

April 13-19 2024

KEWI Governing Council Champions Developments During Visit to Campuses



KEWI Governing Council Chairperson Hon. Patrick Musili Mbangula, a section of the Governing Council members, and CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule EBS, in a pipe workshop in Chiakariga Campus.

BY JUDY W. & K. KORIR

The Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) is making strides in its pursuit of progress, as evidenced by the recent visits by the Governing Council at KEWI Campuses.

Hon. Patrick Musili Mbangula, Chairperson KEWI Governing Council, accompanied by the CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule and the Governing Council members,

commenced their tour at Kitui Campus.

In his speech, he started by highlighting the responsibilities bestowed on them by the government to fulfill the institute's mandate. The council has been tasked with ensuring that the services provided are in accordance with national laws, spearheading the creation of regulations and policies, ensuring modernization of the public services through the introduction of modern

HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 Water Police Unit from pays visit to Kisumu Campus
- 4 Institute commits to excellence, pursues ISO certification
- 5 Kisumu Campus promotes Academic Excellence
- 6 Expert's view: Rethinking water utility performance metrics
- 7 KEWI implements CBET Curriculum in end of semester examinations

KEWI Governing Council Champions Developments During Visit to Campuses

technologies and innovative procedures to improve service delivery, and ensuring that public officers demonstrate professionalism, transparency, and accountability in performing their duties and that they show courtesy, integrity, and neutrality in dealing with citizens.

"In reference to the above functions, I want to acknowledge the potential Kitui Campus has, towards becoming a premier campus. The council, has approved plans to put up a 100 bed capacity hostel and 40 self-contained room units for short courses."

In his remarks, KEWI CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule EBS, reiterated his commitment to making the institute a Technical Centre of Excellence in Training, Research, Innovation, and Consultancy in the Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation Sector.

"We ought to acknowledge the new shift in growth, and it is critical that we strengthen our resilience and strive to make meaningful progress on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), which involves setting measurable goals and being accountable to achieve progress. However, it is important to note that these shifts are not easy to

implement. They require a significant investment of time, resources, and effort. We all must be committed to making these changes and willing to take risks and try new things. Also, work as a team, be willing to listen to each other and be open to feedback and



new ideas." Said Dr. Letangule.

Giving his remarks the Campus Principal, Mr. Matara Kaburi, quoted Leonard Bernstein, saying, which states, "To achieve great things, two things are needed: a plan and not quite enough time." "It is in this state of excitement and pressure that truly great inspiration can, will, and must happen in order to reach the end goal."

While at Chiakariga Campus, the council explored various facilities, including workshops, greenhouses, and the irrigation block.

Hon. Mbangula affirmed the council's support for the Campus, promising swift action in completing the construction of the irrigation block. He stressed the importance of campus marketing to attract more students, urging staff to intensify their efforts.

Dr. Letangule echoed this sentiment, advocating for teamwork and among staff. He emphasized KEWI's commitment to equality across all campuses and urged collaboration with local water companies to expand the institute's reach.

Subsequently, the council visited Tharaka Nithi County Commissioner's Office, where they engaged with Deputy County Commissioner Mr. Julius Too to explore collaboration opportunities.

These visits highlight KEWI's dedication to holistic development and strategic partnerships. By leveraging the expertise and resources of the Governing Council, management and staff, KEWI is poised to achieve significant milestones in its mission to excel in water resource management education and research.

Water Police Unit from LVSWWDA Pays Courtesy Visit to Kisumu Campus



Water Police Unit Officers in a group photo with Kisumu Campus staff led by the Campus Principal Dr. Emily Chepkoech.

BY EBININO RONIEX

In a gesture of collaboration and partnership, the Water Police Unit based at Lake Victoria South Water Works Development Agency (LVSWWDA) visited KEW-Kisumu. The visit aimed to strengthen ties between the two organizations and explore potential avenues for cooperation in training and research, with a particular focus on the Non-Revenue Water Section.

Inspector Eston Njuguna, representing the Water Police Unit, had initially expressed his interest in visiting the Campus. The event served as an opportune moment for the

Water Police Unit to engage with KEWI and explore areas of mutual interest and collaboration.

During the courtesy visit, Inspector Njuguna and his team were warmly welcomed by the faculty and staff of Kisumu Campus. The visit provided an opportunity for Inspector Njuguna to familiarize himself with the facilities, programs, and expertise available at KEWI, with a view to potential collaboration in the future.

One of the key areas of interest discussed during the visit was the Non-Revenue Water Section, a critical aspect of water management that requires specialized

knowledge and skills. Inspector Njuguna expressed his keen interest in exploring potential training and research partnerships with KEWI in this area, recognizing the institute's expertise and resources in the field of water management and conservation.

