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WEEKLY Newsletter

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KEWI Braces for Surge in Intake as Machogu Announces KUCCPS Placement Results

Education CS Dr. Ezekiel Machogu addresses the media shortly after releasing the 2024 Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) results at the Edge Convention Centre in South C Nairobi. PHOTO/ COURTESY

BY FAIZAH JEPKORIR

In a significant announcement, the Ministry of Education has disclosed the 2024 Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) results, impacting over 890,000 candidates who sat for the 2023 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education.

At the prestigious 2024 KUCCPS Stakeholders Forum held at the Edge Convention Centre in South C Nairobi, the Education Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Ezekiel Machogu, revealed pivotal insights. Among them, 201,146 students achieved a mean grade of C+ and above, meeting the threshold for placement into Degree and Diploma programs.

"Of these," Dr. Machogu declared, "153,274 have secured placements into various Degree and Diploma programs in Universities, constituting an impressive 76.2%."

The ceremony also witnessed enthusiastic anticipation from representatives of various institutions among them

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KEWI Braces for Surge in Intake as Machogu Announces KUCCPS Placement Results

Mr. Feisal Hassan, Registrar of Student Affairs, Kenya Water Institute during a previous students event at KEWI, South C Nairobi.

Mr. Feisal Hassan, Registrar of Student Affairs, Kenya Water Institute. "We commend this initiative," he remarked, indicating the institute's preparedness to welcome incoming students through the KUCCPS placement system. 'This comes after the Kenya Water Institute's successful placement of over 2000 students via KUCCPS in the last 2 years, 'he added.

Addressing the strategy behind placement, Dr. Machogu emphasized the meticulous consideration of applicants' preferences, qualifications, and institutional capacities. Notably, he highlighted the ongoing accessibility of Open University of Kenya (OUK) programs through the KUCCPS portal, urging aspiring students to seize this opportunity for global-standard education.

Reflecting on the broader educational landscape, Dr. Machogu delineated the cumulative approved capacities across various institutions, illustrating the diverse pathways available for educational pursuit. With 694,086 candidates falling within the C to E grade range, TVET institutions stand ready to offer Diploma, Craft, and Artisan programs, aligning with Kenya's evolving vocational education landscape.

Amidst the announcements, the focus shifted towards Kenya Water Institute's aspirations. With the upcoming intake cycle, the institute is poised to leverage the KUCCPS placement to bolster its student body, contributing to the nation's educational advancement.

In a momentous stride, Dr. Machogu unveiled the KUCCPS 2023–2027 Strategic Plan and released the 2024–2025 Placement Cycle Report. He commended the KUCCPS Board for their dedication to equitable and efficient placement services, reaffirming the Ministry's steadfast support towards fostering globally competitive human capital and sustainable socioeconomic development in Kenya.

"With thousands of students relying on KUCCPS for fair access to higher education," Dr. Machogu remarked, "our commitment to maintaining these standards remains unwavering."

As the 2024 student placement process concludes, Kenya Water Institute eagerly awaits the influx of aspiring scholars, poised to nurture talent and contribute to Kenya's educational renaissance.

Environmental Conservation and Chase for a Sustainable Water Project at Kitui Campus

Field Flood Plain near the borehole in Kitui campus reduces runoff for maximum water infiltration

BY ENG. B.W. MUGOH

Water is a major requirement for the existence of life, and the environment plays a major role in ensuring water quality and quantity is guaranteed. KEWI-Kitui campus is located in Kitui County, in the in the southern part of the former Eastern Province of Kenya. The region experiences a semi-arid climate with an average annual rainfall of 750 mm (Kitui County, CGSpace). KEWI-Kitui campus obtains water from three sources, including rainfall, Kitui Water and Sanitation Company (KITWASCO), and groundwater through boreholes. Since annual rainfall is less and the water supplied by KITWASCO is unreliable and costly, groundwater extracted from the borehole within the campus becomes the only reliable source of water for the campus.

To guarantee the sustainability of groundwater resources, the KEWI-Kitui campus embarks on extensive environmental conservation through the planting of trees and grasses as well as landscaping within the campus in order to increase water

Infiltration basins: Building with nature in mind helps to beautify land and act as infiltration points.

