

July 29 - August 04, 2023

Salary Review Process talks for KEWI Staff Dominate CEO and SRC Meeting



Dr. Leah Mumbua, Commissioner SRC (center), Brig. (RTD) Stephen Njung'e Kihu, Chairperson KEWI Governing Council (right) and Dr. Leiro Letangule, CEO KEWI (left) when they met at KEWI headquarters.

BY DORINE EVA & PIUS KIMANI

Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) staff have all reasons to smile and celebrate, after the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Leiro Letangule moves his foot forward and kick starts the process of advocating for the review of KEWI staff salaries.

This comes after a fruitful meeting between him and Dr. Leah Mumbua a Commissioner at the Salaries and

Remuneration Commission (SRC) where the salary topic took center stage.

The move follows up a promise Dr. Letangule made to the members of staff during his inaugural speech that he would seek harmonization of their salaries to be at par with that of other institutions in the sector.

During the meeting at his office, the CEO made a strong argument that the Institute's current salary structure had

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Salary Review Process talks for KEWI Staff Dominate CEO and SRC Meeting



Fourth from left, SRC Commissioner Dr. Leah Mumbua when she met KEWI Governing Council.

lagged behind, compared to other institutions in the sector.

The CEO, after a substantial research upon his arrival early in the year, noted that the staff's commitment and diligence had never been in doubt, and that the current compensation did not adequately recognize their worth.

Dr. Leah Mumbua appeared open to the director's views as the conversation went on, noting the necessity of a complete assessment of job positions and associated compensation. She noted that providing attractive remuneration packages was essential to luring and keeping KEWI skilled personnel.

In the wake of the discussion, Dr. Leah Mumbua asked Dr. Letangule to formally request a thorough

employment appraisal in a letter.

She added that taking this action would pave the way for a fair and equitable wage assessment by establishing the true value of each position inside the institute.

Later, she met the Chairperson, KEWI Governing Council Brig. (RTD) Stephen

Njung'e Kihu together with the Governing Council members, where they all welcomed the long overdue move.

Dr. Letangule promised to make a speedy move to initiate the process, especially now at a time when Kenyans are set to feel the weight of a range of new and reviewed taxes as contained in the Finance Act 2023.



Dr. Mumbua when she met Dr. Letangule in his office.

Kitui Campus Visitors Enlightened In County ASK Show



Kitui Deputy Governor, H.E. Augustine Kanani Wambua (in a cap) at the KEWI exhibition booth.

BY ABIGAE SONGOK

The Kenya Water Institute Kitui Campus participated in the recently concluded Kitui Agricultural Show and Trade Fair 2023, held from July 27 to 29 2023 at Ithookwe Showground. This year's theme was, "Promoting climate-smart agriculture and trade initiatives for sustainable food and nutrition security and economic growth."

The institute's booth

reflected its mandate to offer training, administer examinations, and offer research and consultancy services to the wider water sector. It also provided a forum for collaboration between the public and private sectors and other interested parties for the development of the water and sanitation sectors.

The public was informed of the courses offered in the institute, both long-term (Diploma, Certificate, Artisan) and short-term,

which are diversified to accommodate various key aspects in the water sector, i.e., Non-Revenue Water Management, Water Governance, Drilling Operations, Water Quality Sampling and Testing, and the Application of Geographic Information System (GIS) for Water Utility Mapping, among others.

Being a semi-arid region, there was a lot of interest in the Institute's technical services, consultation, and water research, all of

Kitui Campus Visitors Enlightened In County ASK Show

which were displayed at the exhibit. Throughout the three-day event, there was a clear desire for knowledge, particularly regarding water sources mapping and drilling services.

The team on the ground, made up of both staff and students and directed by Campus Principal Mr. Elkanah Matara, taught and provided the public with demonstrations of a variety of services and skills that were tailored to their requirements.

This covered the fundamentals of a hydro-geological survey, testing and analysis of water quality, management of water resources, appropriate water technology, and drilling services for environmental

impact assessments.

