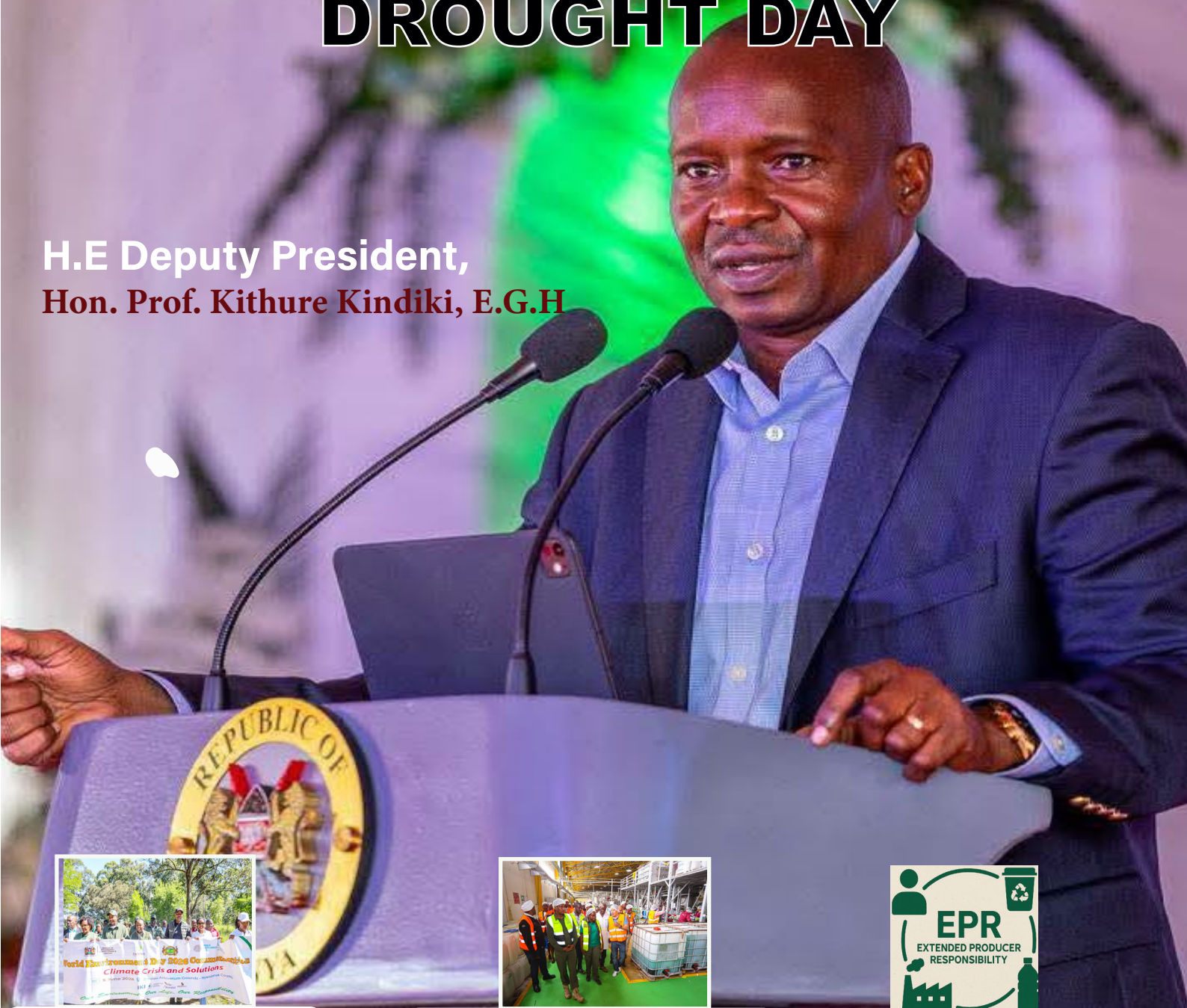


## KENYA HOSTS GLOBAL DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT DAY

H.E Deputy President,  
Hon. Prof. Kithure Kindiki, E.G.H



### World Environment Day

National World Environment Day celebrations were held at Arboretum Grounds in Ol Kalou, Nyandarua County on June 5, 2026.



### CS leads Environmental Enforcement

CS Environment, Climate Change & Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa, EGH led NEMA in taking enforcement actions on non-compliant facilities.



### EPR Implementation

All Importers are now required to obtain the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Import Certificate lodged through the National Electronic Single Window System (NESWIS).

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# Editorial

## Enhancing environmental management

This quarter was marked by significant engagements, high-level meetings and initiatives aimed at advancing environmental management. Kenya was privileged to host the global celebrations of World Desertification and Drought Day under the theme, “Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore”.

The event was held on 17th June, 2026 at Vipingo Central Primary School in Kilifi County. The event was marked by pomp and colour as dignitaries across the globe including the United Nations Convention on Desertification secretariat joined Kenyans for the global observance. The event spotlighted the vital role of rangelands in strengthening climate resilience, enhancing food and water security, conserving biodiversity, and sustaining the cultural heritage and livelihoods of pastoralist and indigenous communities worldwide.

The Authority also coordinated the national World Environment Day celebrations that took place at the Arboretum Grounds in Ol Kalou, Nyandarua County on June 5, 2026, under the theme “A Global Call for Climate Action.” The day served as a reminder of the urgent need to protect our environment. She outlined key government initiatives, including the preservation of the Aberdare ecosystem, sustainable agriculture around Lake Ol Bolossat, and restoration of degraded landscapes.

