kenyans. He added that everyone has duty to keep his or her environment clean. He remarked that Kenyans need to change their mindset towards environmental from the throw away mindset to minding one’s environment.

He proposed four points that can enhance waste management by the Counties as follows;

1. Policy framework and promotion of green jobs
2. Value addition on waste products and enhancing waste collecting
3. Collaboration and partnership to create jobs for the youths
4. Robust enforcement actions for waste to be collected and disposed in a proper manner.

NEMA has been implementing the Adaptation fund project in Kenya since 2016 whose aim is to building resilience to climate change and adaptative capacity of vulnerable communities in the country.

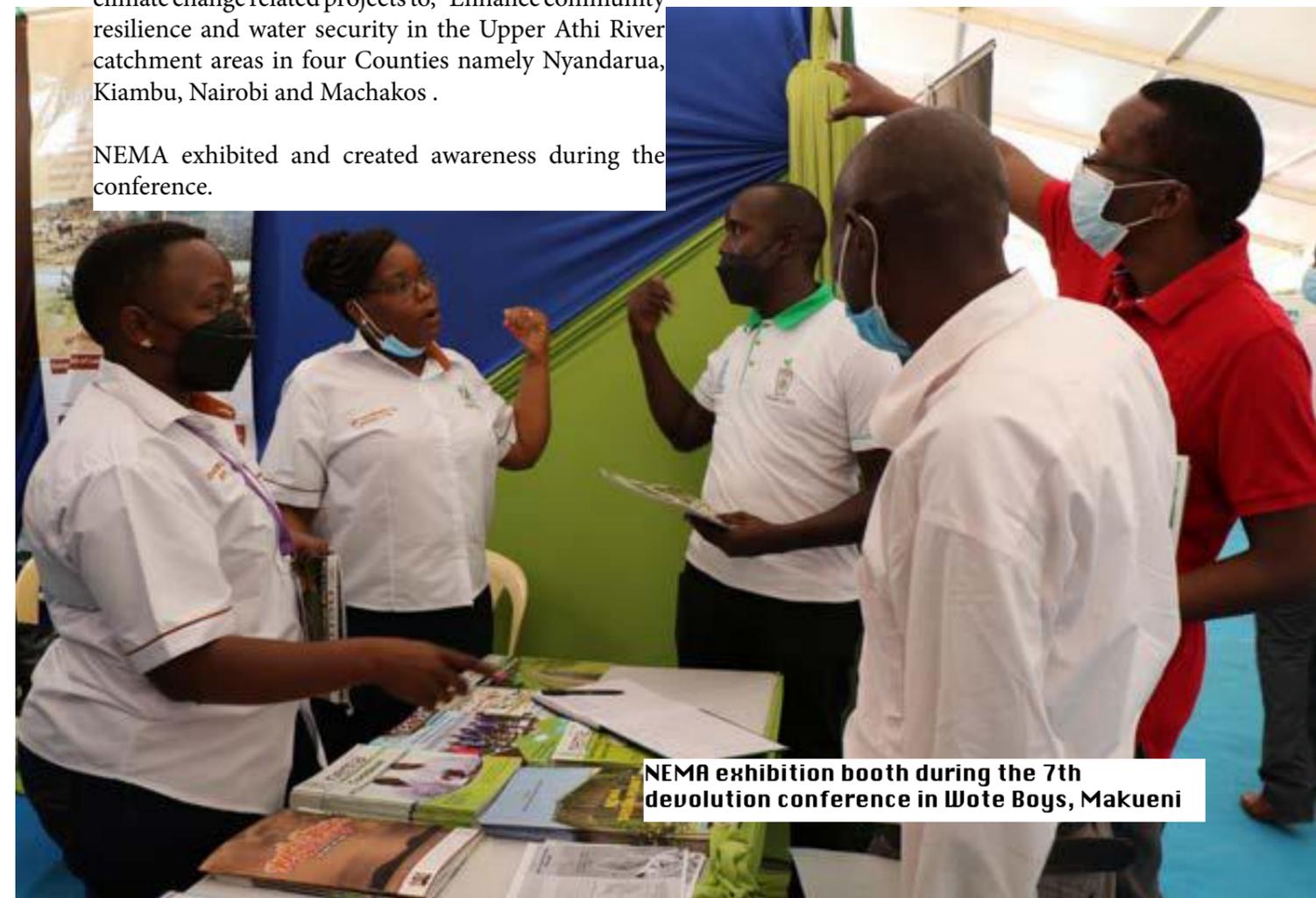
In addition, the Authority through its National Implementing Entity (NIE) was recently approved by the Green Climate Fund Board for implementation of climate change related projects to, “Enhance community resilience and water security in the Upper Athi River catchment areas in four Counties namely Nyandarua, Kiambu, Nairobi and Machakos .