The fact that the institute provides diagnostic and repair services for a variety of water-related equipment, including as pumps, boreholes, and distribution systems, was also welcomed by the group.

The Kitui County Government's Deputy Governor, H.E. Augustine Kanani Wambua, visited the KEWI booth and expressed his appreciation for the institute's participation in the 2023 Kitui Agricultural Show and Trade Fair, particularly as a stakeholder in the water sector.

"This year's show theme is promoting climate-smart agriculture and trade initiatives for sustainable food and nutrition security and economic growth.

We would like to acknowledge the contribution KEWI is making towards the achievement of the country's economic stability in totality by addressing non-revenue water in various capacities, which always amounts to losses of millions of shillings. It also negatively impacts the production of a reliable food supply, especially here in Kitui, which is a semi-arid area, and we value each drop of water as a scarce commodity. All in all, we all have a responsibility towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with an aim to transform our world, and I thank you for being part of it."



Moments during the Agricultural Show and Trade Fair at Ithookwe showground.

Innovative Sanitation Solutions are here, Thanks to AfDB Bank

BY MOSES KIPSANG

Two Counties have a reason to cheer as Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) with support from the Africa Development Bank (AfDB) is rolling out a project to construct eco-toilets and resource recovery treatment plant as part of training and research and also to improve sanitation.

Oloolaiser Water and Sanitation Company and Kenya Water Institute Chiakariga Campus in Kajiado and Tharaka Nithi Counties respectively were identified as the sites where the faecal matter treatment plants and the eco green toilets (Urine diverting dry toilets (UDDT) are being constructed.

Through a competitive process, Hakmoh Construction Company was awarded the contract to construct the treatment facilities. Construction works are ongoing.

The Green Toilets System (GTS), are expected to improve sanitation especially in rural and urban informal settlements. The GTS technology involves the containment, transport, treatment and reuse of sanitation products.

In most informal settlements in urban areas, lack of sewerage or sanitation services has led to contamination of water resources. This therefore will provide an opportunity for persons to learn and appreciate that there is value in waste.

These types of latrines are affordable in addition to improving the environmental protection in water-scarce regions, by reducing the amount of water needed for flushing.

According to

the latest research, one out of three individuals lack access to safer sanitation, especially those in communities who rely on open pit latrine or empty fields to relieve themselves therefore getting exposed to infectious diseases, insects and terrible odour.

The GTS, apart from being a place for someone to relieve themselves, it also has a complete system to handle the whole sanitation process from sitting down to restoring the valuable nutrients to the soil hence helping farmers to produce more thus enabling food security to the people.

The treatment process involves a technology known as a Urine Diverting Dry Toilet (UDDT). It is a simple, low cost, on site toilet, that operates without water and has a divider so that, with the little effort the user will divert the urine from the excrement, and therefore it will be easy to collect the dried bodily waste, so that it can undergo a treatment process to enable it be safe, and used as fertilizer for crop production.

The project is rolled out in several components.

First, it targets to train KEWI lecturers on the sanitation technologies, who will serve as trainers of



Mr. Seth Muthusi, KEWI Quality Assurance Officer checks measurements during the construction of the GTS.

Innovative Sanitation Solutions are here, Thanks to AFDB Bank

women and youth. Through the training, the component will also define critical elements to be included in the training materials and curriculum. This component also involves development of training materials and curriculum for skills enhancement of women and youth.

Secondly, women and youth will be trained on low cost safe pit latrines and green toilet system at KEWI facility. Community Health Workers (CHWs) who will be key in mobilizing community members and in providing health, sanitation and hygiene sensitization will also be trained on both technologies.

This is for the sustainability of the project. The CHWs will undertake community outreaches and dialogue on the proposed technologies to influence uptake and improved sanitation and hygiene practices. KEWI will support in development of messages that can be used for social and behavior change, communication and sensitization. Farmers who will play a critical role in the use of fertilizers generated from treated waste will also be trained.

Thirdly, practical hands on training will be provided on construction and installation of low-cost safe pit latrines. The training will entail construction of Pilot Green Toilet

system including waste treatment facility and operating the system.