The Authority also heightened the enforcement efforts especially on Effluent Discharges Licenses (EDL), plastic bags ban, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) among others. In particular, the CS Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa provided a renewed push to NEMA’s enforcement efforts as she joined enforcement exercises in Mlolongo, Machakos County. The CS appraised herself with measures taken by the private sector to prevent the discharge of harmful effluents into the city’s primary waterways including Nairobi rivers. She cautioned that untreated water must meet strict safety parameters before it can be discharged.

The implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) also took centre stage as the Authority enforced the compliance requirements for imports where importers are now required to obtain EPR Import Certificate lodged through National Electronic Single Window System (NESWIS).

During the period, NEMA Chairman and DG joined their counterparts in National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) in Tanzania as they celebrated their 40 years since establishment.

*Have a great read!*

**Evans Nyabuto,  
Deputy Director Corporate Communications**

# CS Environment Visits NEMA

By Christina Mwaura



**CS Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Debora Barasa, EGH signs the visitors book during her visit to NEMA**

**T**he Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Debora Barasa, EGH on 3rd June, 2026 visited NEMA Headquarters and held consultations with NEMA Director General, Dr Mamo B. Mamo, EBS on the upcoming events, Implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and the current status of various project implementation.

She also received briefing on the ongoing interventions in waste management, circular economy and the devolved environmental functions, in collaboration with County Governments.



The CS later visited the Kenya Online Continuous Emissions Monitoring System (KOCEMS) Control Room and was appraised on the operations of the real time online monitoring system established at NEMA. The DG was accompanied by Mr. David Ong'are, Director Environmental Compliance and Dr. Ayub Macharia, Director Environmental Enforcement.

**CEO UPS, Rohit Kumar takes CS Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Debora Barasa, EGH, NEMA, DG Mamo B Mamo, EBS and Director Compliance, David Ongare through the KOCEMS systems functionality during the visit.**



**Officials from the Malawi Environment Protection Agency with NEMA Director General Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS, and staff during the visit**

## NEMA Hosts Malawi Officials

**N**EMA Director General, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS hosted a delegation from Malawi led by Hon. Patricia Wiskes MP, Minister of Natural Resources and Dr. Misheck Yangotha Munthali, PS for Natural Resources on 9th May, 2026. .

The delegation was in the country for a peer learning exercise with discussions focusing on carbon trading, plastic bags ban and waste management. The NEMA and Malawian delegation also exchanged experiences on various regulations and policies governing environmental management in the two countries.

The DG was joined by Director Environmental Services, Dr. Charles Lange and Deputy Director Environmental Assessments, Robert Orina.



**NEMA DG Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS receives Malawian MP and Minister for Natural Resources, Hon. Patricia Wiskes when they paid a visit to NEMA.**

# NEMA, KENTRADE PARTNER ON EPR

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and Kenya Trade Network Agency (KenTrade) rolled out a joint Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Import Certificate requirement on March 14, 2026.

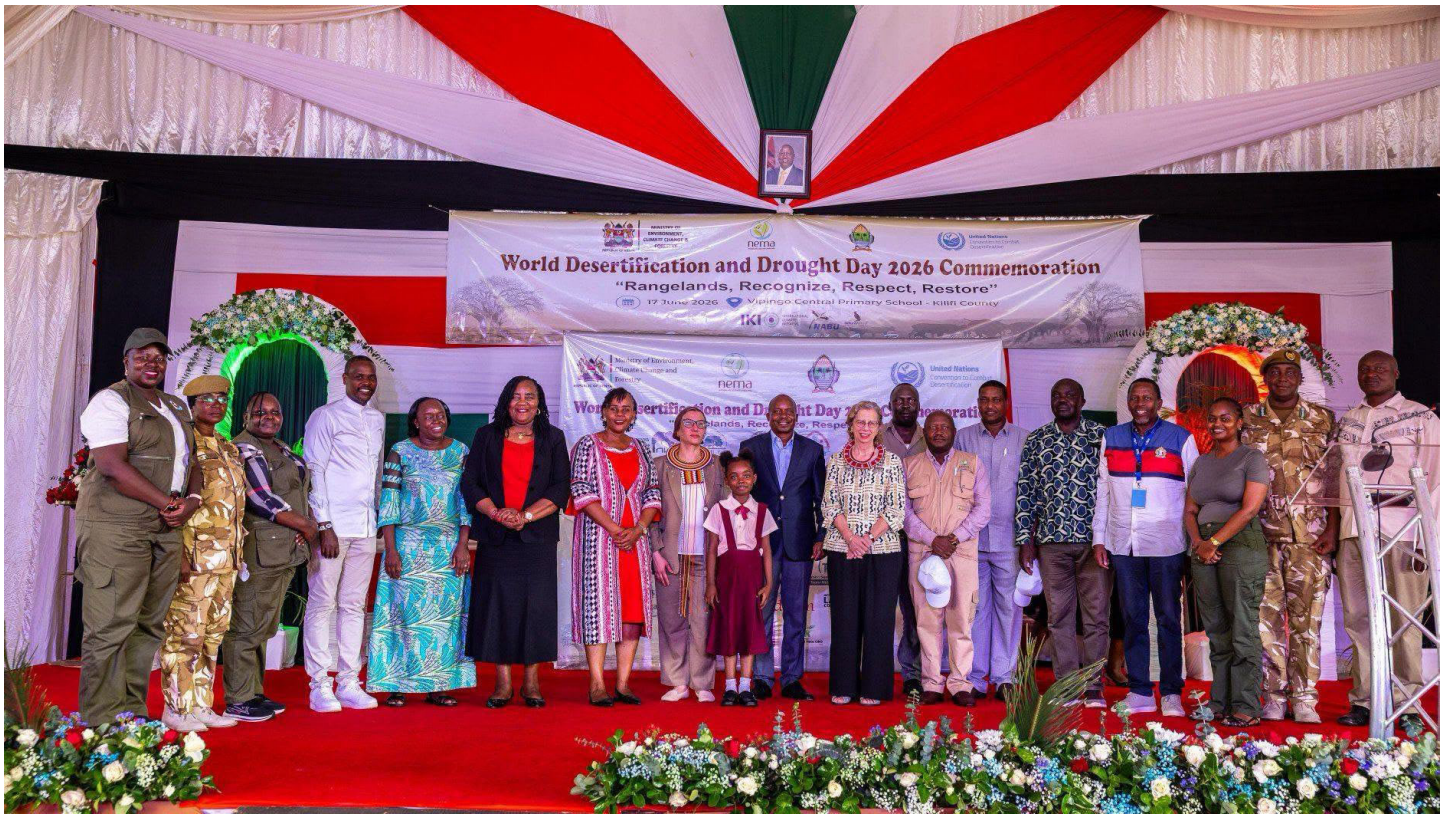
Importers must now lodge applications for this certificate through the National Electronic Single Window System (NESWIS) to ensure proper waste management compliance.