NEMA exhibited and created awareness during the conference.

NEMA is the National Implementing Entity (NIE) of the Adaptation Fund and has been implementing, “The Integrated Programme to Build Resilience to Climate Change and Adaptive Capacity of Vulnerable communities in Kenya.” The programme is designed to enhance resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change for selected communities in 14 Counties in Kenya and designed to respond to effects of Climate Change. This programme addresses five thematic areas namely: food security, water management, coastal management, disaster risk reduction and knowledge management.

NEMA also as the accredited entity for the Green Climate Fund, has secured 1billion to implement a project titled ‘Enhancing water security in the upper Athi River Catchment Area.’ This project will be implemented in 4 counties namely; Nyandarua, Kiambu, Machakos and Nairobi.

The devolution conference, attended by the NIE Secretariat was used to showcase the programme it has been implementing within the 14 counties. One of its projects is In Makueni county where a water harvesting infrastructure will benefit communities in Wanduli area to access water and use it for domestic and irrigation purposes.



**NEMA exhibition booth during the 7th devolution conference in Wote Boys, Makueni**

# NEMA bags Nairobi legal award

By Cynthia Sakami & Elisha Wanyama



**NEMA Ag. Director legal services, Linda Kosgei and entire legal team receive the award from Hon. Beatrice Elachi, CAS Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Social Services during the award ceremony**

In 2018, the Nairobi Branch of the Law Society of Kenya established an annual legal excellence awards program. This was done in consideration of the difficulties encountered in law practice in Nairobi and Kiambu Counties, such as the level of client care and satisfaction, the quality of legal services, and the involvement of members of the profession with other professional bodies.

The Nairobi Branch noted the lack of professional standards of practice to govern the operations of law firms and legal departments and intends to promote the establishment of standards to serve as a benchmark for excellence in legal practice in the country and region.

In an effort to encourage excellence in practice, the Awards Programme was established to honor law firms, legal departments and individual attorneys with excellent standards of practice and legal service

delivery. The different awards' criteria are based on globally acknowledged best practices in legal practice.

This year, the NEMA Legal Services Department was nominated to the Public Sector Legal Department of the Year category in the 4th Edition of Nairobi Legal Awards.

The Awards involved the following processes;

- The Invitation and Nomination- The NEMA legal department was nominated on the 27th of August 2021 after submission of nominations for the public sector department of the year. Once the nomination process was done, the assessment tools were then distributed to the interested candidates which they submitted once they were duly filled.

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# The Nexus Between Environment and Engineering

By Eric Ngondi

The 28th IEK Annual International Conference was organized by the Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK) in collaboration with the Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK) from November 8th to 12th, 2021. It featured paper and poster presentations around the main theme "Engineers Accelerating Sustainable Economic Recovery".

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly disrupted normal activities in many industries and labour markets. Sectors such as construction, manufacturing, transport (both road and air), tourism, and many other service industries have experienced a significant slump in business activity, necessitating many to downsize while others took shortcuts, thus polluting the environment. Nevertheless, engineering remains the key to the much-anticipated recovery.

As a precursor to the main event, the Women Engineers summit was held on 8th November 2021 around the theme; "Power of Diversity for Women Engineers". Diversity is key to the growth and the future success of the Engineering profession.