The visit also served as a platform for knowledge exchange and networking between the Water Police Unit and KEWI Kisumu. Inspector Njuguna had the opportunity to engage with faculty members and researchers, exchanging insights and experiences related to water management, enforcement, and conservation efforts.

Institute Commits to Excellence: Pursuing ISO Certification

BY ENG. MARTIN GATERI

Kenya Water Institute is embarking on an empowering journey towards International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Certification, with key process owners actively engaged in a comprehensive workshop aimed at ensuring the seamless implementation of ISO standards.

The workshop, a pivotal component of the Institute's ISO certification initiative, spearheaded by the Risk Management, Compliance and Quality Management, brought onboard experts to provide invaluable insights and guidance on integrating quality management practices into the institution's operations. Participants were equipped with the necessary tools and strategies to navigate the intricacies of ISO requirements and drive organizational excellence.

"At The Kenya Water Institute, we are deeply committed to fostering a culture of continuous improvement and excellence," stated Dr. Leiro Letangule EBS

during the workshop that kicked off in Machakos. "The workshop represents a crucial step forward in our journey towards ISO certification, as it empowers our team with the knowledge and resources needed to meet and exceed international quality standards." He added.



A section of Heads of Department taking part in preparing ISO procedures.

The implementation of ISO standards is poised to yield manifold benefits for KEWI, including enhanced operational efficiency, improved service delivery, and greater stakeholder satisfaction. By embracing this transformative process, the institution will demonstrate its unwavering dedication to delivering exceptional training experiences and services.

As KEWI progresses on its path towards ISO certification, stakeholders can expect to witness tangible improvements in quality, consistency, and accountability across all areas

of operation. The workshop served as a testament to the institution's proactive approach to quality management and its commitment to excellence.

With the collective efforts of its dedicated team, KEWI is poised to achieve ISO certification and elevate its standing as a paragon of excellence in the water sector.

Top of Form This workshop is instrumental in enhancing our processes and practices to align with ISO standards. By participating actively in this workshop, we are equipping ourselves

with the necessary knowledge and tools to implement the ISO requirements effectively across our operations." Remarked Mr. Nelson Kwamini, Deputy Director, Research Consultancy and Technical Services.

Achieving ISO certification is not merely a milestone but a testament to the institute's commitment to quality and continuous improvement. The insights gained from the workshop will undoubtedly strengthen the institute's systems and procedures, positioning us favorably towards successful ISO certification.

Kisumu Campus Promotes Academic Excellence Through Research Presentations for Final Year Students



Kisumu Campus students pursuing Diploma courses present their research findings to their trainers.

skill set that is invaluable in both academic and professional settings.

At Kisumu Campus, the research presentations for Diploma students are taken seriously, with faculty members providing guidance and

support to ensure students are well-prepared for the event. The presentations are an opportunity for students to showcase their intellectual curiosity, critical thinking skills, and ability to contribute meaningfully to their chosen field of study.

Moreover, defending their theses allows students to receive feedback from their peers and faculty members, facilitating further refinement and improvement of their research projects. This iterative process not only enhances the quality of the students' work but also prepares them for the real-world challenges they will encounter in their future careers.

BY EBININO RONIEX

In a bid to foster academic excellence and prepare its final year students for the challenges of the professional world, KEWI Kisumu Campus recently organized research presentations for final year students pursuing their Diplomas. The event not only showcased the culmination of students' academic endeavours but also underscored the importance of defending their theses – a crucial aspect of their educational journey.

Research presentations serve as a platform for students to demonstrate their mastery of chosen subjects, as well as their

ability to critically analyse, synthesize, and present information. For final year students in pursuing Diploma Courses, these presentations mark the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and academic growth.

The importance of defending their theses cannot be overstated. It is not merely a formality, but a vital component of the academic process that prepares students for the rigors of their chosen field. Through defending their theses, students learn to articulate their research findings, defend their methodologies, and respond to questions and criticisms – a

Beyond Percentages: Rethinking Water Utility Performance Metrics



BY ERIC OMONDI

Performance metrics serve a pivotal role in guiding decisions on the recognition of the performance of water utilities in Kenya and ultimately determine the resources allocated to different water utilities. WASREB and other water sector institutions use % NRW as a metric to compare the performance of water utilities in Kenya. This metric paints an incomplete picture of water utility performance, often resulting in misleading comparisons. To adequately compare the performance of water utilities, a paradigm shift from percentages to a more comprehensive expression of water loss is essential.

Consider two hypothetical water utilities, Utility A and Utility B, serving different populations and geographical regions in Kenya. Comparing the two utilities using % NRW

might imply a significant difference in terms of their performance. It shows that Utility A records a high unacceptable % NRW of 42% according to WASREB standards while Utility B records a more acceptable % NRW of 15%. However, diving deeper into the figures tells a different story.