This is in line with the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) 2024 regulations that require all manufacturers and importers to manage full life-cycle of their products including post-consumer waste.



# Kenya Hosts Global Desertification and Drought Day

By S. Irungu



**Dignitaries led by Deputy President, H.E Prof. Kithure Kindiki, NEMA Board take a group photo during the WDDD celebrations at Vipingo Primary School, Kilifi County**

**K**enya was privileged to host the global celebrations of World Desertification and Drought Day under the theme, “Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore”

The event was held on 17th June, 2026 at Vipingo Central Primary School in Kilifi County. The event was marked by pomp and colour as dignitaries across the globe joined Kenyans for the global observance.

The theme spotlighted the vital role of rangelands in strengthening climate resilience, enhancing food and water security, conserving biodiversity, and sustaining the cultural heritage and livelihoods of pastoralist and Indigenous communities worldwide.

Rangelands are vast landscapes that cover more than half of the Earth's land surface and support around two billion people. Despite their immense value, they are too often overlooked. They underpin food and feed systems, providing 16 per cent of global food production and 70 per cent of feed for domesticated herbivores. They sustain pastoralist livelihoods,

biodiversity, water security, cultural identity and resilience.

Yet the loss and degradation of rangelands is attracting little attention or action. Conversion and degradation are shrinking grasslands, savannahs, shrublands and steppes. Policies and incentives are undermining pastoral production systems and local food security. And climate change is driving droughts and desertification of these vital landscapes.



**Dignitaries going through exhibitions during WDDD celebrations in Kilifi County**

The Chief Guest was the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E Prof. Kithure Kindiki, E.G.H.

Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki called for enhanced global action to restore degraded rangelands and strengthen ecosystem resilience, saying the future of livelihoods, food security and environmental stability depends on how well the world protects its natural resources.

He said Kenya is fully committed to restoring ecosystems through large-scale interventions, including the planting of 15 billion trees by 2032, as part of efforts to combat land degradation, drought and desertification.

“We must recognize the numbers, we must recognize the magnitude of the challenge before us, and we must recognize the duty the present generation owes, not to ourselves, but to future generations,” he said.

The DP noted that rangelands and other fragile ecosystems must be protected because their degradation directly affects food production, water availability and community livelihoods. He also warned that land degradation leads to reduced productivity with severe social and economic consequences.

“When land loses its productivity, farmers lose harvests, people lose income, pastoralists lose livestock, communities lose water sources and young people lose opportunities. The consequences are poverty, conflict and displacement,” he said.

The DP further announced that the government’s 15 billion tree programme will prioritize locally relevant species, including mangroves, coconut trees, mango trees and cashew nut trees, particularly in coastal regions such as Kilifi. “These trees do not only help conserve the environment; they also create wealth and put money in the pockets of the people of Kilifi and the entire coastal region,” he said.

He directed that mangrove restoration efforts be scaled up in Kilifi as part of broader coastal ecosystem rehabilitation. “We must commit to increasing the number of mangroves planted here in Kilifi every month,” he said.

The Deputy President assured that the government will continue working with local communities to integrate indigenous knowledge into environmental conservation programmes, ensuring that restoration efforts are both sustainable and economically beneficial.



**Deputy President, Hon. Prof. Kithure Kindiki, E.G.H speaking during the WDDD celebrations in Vipingo Primary School, Kilifi County**



**NEMA Board led by Chairman, Emilio Mugo, DG. Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS and Board Member, Hon. Maclean Sitati planting a tree during the WDDD celebrations flanked by other dignitaries.**

Other dignitaries included; H.E Moses Vilakati, Commissioner for the Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Development (ARBE) AU Commissioner; Amb. Dr. Ida Odinga, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Permanent Mission of The Republic of Kenya to UNON & UNEP; Ms. Inger Andersen Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary UNCCD. Other dignitaries addressed the participants online includes; António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Head of Mission, Ambassador Alexander Fierley, on behalf of the Diplomatic Community and Environment, Climate Change and Forestry CS, Dr. Deborah Barasa.

NEMA Kenya led by Chairman Emilio Mugo, Director General Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS and Board members also participated in the celebrations.

The Desertification and Drought Day is the United Nations' global day to raise awareness of land degradation and drought to mobilize action to protect and restore healthy lands.