It recognizes that great ideas thrive in a space that nurtures a wide variety of perspectives and experiences. The Engineering field currently suffers a diversity deficit as men comprise a majority in the profession. This year's Summit sort to address the distinct shortage of women in the Engineering profession. The Conference and Summit discussed the following sub-themes amongst others:

- Engineers in Policy Formulation, Planning, Economic Recovery and Regional Integration (Governance of Engineering, Laws & Regulations).
- Engineering Education and Research Academia and Development (including capacity Building and Mentorship).
- Big 4 Agenda and Vision 2030
- Fourth Industrial Revolution and Industry 4.0 (Including Smart cities, and Artificial Intelligence Infrastructure).
- Engineers' role in Devolution and County Development.
- Diversity Agenda: Why and how to bring more women on Board
- Retention Strategies: Why do Women leave Engineering?
- Best Practice in Organizational Interventions
- Diversity in Engineering matters and Policies that support inclusion and do not leave persons with disabilities behind.

KRB talked of better engineering in making roads.

- KPA was at the forefront of producing engineering marvels in ports and major infrastructures construction for connectivity purposes.

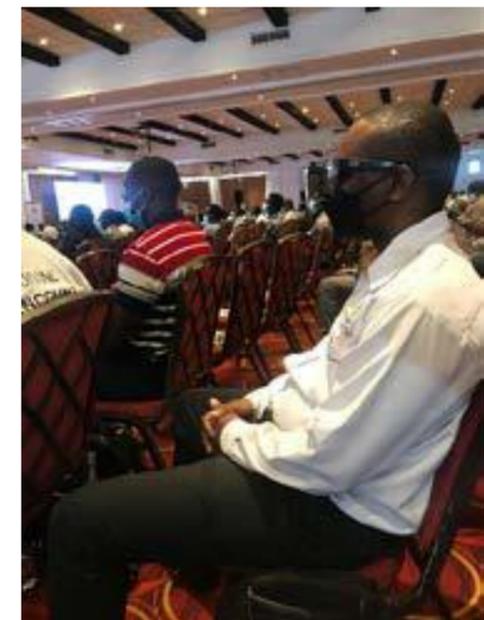
- The steel manufacturers put their best foot forward in terms of steel technology and challenged engineers to produce structures that last and do not compromise the lives of Kenyans.

In the end, several resolutions were enacted noting importantly the challenge of climate change to engineering fraternity and the need to conserve and preserve the environment. This need was ultimately illustrated in a quote by Theodore Von Karman "Scientists discover the world that exists; Engineers create the world that never was."

Both events featured paper and poster presentations from participants, distinguished keynote speakers from industry, academia, and policymakers.

The conference offered a platform for engineers, academicians, industrialists, and associated professionals to network, share experiences, challenges as well as new knowledge on emerging technologies and engineering-related matters, for example;

- Bamburi presented smart technologies that produce less emissions to the environment curbing climate change. They also elaborated best practices in quarry rehabilitation and clinker processing.
- KENHA, KERA, KURA and



**Eric Ngondi at the IEK Annual International Conference**

# Service Charter Corner

By Agnes Kamiri

- Issuance of assessment tools and other documentation – The department was furnished with three different assessment forms to be filled, authenticated and submitted back to the Nairobi LSK Secretariat. The tools were formulated to encompass the various enumerated principles of legal best practice and statutory provisions. The nominees were also required to provide the department profile, academic qualifications, valid practicing certificates for the year, HR policy and guidelines, communication guidelines, tabulated operating manuals and procedures, logos and Curriculum Vitae as annexures to the filled assessment tools. All documents were to be filled and submitted by 15th October 2021.
- Preliminary Assessment: Eligibility Check – The Award Secretariat assessed all the submitted initiatives confirming that the Nominees satisfied the set eligibility criteria.
- Organization visit for Data Assessment - Following the submission of Entries, data collectors and assessors visited the Authority and conducted face-to-face interviews, acquire information, and verify the evidence on a check list based

on the entry information. The department was joined by two user departments being the Human Resource Department and Communications department. To verify the services such as legal advisory, litigation, policy development