Lastly, and the most vital component is to undertake research on efficient use of treated waste, outreach and sensitization on sanitation technologies to users as well as farmers who will be the users of treated product.

Lessons and knowledge captured through the project will be documented, which will serve as a knowledge base for rolling out the sanitation technologies in scale. Accumulated knowledge will also be shared through water and sanitation related conferences and platforms.



Column setting of the treatment plant at Oloolaiser Water and Sanitation Company in Kajiado County.

KEWI Scoops Medals During KETISA Games in Eldoret



A section of male volleyball team receiving their second position trophy after the conclusion of the 31st Edition of KETISA games.

BY PIUS KIMANI

Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) registered an above-average performance after it managed to scoop 2 trophies out of the 6 available for grabs during the 31st Edition of Kenya Technical Sports Association (KETISA) ball games that were held at The Eldoret National Polytechnic in Uasin Gishu County between 28th -30th July 2023.

KEWI managed to take position 2 and 3 in men and ladies volleyball categories respectively in an event that attracted participants in several disciplines which included basketball (men and ladies), volleyball (men and ladies),

football (men) and netball (ladies).

KEWI men volleyball team under the captaincy of Martin Ekure, offered a scintillating show in their meet with the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), Nairobi Campus, during the finals but their sportsmanship was gored after they fell to their rivals.

However, finishing second at this particular sport was not a mean feat and the team had to display high levels of skills, determination and outstanding teamwork.

Mr. Henry Kobia, Senior Principal Registrar and KETISA Games organizer at KEWI, however lauded the

team and rooted their comeback due to their unwavering sports discipline and resilience.

“Our volleyball men should be immensely proud of their remarkable achievement at this event as they have showcased their talent and represented our institute with grace and honor.” Mr. Kobia asserted.

KEWI ladies equally put up a show in the same sport and wrestled hard to grab a podium finish in the third position. The ladies felt the heat from the eventual winners’ National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), Nairobi Campus kitchen who by the blow of the whistle relegated them to the third

KEWI Scoops Medals During KETISA Games in Eldoret

position.

The team under the strong leadership of their captain Vivian Ayuma however promised to make a strong comeback once the games comes calling again next season.

Mr. Byron Omondi, KEWI Sports Officer extended kind words of praise to the team for having not given up despite the pressure.

“Though they may have fallen short this time, our ladies team will rise again, stronger and more determined than ever before.” Mr. Omondi said.

However, it was an uphill task for the rest of the ball games as KEWI failed to make a show as was expected.

In the ladies basketball tournament, KEWI managed to ease past the group stages only to be knocked out during the semifinals thus strangling its quest for a podium finish.

The same fate befell their male counterparts after they were thrashed by Railways Training Institute (RTI) and mauled enough not to advance past the knockout stages.

The netball team equally did not manage to upstage their rivals National Youth Service (NYS), who ended their scramble for top finish at quarterfinals. KEWI male football team met their fate in the hands of their rivals, Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology

(KIHBT) after they were eliminated from advancing further at quarterfinals level of the game. The heated duel between the two sports powerhouses however saw KIHBT thrash KEWI 2-1.

Mr. Omondi was elated that the teams had showed marks of improvement and had a worthy mention from their fans who believe better days lay ahead for the upcoming sports heroes.

“The teams, despite their performance have undoubtedly left an indelible mark on the hearts of their diehard fans and are truly inspiring future generations of sportsmen who aim for the best.”



The male volleyball team practicing ahead of the KETISA games.

Turning Water Hyacinth into Eco-friendly Innovations



BY JOHN WAWERU

Water hyacinth, also known as *Eichhornia crassipes*, is a typical invasive vegetation in Lake Victoria. For the East African region, the water hyacinth invasion in the lake has created a number of ecological and economic issues.

Despite millions of money spent in eradication and con-

trol programs, the severity of the infestation is still vigorous. Maxwell Amimo a Danish Industry (DI) sponsored student pursuing Water and Wastewater Management Technology course has developed assorted sustainable products from water hyacinth which he looks forward to commercialize and turn the weed into a valuable resource.