**NEMA Board of Management led the Chairman, Emilio Mugo and Director General, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS paid a courtesy call to the Coast Regional Commissioner, Paul Rotich during the WDDD celebrations 2026.**



**NEMA Board of Management follow the WDDD 2026 proceedings at Vipingo Primary School in Kilifi County.**



**NEMA Deputy Director Enforcement, Salome Machua (L) and staff with environmental experts from BATUK, Nanyuki**

## **NEMA AND BATUK STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

**T**he environmental experts from the British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK) ON 8th May, 2026 visited NEMA for an environmental consultation meeting, as recommended during the 2024 Control Environmental Audit, and to discuss other compliance issues affecting the Unit.

The meeting brought together the BATUK environmental team from United Kingdom and their counterparts in Kenya, who engaged with NEMA staff from the Enforcement Directorate led by Deputy Director Enforcement, Salome Machua on behalf of the Director General. During the discussions, both parties agreed to continue strengthening collaboration, with emphasis on compliance with environmental requirements.

The BATUK team also highlighted challenges experienced during public participation processes. The meeting further resolved to enhance collaboration and engagement with relevant stakeholders and local communities, especially on Social Impact Assessment, vulnerability and risk assessment, grievance redress mechanisms, stakeholder engagement.

# Celebrating 40 years of NEMC Tanzania

|| S. Irungu



**NEMA Chairman Emilio Mugo, Director General, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS joined other African Director Generals during the NEMC 40 years celebrations in Tanzania.**

**E**ast African environmental collaboration jointly manage transboundary ecosystems, climate strategies, and pollution control to balance economic growth with environmental issues. This is because environmental issues are trans boundary and are generally similar.

For this reason, NEMA Chairman, Emilio Mugo and Director General, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS joined the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) in Tanzania for their 40 years commemorations on 28th May, 2026 at Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam.

The event provided an opportunity to reflect on the institution's achievements since its establishment in 1986, while also highlighting the growing environmental and climate-related challenges facing Tanzania's economy and natural resources.

The NEMA Director General also participated in a high level Panel Discussion on, "Advancing Regional and Global Environmental Governance: The Strategic Role of Authorities."

The DG shared his experiences on environmental

management in the Kenyan context where he indicated that Kenya has embedded environmental management in the Constitution 2010 in addition to the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA), 1999 among other statutory laws.

He stated that for environmental management to be successful, citizens must be involved. He highlighted Article 42 of the Constitution that gives the rights and responsibilities to citizens for a clean and healthy environment. Dr. Mamo further said that Kenya has made strides in environment protection due to inclusion of voluntary compliance and enforcement "carrot and stick" with public education and awareness taking a central role. Zanzibar's Second Vice President, Mr. Suleiman Abdulla noted that NEMC has made an enormous contribution to environmental conservation and management in Tanzania over the last 40 years.

Other panelists included Director Generals; Dr. Barirega Akankwasah (Uganda), Prof. Nana Ama Browne (Ghana), Dr. Wilfred Kadewa (Malawi), Dr. Immaculate Semesi (Tanzania) and Prof. Innocent Bariate Barikor (Nigeria). The opening session was officiated by the Prime Minister of Tanzania Dr. Mwigulu Nchemba.

# NEMA, CAJ Collaborate on Complaints Handling



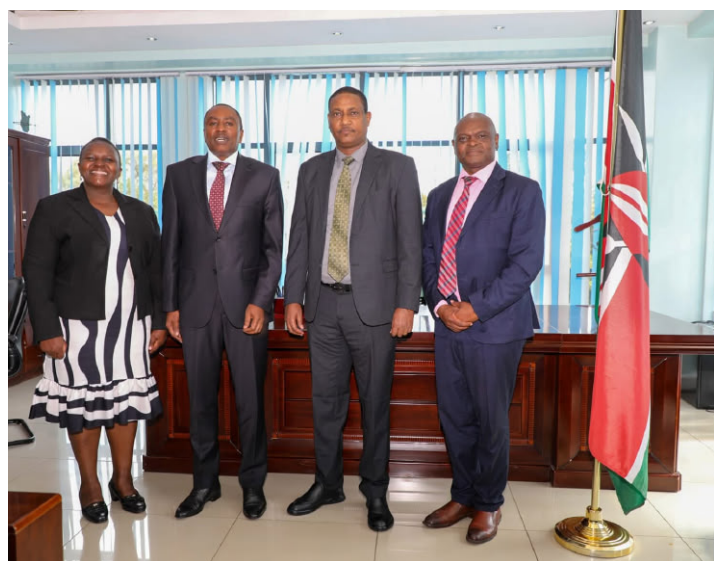
**N**EMA is mandated to exercise general supervision and coordination over all matters relating to the environment. It acts as the principal instrument for the government in implementing all environmental policies.

In implementation of its mandate, the Authority receives several environmental related complaints through its incident lines or through other government agencies such as Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ).

NEMA Director General, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS on 26th May, 2026 paid a courtesy call to the Ag. CAJ Commission Secretary/CEO, Mr. Daniel M. Karomo at his office in Westlands, Nairobi. The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen collaboration between NEMA and CAJ to effectively resolve public complaints-related to the environment.

The Authority and CAJ explored ways of addressing public complaints emanating from waste management and noise pollution. This will enhance service delivery and quick resolution of public complaints. In attendance was Ms. Florence Mumbi, Director Complaints, Investigations and Legal Services, CAJ and Evans Nyabuto, Deputy Director Corporate communication, NEMA.