Utility A serves a population of 120,000 people, has a water supply of 14,400 m³/day and 30,000 connections. On the other hand, Utility B serves 200,000 people, has a supply of 40,000 m³/day and 40,000 connections. The NRW per day for both utilities is 6000m³/day but the %NRW shows a significant variation between the two utilities.

The glaring discrepancy in % NRW is a result of the limitation of using % NRW as a metric for comparing the performance of water utilities. % NRW does not account for contextual factors such as the total population served, the total number of connections, the length of the connections, the water demand, and other infrastructural utility differences. Therefore, it is unfair to compare water utilities using % NRW without considering these contextual differences.

To adequately address this discrepancy, regulators such as WASREB need a paradigm shift from comparing water utilities using conventional NRW percentages to more comprehensive performance metrics such as m³/day/km or m³/day/connection. This way, a true reflection of each utility's performance is achieved. For instance, in Utility A with 30,000 connections, the NRW in m³/day/connection is 0.20 while Utility B with 40,000 connections have an NRW of 0.15 m³/day/connection indicating a slight difference in the performance of the two utilities compared to the significant variation observed using % NRW. Expressing NRW in m³/day/km also shows that Utility A loses slightly more water (6.7m³/day/km) compared to Utility B (3.8m³/day/km). This analysis shows that the use of % NRW to compare water utilities can be misleading, and therefore regulators should consider other performance metrics such as NRW in m³/day/km, NRW in m³/day/connection, Infrastructure Loss Index (ILI) and Apparent Loss Index (ALI) that consider the contextual differences between water utilities to determine performance.

KEWI Implements CBET Curriculum in End of Semester Exams



Nairobi Campus students during an ongoing examination .

BY FAIZAH JEPKORIR

This week marked a significant milestone for the Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) as it conducted the end-of-semester examinations across all the campuses. However, what made this examination period truly noteworthy was the institute's adherence to the guidelines and regulations of the Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) curriculum, marking the first time the institute has conducted exams under these standards.

The implementation of the CBET curriculum represents a paradigm shift in how examinations are structured and administered at KEWI. Unlike previous examination periods, where the focus was primarily on traditional assessment methods, the CBET curriculum introduces a more holistic ap-

proach to evaluating students' competencies.

One of the key differences in this examination cycle is the consolidation of multiple units into a single paper. Unlike before, where exams were structured around standalone units, the current format integrates three to four related units into one comprehensive assessment. This restructuring aims to provide a more comprehensive evaluation of students' understanding across interconnected topics.

Furthermore, the introduction of multiple-choice questions at all academic levels, from Artisan to Certificate level courses, signifies a departure from conventional examination practices. This addition not only diversifies assessment methods but also aligns with the CBET curriculum's emphasis on practical skills

and knowledge application.

Another notable adaptation is the use of simplified language in question settings, tailored to different academic levels. This modification ensures that questions are accessible and comprehensible to students across various proficiency levels, enhancing equity and inclusivity in the examination process.

Additionally, the incorporation of essay questions, guided by CBET curriculum guidelines, further enhances the depth and breadth of assessments. By requiring students to articulate their understanding and demonstrate critical thinking skills, essay questions contribute to a more holistic evaluation of competencies.

Perhaps the most significant departure from previous practices is the adjustment in grading, with examinations now totaling 100 marks instead of the previous 50 marks. This change reflects the CBET curriculum's emphasis on comprehensive assessment and aligns with international standards of competency-based evaluation.

By embracing the CBET curriculum in its examination practices, KEWI is aligning itself with the target of 70%

KEWI Implements CBET Curriculum in End of Semester Exams

practical and 30% theoretical learning, as set forth by the CBET framework. This strategic shift underscores the institute's commitment to modernizing education delivery and ensuring that graduates possess the practical skills necessary for success in the workforce. Moreover, this transition marks a significant step forward for KEWI, reinforcing its status as a leader in water resource management education.

As KEWI continues to implement the CBET curriculum, both students and

faculty can anticipate further improvements in teaching, learning, and assessment methodologies.

These enhancements will create a more dynamic and responsive educational environment, better equipping students with the skills and knowledge required to address real-world challenges in the field of water resource management.

Through ongoing adaptation and innovation, KEWI remains dedicated to providing high-quality education that meets the

evolving needs of the industry and society as a whole.

"By embracing the CBET curriculum in its examination practices, KEWI is aligning itself with the target of 70% practical and 30% theoretical learning, as set forth by the CBET framework."

Quote of the Week

"The greatest act of leadership is mentoring. No matter how much you may learn, achieve, accumulate, or accomplish, if it all dies with you, then you are a generation failure."

-Myles Munroe.

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Round up of The Week's Events



Above:

Moments during KEWI Governing Council visit to KEWI Campuses.

Below:

KEWI Governing Council Chairperson Hon. Patrick Musili Mbangula plants a tree in Kitui Campus.

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