- Analysis of Data - A technical team then examined data obtained from the face-to-face interviews conducted during the organization visit and evaluations were performed to validate the entry information. The Assessors then produced a list of rankings with brief comments and explanations and deliver the proposed shortlist to the Secretariat.
- Background Check Analysis of the Contenders - Prior to the final determination of the winner of each category, a thorough vetting procedure was carried out in collaboration with several entities such as the EACC, the DCI, the Advocates Disciplinary Tribunal, and the JSC.
- Jury Report – Finally, the conclusion of the Technical Team's data analysis was considered by a Jury Panel that made the ultimate decision on the award recipients. The final decision took into consideration the technical team

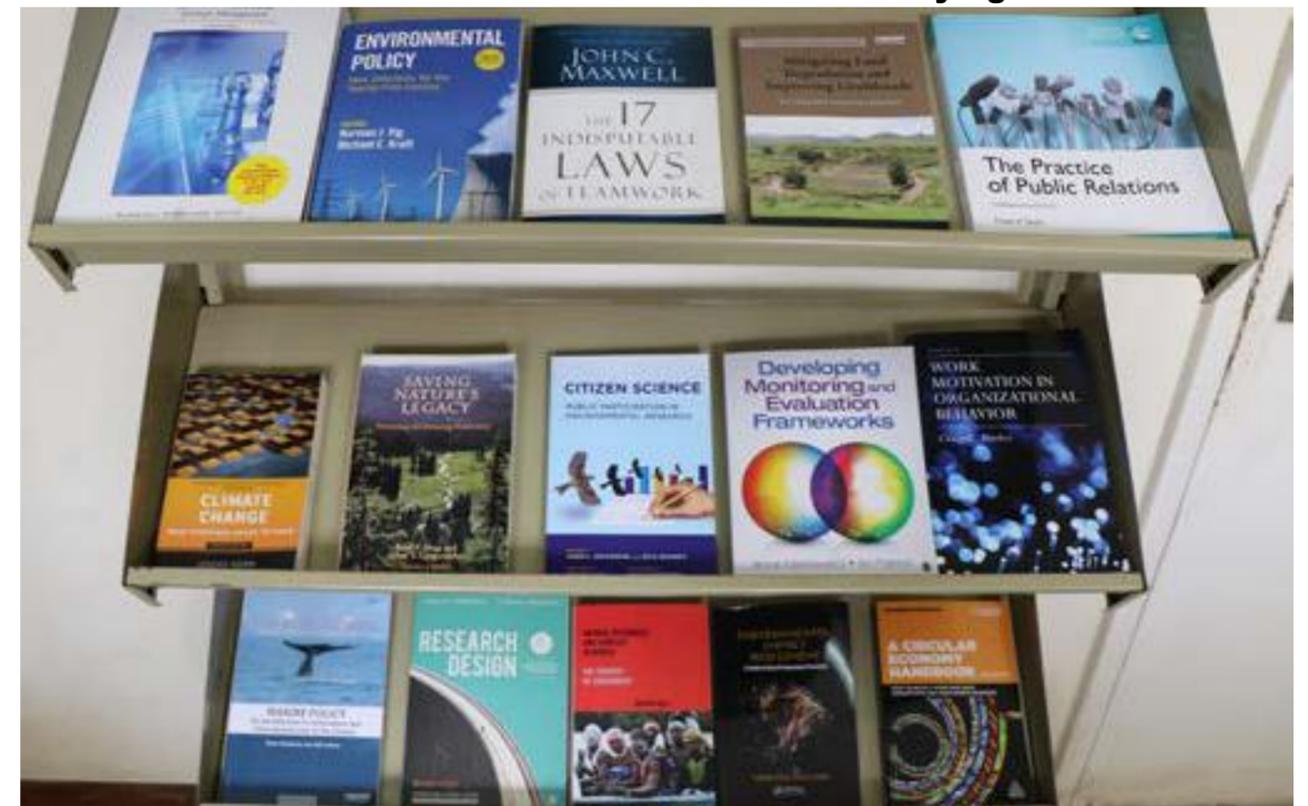
reports, as well as data acquired through face-to-face interviews and data analysis.

- The winner of the category had to demonstrate good governance in the execution of legal services within the organization, exemplary legal advisory, updated and responsive CSR drive and great legal standards.