**NEMA Director General, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS (R), Ag. CAJ Commission Secretary/CEO, Mr. Daniel M. Karomo at CAJ office during the courtesy call.**



**NEMA Director General, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS (2nd R), Ag. CAJ Commission Secretary/CEO, Mr. Daniel M. Karomo (2nd L), Ms. Florence Mumbi, Director Complaints, Investigations and Legal Services, CAJ and Evans Nyabuto (R), Deputy Director Corporate Communication, NEMA.**

# Celebrating Biodiversity



**NEMA Director General, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS leads the Chief Guest, Deputy President, H.E Prof. Kithure Kindiki, CS Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa, EGH, CS Interior and National Administration, H.E Kipchumba Murkomen among others at the NEMA exhibition booth during the Biodiversity Day celebrations in Elgeyo Marakwet County.**

**T**he International Day for Biological Diversity is a United Nations–sanctioned international day for the promotion of biodiversity issues. It is currently held on May 22. The day falls within the scope of the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda’s Sustainable Development Goals.

The annual event connects local community actions to global nature conservation goals, such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with the aim to inspire grassroots action to conserve species, ecosystems, and genetic diversity.

The NEMA Chairman Emilio Mugo and Director General, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS on 22nd May, 2026 joined other leaders in commemoration of International Day for Biological Diversity and the launch of Cherangany Hills and Ecosystem Restoration for Livelihood Improvement, Sustainability and Harmony (CHERISH). The event was held at Tebe Grounds in Kapyego Ward, Elgeyo Marakwet County.

The event was graced by Deputy President, H.E Prof Kithure Kindiki, EGH the CS Ministry of Interior and National Administration, H.E Kipchumba Murkomen, CS for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa EGH, Principal Secretaries, Governors, Members of Parliament among other leaders.

Speaking at the event, the Deputy President said that maintaining the natural environmental quantities of the world’s species of flora and fauna are intricately linked to our climate, our agriculture, our food security and even public health.

He noted that the government remains committed to protecting the constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment while accelerating ecosystem restoration programmes across the country. He added that the national tree-growing campaign targeting 15 billion trees by 2032 had already recorded progress, with 1.7 billion trees planted so far.



**NEMA Chairman, Emilio Mugo speaking during the Biodiversity Day in Elgeyo Marakwet County.**



**Director General, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS speaking during the International Biodiversity Day in Elgeyo Marakwet County.**

During the launch, the CS for Internal Security Kipchumba Murkomen said that environmental degradation had contributed to recurring disasters and insecurity in the Kerio Valley region.

“These hills made me who I am. But I have watched this paradise slowly get degraded. The rains that were once predictable no longer are. Hillsides that were once green are now scarred,” he said.

CS Murkomen linked shrinking natural resources to conflicts and banditry in the region, noting that competition over water and grazing land continues to fuel instability. He said ongoing government disarmament operations had recovered more than 2,000 illegal firearms from the region.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Mamo, EBS emphasized on this year’s theme “Acting Local for Global Impact” highlighting the importance of environmental conservation by taking deliberate actions like tree planting and keeping the environment clean.

The NEMA Chairman indicated that biodiversity encompasses environmental conservation efforts that support the health ecosystems that are vital infrastructure in driving national development. He further highlighted the importance of maintaining native ecosystem not only through tree planting but also protecting water systems and nurturing the trees.

NEMA is implementing the Access and Benefits Sharing (ABS) Regulations, 2006 that governs conservation of ecosystems, habitats, and species that regulate scientific research on genetic materials and ensuring local communities benefit from indigenous biological resources.

International Day for Biological Diversity is a United Nations recognised day for the promotion of biodiversity issues, held annually on May 22.



CS Environment, Climate and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa, EGH (3rd R) accompanied by the NEMA Director General , Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS (2nd R), NEMA officers and inspectors during the inspection of Canon Chemicals Ltd in Mlolongo.

|| By S. Irungu | P. Kerubo | P. Hassan

## CS Leads Enforcement Exercise



**The untreated water must meet strict safety parameters before it can be discharged into the environment. Waste treatment infrastructure must be functional to ensure our water ways and sources are protected.**

*CS Environment, Climate Change & Forestry,*  
**Dr. Deborah Barasa, E.G.H**

The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment, Climate and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa, EGH accompanied by the NEMA Director General Mamo B. Mamo, EBS, led an inspection of industrial facilities in Mlolongo, Machakos county on the 5th of May 2026.

The Cabinet Secretary toured various industrial sites to evaluate the measures taken by the private sector to prevent the discharge of harmful effluents into the city's primary waterways including Nairobi rivers.

The facilities visited included Canon Chemicals Ltd and Shreeji Chemicals Limited. Shreeji Chemicals was closed, and its proprietors arrested for failing to cooperate with the enforcement team and for non-compliance with various environmental orders issued to them.

Speaking on site, the CS noted that industrial effluent, leaking sewer systems, and solid waste runoff have collectively contributed to the pollution of urban rivers. These indicators point to a river system overwhelmed by contamination from multiple discharge sources.

In response to rising public outcry over toxic air

emissions and polluted water networks, NEMA enforcement teams have shifted from routine warnings to unannounced sting operations. Inspectors are targeting facilities that systematically bypass environmental safeguards to cut operational overheads. The primary battleground is water pollution. Under national environmental regulations, any facility handling hazardous materials or chemical processing must route its liquid waste through a fully functional Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP).

“70% of wastewater generated in Nairobi is discharged untreated into the environment, compounding the crisis and extending its impact downstream,” the CS stated.

The untreated water must meet strict safety parameters before it can be discharged. In practice, regulatory raids have revealed that several factories maintain treatment infrastructure solely for show. Behind closed gates, raw, toxic waste is frequently channeled directly into the public drainage network. This untreated sludge eventually empties into local water ecosystems, including the Nairobi River catchment area and the critical Mlolongo-Athi system.