Maxwell successfully made a fibre from water hyacinth which he has effectively utilized in making paper, carton and a card board. To manufacture the products, he harvests water hyacinth in a nearby river invaded by hyacinth.

He then proceeds to wash off any debris and solar dries the weed or heats at low

temperature to increase oxidation process. He then blends the weed and rations it with paper and adds binding agents. Maxwell then models various products according to thickness and size, and solar dries the end product.

With this breakthrough, the young researcher looks forward to source for moulds which he will use to manufacture egg trays, biodegradable plates, packaging materials card boards, ceiling boards among other numerous environmentally friendly products.



Above, Mr. Amimo with assorted items made from water hyacinth and below hyacinth fibre in plastic cans and cardboard made from water hyacinth.

lagged behind, compared to other institutions in the sector.

Quote of the Week

“Success is not final, failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts.”

-Winston Churchill.

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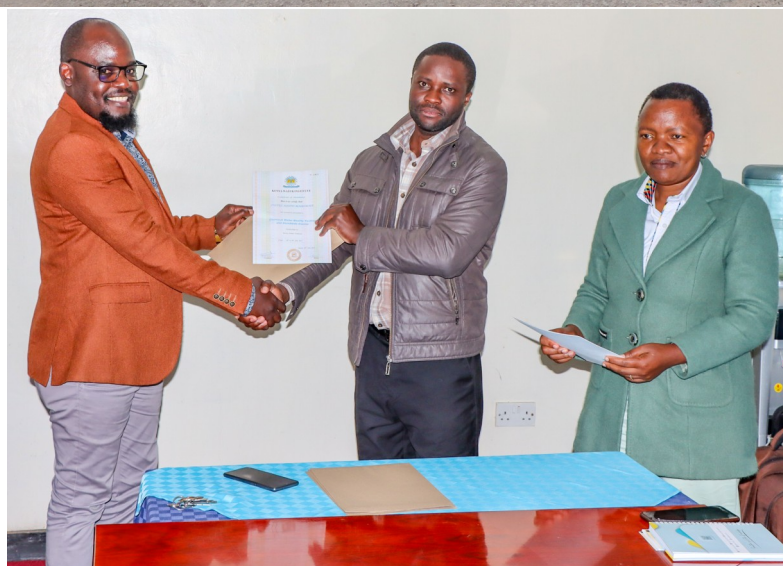
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All application letters to be addressed to:

The Director, Kenya Water Institute,

P.O. BOX 60013-00200 Nairobi, not later than 18th August 2023.

Round Up of the Week's Events



Chemical Water Quality Testing and Standards, a Short Course offered at the institute aimed at ensuring safe and clean water for various purposes. Participants from Eldoret Water and Sanitation Company and Concern Worldwide South Sudan were this week's aspiring participants. Mr. William Oduor, Head Of Department Short Courses and Curriculum Development presented certificates to them.

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 Diploma in Water Laboratory Technology (DWLT)
 Certificate in Wastewater and Sanitation Engineering Technology (CWSET)
 Certificate in Water Resources Management Technology (CWRMT)
 Certificate in Information Communication Technology (CICT)- KNEC
 Certificate in Water Laboratory Technology (CWLTL)
 Certificate in Water Engineering Technology (CWET)
 Drilling Operations and Management (DOM)
 Plumbing and Pipe Fitting (PPF)
 Water Operators Course (WOC) in:

- Water Supply
- Meter Reading
- Sewerage Operations

Short - Term Programmes

Use of Earth Observation Tools and GIS for Water Resources Management
 Entrepreneurship and Financial Management for Water Managers
 Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply Networks
 Metering and Installation of Water Supply Networks
 Leak Detection & Repair techniques
 Drilling Operations and Management (DOM)
 Operation & Maintenance of Pumping Stations
 Pump Selection, Installation and Maintenance
 Plumbing, Pipe Fitting and Solar Water Heating
 Instrumentation for Water and Wastewater Systems
 Water Governance, Management and Technology
 Application of GIS for Water Utilities Mapping
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Vision

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