To conclude this elaborate process, the Legal Awards were held at Movenpick Hotel and Suites on 26th November, 2021 within Nairobi County. The Chief Guest was Lady Justice Lydia Achode, the presiding judge of the High Court. Other chief guests included Hon Beatrice Elachi, CAS, Ministry of Public Service, Gender and social services.

The prestigious event was a swarm of advocates in academia, civil society and in-house practitioners and legally associated individuals enjoying the well-decorated venue while waiting for the winners of the various categories to be announced.

The award was presented to the NEMA Chairman John Konchellah and DG Mamo B. Mamo by the legal department.



The Corporate Communication Department is required to monitor and ensure the implementation of the service delivery charter. The Ecoflash Team has introduced this corner which is meant to highlight and remind staff of what is expected of them. Staff are encouraged to live up to the service charter which sets out the service standards that the public should expect from NEMA.

This Edition, we look at the Library Section where we all seek their services when we want to study. What can you do to help library section succeed? How do you behave when in the library? And what are services offered from this section?

The core function of this section is to facilitate access to publications in various spheres of environmental management. Our library is open to everyone and the services are free. You can read books, consult on reference materials, use the internet and study areas.

As a customer you should;

- Be courteous and respectful,
- Adhere to the library rules;
- Handle materials with care and as per the rules
- Return books, magazines, newspapers etc to their original display places after reading.
- Return books to library resources on stipulated dates.

In addition, library is a place where silence is encouraged and a respectable behavior. Make sure to whisper or speak extremely at low tones at all times to avoid disrupting others. Turn off your cell phone or put it on a silent mode. Under no circumstances should you ever have your phone conversation inside the library.

For you to remain in friendly terms with library staff and other people using the library, Follow the rules.



NEMA legal department staff

# Solid Waste Management in Bungoma County

By Vincent Mahiva & Eric Naibei

Over 50% of the global population lives in urban areas characterized by ever increasing consumption of resources and services.

The increasing urbanization, rural-urban migration, rising standards of living and rapid development associated with population growth have resulted in increased solid waste generation by industrial, domestic and other activities. Bungoma, like other urban counties in Kenya, is experiencing rapid population growth.

The rapid increase in population has resulted in the increase in solid waste generation rate which is estimated at 28 tons/day based on the core urban population whereas about 13tons/day is generated from the peri-urban areas of the municipality.

Solid waste is emerging as a major public health and environmental concern in Bungoma County. The proper management of waste has thus become one of the most challenging environmental problems in Bungoma County leading to public outcry.

Therefore, the impact of solid waste to the environment and to human health has to be managed and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner to ensure clean and healthy environment.

The waste management exercise involves the following;

## 1. Waste Generation

Wastes generated in Bungoma are from various sources including:

Household waste or domestic waste generated from residential areas and can be divided mainly into paper and cardboard, glass, plastics, organic fractions, hazardous waste and bulky waste. The other common source of solid waste is commercial establishments which include shops and restaurants.

## 2. Waste segregation

Waste segregation is an important element in waste management.

The major waste components include; plastic, paper, glass, metals, wood and organic materials mainly from food leftovers and sugarcane chuff. Nonetheless if the waste is segregated, over 50% will be used as compost in farms hence reducing the waste to be transported

to the disposal site. Other than reducing the volume of disposable materials, it will also act as an economic generating activity for the involved stakeholders

## 3. Waste collection from transfer areas and transportation

Waste generators collect their refuse to designated transfer areas or waste collection chambers.

## 4. Waste disposal

The county ministry of environment transports this waste (NEMA licensed waste trucks) to the disposal site in Lumuro dumpsite.

The waste disposal site meets some of the 10 minimum points for a waste management site including: Continuous removal of wastes from the streets collected from the installed waste bins located at strategic points in town; There is a motorable road for the disposal site; wastes are well spread at the site; Several vehicles have been licensed to handle waste in the County.

Waste management in Bungoma County remains a challenge especially in major towns such as Bungoma, Chwele, Kimilili and Webuye.

However, NEMA office is in consultations with the ministry of environment on the matter. It's expected that the department will expedite the process of establishing designated dumpsites/landfill with zero public complaints of involvement so that most of the 10 minimum points on waste management will be achieved as soon as possible.



Compacted waste site

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### Have Your Say!

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