CS Environment, Climate and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa, accompanied by the NEMA Director General Mamo B. Mamo, EBS, NEMA officers and inspectors during the inspection of Canon Chemicals Ltd in Mlolongo.

Further, enforcement officers are now aggressively implementing the Sustainable Waste Management Act. This law introduces strict Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) mandates. Under EPR, manufacturers can no longer abandon their post-consumer waste or industrial byproducts. Factories are now legally required to draft, fund, and execute comprehensive waste eco-restoration plans.

The CS affirmed that enforcement actions will continue across the country, and facilities found to be non-compliant will face appropriate sanctions, including closure where necessary. Facilities operating without functional effluent treatment plants, or with systems that do not meet discharge standards, will not be allowed to continue operations.

She further warned that facilities using or handling chemicals without proper registration with NEMA will be deemed non-compliant. Additionally, the use of unauthorized plastic bags, in violation of Kenya's plastic ban, continues to contribute to blocked drainage systems, river pollution, and the release of toxic fumes through open burning.

The NEMA Director General, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, reiterated that the Authority remains committed to supporting industries through compliance assistance. However, he cautioned that facilities unwilling to

comply will face the necessary enforcement measures, including closure.

Furthermore, authorities highlighted that strictly maintaining buffer zones between 6 and 30 meters along riverbanks is crucial for absorbing floodwaters and naturally purifying the water supply."

Last year, NEMA inspected over 100 facilities along the Nairobi Rivers, noting improvements such as the installation of effluent treatment plants, which have contributed to better discharge quality into the environment.

Concluding the site visit, the CS declared that the era of 'pollute now, pay later' has officially ended. She emphasized that adhering to ecological regulations is a strict legal and ethical requirement for every industry functioning within the nation

The untreated water must meet strict safety parameters before it can be discharged into the environment. Waste treatment infrastructure must be functional to ensure our water ways and sources are protected.

Behind closed gates, raw, toxic waste is frequently channeled directly into the public drainage network. This untreated sludge eventually empties into local water ecosystems, including the Nairobi River catchment area and the critical Mlolongo-Athi Dam system.



**NEMA enforcement team with the CS Environment, Climate Change and Forestry CS Dr. Deborah Barasa , EGH and DG Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS during an enforcement exercise at a facility in Mlolongo.**

# Enforcing Environmental Compliance

By P. Murage & C. Mwaura

**N**EMA conducted environmental inspections in several counties to enforce compliance with effluent discharge and plastics management.

The officers embarked on monitoring and stoppage of illegal Effluent Discharge in Kitui, Mombasa, Machakos and Makueni Counties with the main purpose of identifying and stopping illegal effluent discharges in accordance with the Water Quality Regulation 2024.

The team inspected hotels, hospitals, petrol stations, and multi-storey residential apartments whereby they assessed compliance with environmental regulations on emissions control, and adherence to established environmental standards.

During the inspection, the facilities' operations were reviewed to ensure compliance with relevant regulations and those found to be non-compliant were issued with restoration orders on areas identified to enhance compliance. Several proprietors were arrested for non-compliance with various environmental orders issued in the past to them. It was also noted that some facilities like petrol stations and hotels had not applied for or renewed their effluent discharge

licences. While others commenced projects without undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment.

The Director Environmental Enforcement, Dr. Ayub Macharia led the inspection team and affirmed that facilities found to be non-compliant will not be allowed to continue operations and will face prosecution.



**NEMA officers at a facility in Machakos County during an enforcement exercise.**



**NEMA officers led by Director Environmental Enforcement, Dr. Ayub Macharia (R) at a facility during an enforcement exercise in Makueni County.**

# Celebrating World Environment Day



**World Environment Day 2026 procession at Ol Kalou Stadium in Nyandarua County led by CS Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa, EGH, PS Environment and Climate Change, Dr. Eng. Festus Ngeno, NEMA DG, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS, Board of management among other leaders and members of public.**

**|| By. P. Hassan & S. Irungu**

**K**enya joined the international community in commemorating World Environment Day, an annual event dedicated to raising awareness and inspiring action to safeguard the planet

Kenya's national World Environment Day celebrations took place at the Arboretum Grounds in Ol Kalou, Nyandarua County on June 5, 2026, under the theme "A Global Call for Climate Action." The event was led by Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Cabinet Secretary Dr. Deborah Barasa, EGH, together with Principal Secretary Dr. Eng. Festus Ngeno, MIEK, CBS. They were joined by NEMA leadership, including Chairman Emilio Mugo, Director General Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS, board members, and senior officials from both county and national government.

According to CS Dr. Deborah Barasa, World Environment Day serves as a reminder of the urgent need to protect our environment. She outlined key government initiatives, including the preservation of the Aberdare ecosystem, sustainable agriculture around Lake Ol Bolossat, and restoration of degraded landscapes. She further emphasized strict

enforcement of environmental laws and standards, ensuring that climate action translates into real gains for communities and ecosystems. On climate change, she announced the creation of a carbon market platform designed to help Kenyans earn from carbon credits.

NEMA Chairman Emilio Mugo noted that Kenya, like many other nations, is grappling with climate-related challenges. He emphasized that the country has established itself as a leader in environmental stewardship across Africa through initiatives such as carbon marketing, the 15-billion tree planting campaign, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), and improved waste management. He further explained that the Board has intensified actions across all environmental sectors, guided by the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) of 1999.

"Under the visionary leadership of His Excellency the President and through the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, Kenya has positioned itself as a continental leader in climate resilience and green growth," the Chair remarked

Addressing the gathering, NEMA Director General Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS highlighted World Environment Day as a chance to spotlight environmental concerns and strengthen the agenda at local and global levels. He stressed that the day is meant to motivate citizens to take proactive measures to safeguard and improve the environment.

The ministry emphasized that Kenya's recently established national carbon market platform to make conservation economically appealing to ordinary Kenyans. The innovative system enables the local communities, small-scale farmers, and forest custodians to receive direct financial profits via carbon credit. People can capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by planting trees, keeping forests and using sustainable agriculture systems and trade verified green benefits to global markets. By doing so, this economic transition leads to higher returns to a family when they conserve a tree than when they harvest it for charcoal, successfully making environmental conservation a profitable business for rural families.

NEMA Board chairperson Emilio Mugo supported the vision, saying Kenya has great challenges in the field of climate change but it has placed itself in the forefront of the continent as a green leader. This leadership comes from the implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation, which obligates plastic manufacturers to cover the costs of plastic waste collection and recycling. The NEMA board has established enhanced enforcement and monitoring mechanisms on the environmental front in line with the Environmental Management and Co-ordination Act (EMCA of 1999). The projects themselves represent tangible contributions to the country's overall economic transformation agenda, and demonstrate how green growth and poverty alleviation can go hand-in-hand.

Dr. Mamo highlighted that the world is confronted by three interconnected crises: climate change, the degradation of nature and biodiversity, and pollution and waste. He noted that the theme, "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future," is meant to empower people and organizations to act decisively for sustainability.

"We don't have planet B, we have to come up with solutions for climate related challenges facing us to save our planet," the DG remarked.

World Environment Day is celebrated annually on June 5th and stands as the United Nations' flagship platform for raising global environmental awareness and driving positive action



**NEMA Board members; Dr. Lilian Apadet (L) John Kimondiu and Linah Meeme planting a tree with a pupil during the World Environment Day celebrations in Ol Kalou**



**CS Environment, Climate Change & Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa, EGH, Hon. Moses Kuria and DG NEMA Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS receive 3 in 1 branded waste bins during the World Environment Day Celebrations in Ol Kalou.**



**CS Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa, EGH accompanied by DG NEMA, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS and other leaders at the NEMA exhibition booth during World Environment Day 2026 celebrations in OI Kalou.**



**CS Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa, EGH ,PS Dr. Eng. Festus Ngeno, MIEK, Hon. Moses Kuria, NEMA Chairman, Emilio Mugo and DG Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS join dancers during the World Environment Day 2026 at OI Kalou.**

# World Environment Public Forum

**W**orld Environment Day is celebrated annually on 5 June to inspire environmental awareness and action across the globe. In Kenya, the national celebrations will be held at the Arboretum Grounds in Ol Kalou, Nyandarua County, under the theme “A Global Call for Climate Action.”

As part of the build-up activities leading to the national event, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), with support from the GEF-7 Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Project implemented jointly with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), today convened a Community Forum at Kimana Social Hall in Kajiado County.

The forum, themed “Sustainable Rangeland Use and Restoration as Climate Crisis Solutions,” provided a platform for stakeholders and community members to discuss practical approaches to restoring degraded rangelands, enhancing climate resilience, and promoting sustainable livelihoods in Kenya’s southern rangelands.

Participants included representatives from the County Government of Kajiado, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), National Environment Trust Fund (NETFUND), South Rift Association of Land Owners (SORALO), African Conservation Centre (ACC), and other GEF-7 SFM Project implementing partners, alongside members of the local community.



**Participants during the World Environment Day public forum at Kimana Social Hall, Kajiado County**

# Restoring Landscapes, Transforming Lives in Kajiado and Narok through GEF-7 SFM Project

By S. Irungu | P. Hassan | V. Kwamboka

**This story highlights some of the notable achievements of the GEF-7 Strengthening Forest Management (SFM) Project being implemented in Kajiado and Narok Counties.**

**K**enya's southern rangelands are home to diverse ecosystems that support wildlife, livestock and the livelihoods of thousands of communities. However, climate change, land degradation and increasing pressure on natural resources continue to threaten these landscapes and the people who depend on them.

To address these challenges, the Global Environment Facility Seventh Cycle (GEF-7) is supporting the Project on Strengthening Forest Management for Improved Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Resilience in the Southern Rangelands of Kenya.

The project is implemented by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) in partnership with the National Environment Trust Fund (NETFUND), the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), the Africa Conservation Centre (ACC), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the South Rift Association of Landowners (SORALO), working alongside county governments and local communities to promote sustainable landscape management and climate resilience.

## Water Provision

In the semi-arid landscapes of Kajiado County, where temperatures often exceed 35°C and rainfall is scarce, access to water has long been a challenge for schools and surrounding communities. For many learners, the school day once began with long walks to fetch water before lessons could even start.

Naserian Primary School was among the schools affected by chronic water shortages. The little water available was barely enough for drinking, cleaning classrooms and preparing meals, making it difficult to maintain a healthy learning environment.

Through the GEF-7 project, NEMA supported the construction of a 10,000-litre concrete masonry rainwater harvesting tank, providing the school with a

reliable source of water throughout much of the year. The impact has been significant. Reliable access to water has improved sanitation and hygiene, enabled regular meal preparation and created a more conducive learning environment. Increased enrolment and learner retention have followed, while the availability of water has attracted support from other development partners, resulting in the construction of new classrooms and a perimeter fence to protect the school.

The project's impact extends beyond Naserian Primary School. Oldonguro Comprehensive School, Kiluani Boys High School and Namanga Mixed School have also benefited from rainwater harvesting infrastructure, reducing the cost of purchasing water during dry seasons while improving water security throughout the year.



**10,000 Litres masonry Water Tank at Ol dunguro Primary School in Kajiado County.**



**Project team with Solaro women Group in Kajiado**

## Promoting Livelihoods

Across the communities of Ewuaso Kedong and Mosiro in Narok County, the impacts of environmental degradation have long been evident. Declining vegetation cover, shrinking water sources, soil erosion and prolonged dry spells steadily reduced land productivity, making it increasingly difficult for families to sustain their livelihoods. Water scarcity affected households, livestock and schools alike, while degraded catchment areas threatened the long-term availability of one of the region's most valuable natural resources.

Today, that story is changing. Through the GEF-7 project, communities are demonstrating that environmental conservation and sustainable livelihoods can go hand in hand. By strengthening local institutions, promoting sustainable natural resource management and supporting livelihood opportunities, the project is restoring degraded ecosystems while improving the well-being of local communities.

One of the most notable examples is found in Ewuaso Kedong, where members of the Kitilikini Water Resource Users Association (WRUA) received training in leadership, governance and environmental conservation. Equipped with new knowledge and skills, the community mobilised to rehabilitate a critical water catchment by planting 500 trees around an important water intake point. The initiative is helping protect water sources, reduce soil erosion and

restore the surrounding landscape.

The project has also strengthened local livelihoods. Through improved cooperative management and business training, dairy farmers particularly women have enhanced milk production and marketing, enabling their cooperative to increase milk supply and establish a partnership with Brookside Dairy. The partnership has created a more reliable market for farmers while contributing to improved household incomes.

In neighboring Mosiro, improved access to water is transforming life at Mosiro Boarding Primary School. Through the installation of a 50,000-litre rainwater harvesting tank, the school now has a dependable water supply for cooking, sanitation, environmental restoration and other daily activities.



**Grass Banks at Lenchoni Kajiado County**

## Creating Guardians of Coexistence

As dawn breaks over the rolling plains of Shompole, community scouts dressed in brightly coloured shukas and akala sandals set out on their daily patrols. Armed with traditional Maasai tools and generations of indigenous knowledge, they watch over both livestock and wildlife, helping communities coexist with nature.

Known as the Ilaretok, these community guardians play a vital role in preventing and managing human-wildlife conflict. Through the GEF-7 project, implemented by the South Rift Association of Landowners (SORALO), they have received specialised training in wildlife behaviour, conflict mitigation and sustainable natural resource management, strengthening their ability to

protect both people and biodiversity.

For the Maasai community, living alongside elephants, lions, hyenas and other wildlife has always been part of daily life. However, prolonged droughts, increasing pressure on natural resources and expanding settlements have intensified competition for water and pasture, leading to more frequent encounters between people, livestock and wildlife.

Today, the programme has 74 active scouts 50 men and 24 women with 74 community members participating in various conservation activities. Every six months, new members are selected, ensuring that conservation remains a shared community responsibility and allowing more households to take part in protecting their natural heritage.

## Bridging Nations, Building Capacity: JICA Volunteers Leave Lasting Impact at NEMA

**|| By Christina Mwaura**

**N**EMA recently hosted a final presentation by volunteers from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), marking the successful conclusion of their service at the Authority.

The session, held at NEMA headquarters, brought together senior-level technical staff and was presided over by Senior Principal Licensing Officer Mr. Geoffrey Wafula, representing the Director of Corporate Services, Dr Ochuka. It provided a platform for the volunteers to present their work, share key achievements, and reflect on lessons learned during their deployment.

Ms. Manami Sawatani, who was attached to the NEMA Laboratory, and Mr. Sumimoto Kenichi, based at the Siaya County Office, supported a range of core functions within the Authority. Their contributions enhanced laboratory services, strengthened county-level operations, and improved overall operational efficiency.

In their presentations, the volunteers highlighted their role in building technical capacity, streamlining operational processes, and supporting environmental management initiatives. They also reflected on the collaborative working environment at NEMA, noting the mutual exchange of knowledge and experience as a key outcome of their engagement.

The engagement underscores the importance of international cooperation in strengthening institutional capacity and advancing sustainable environmental management. NEMA expressed its appreciation for the dedication and valuable contributions of the JICA volunteers and reaffirmed its commitment to continued collaboration with JICA. As global partnerships continue to shape local solutions, such collaborations remain vital in advancing Kenya's environmental sustainability agenda.

## Management of Textile Waste

**|| By Peris Murage**

**T**he Mitumba Consortium Association of Kenya (MCAK) paid a courtesy call to NEMA on 15th June, 2026. The aim of the meeting was to request the Authority to consider their position that used textile should not be re-categorized as textile waste in the ongoing negotiations within the Basel Convention on control of Transboundary Movement of Waste.

They expressed issues affecting the second-hand clothing sector in Kenya raising concern over the proposals and arguing that classifying imported second-hand clothing (Mitumba) as textile waste would affect Kenyans negatively.

The Association led by the chair, Ms. Teresiah Njenga and CEO, Mr. Martin Gitau among others members present said that the mitumba sector contributes significantly to employment creation, supports

livelihoods, and provides fashionable and affordable clothing options to consumers across the country.

NEMA through the Director Environmental Enforcement, Dr. Ayub Macharia compelled the association to establish a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) to enable management of textile waste and support the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) therefore be compliant with environmental regulations of which in absence of the textiles PRO, he informed them that each Mitumba importer will be responsible for implementing EPR obligation at individual level which will be expensive for the business.

The meeting reaffirmed its commitment to working with stakeholders to ensure effective environmental management and compliance with applicable regulations.



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