Environmental Conservation and Chase for a Sustainable Water Project at Kitui Campus

Part of the forested areas conserves the environment, reduces evapo-transpiration and runoff, and increases retention time and infiltration rates.

infiltration, resulting in groundwater recharge. After the occurrence of a rainfall event and the available water reservoirs are full, excess water from roofs, runoff from cemented pathways and parking lots is directed to infiltration flood fields and forested areas. These areas increase runoff by increasing retention time within the catchment of the KEWI-Kitui campus, resulting in an increase in water infiltration.

Loose soil sediments with a huge layer of sand ensure deep percolation of infiltrated water to the groundwater VC level. In addition, the geology of the area contains an appreciable amount of sandstone, which is a good aquifer, and underlying metamorphic rock, which acts as bedrock and ensures water is not lost underneath.

In addition, the radius of influence of our borehole is roughly 180 m, which is within our environmental conservation area, and the nearest borehole is roughly 1 km away, ensuring non-competition of groundwater within our environmental conservation radius. Thus, the strategy of environmental conservation on our campus, aiming to retain much of the runoff within the campus catchment, significantly contributes to groundwater recharge and subsequent borehole sustainability for effective development.

Maximizing the Potential of Rainwater Harvesting in Kitui Campus

A field visit to a local dam in Kitui. Dams are used to harvest rainwater.

BY ENG. SAMUEL NYONJE

KEWI-Kitui campus located in Kitui County is often plagued by water scarcity especially during the dry seasons. It is situated in a region that holds immense potential for rainwater harvesting (RWH) as a sustainable water management solution. RWH involves collecting and storing rainwater for later use. The practice can address the pressing water needs of the institution, enhancing water security.

The region's climatic conditions, characterized by distinct wet and dry seasons, make rainwater harvesting particularly viable. During the wet season—recently, the El Nino rains and cyclone Hidaya rains—substantial amounts of rainfall can be captured and stored, providing a reliable water source throughout the dry months. Currently, KEWI-Kitui has a rooftop collection system that collects and stores approximately 50,000 liters; however, it has the potential to expand to three times the present capacity. If properly utilized and maintained, it can ensure that even during periods of drought, there is access to clean water for drinking and sanitation.

One of the primary benefits of rainwater harvesting is reduction in over-dependence on rationed municipality water flows and over-exploited groundwater resources, promoting more sustainable water use. Additionally, RWH has the potential to improve agricultural output. As it is now, KEWI-Kitui does not have any agricultural activities but future farming practices cannot be ruled out. This has the potential of enhancing students' practical in the irrigation sector. Rain-fed agriculture is inconsistent

However, realizing the full potential of rainwater harvesting in the region requires concerted efforts in terms of policy, education, and infrastructure development. Governments, NGOs, and institutions like KEWI need to invest in training communities on RWH techniques and maintenance. Additionally, policies that encourage the adoption of RWH, coupled with financial incentives for households and farmers, can drive widespread implementation.

In conclusion, rainwater harvesting stands out as a practical and impactful solution for addressing water scarcity in Kitui County. By tapping into this underutilized resource, the region can enhance water security, boost agricultural productivity, and improve public health, paving the way for sustainable development and resilience against climate change.

BY PIUS KIMANI

In a bid to prioritize mental health within KEWI community, Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) management has taken proactive measures to address the issue head-on. With Mental Health Awareness Month in full swing, KEWI has ramped up its efforts to break the stigma surrounding mental illness and provide much-needed support to students and staff facing mental health challenges.

Led by experienced professcores KEWI's commitment to building resilience against work-related stressors, cyberbullying, and other societal pressures. Through collaboration with stakeholders and active participation in initiatives such as those led by the Workplace Wellbeing Coaches Trainers, KEWI continues to advocate for access to mental health resources and support systems. By addressing mental health proactively, KEWI aims to cultivate a positive and nurturing learning environment where every individual feels valued and supported.

for all members of the school community. Recognizing the profound impact of mental health concerns on academic performance, personal well-being, and overall quality of life, KEWI has launched various initiatives aimed at promoting mental wellness.

One notable initiative includes the recently concluded Workplace Wellbeing Coaches Training, where 40 KEWI staff members received training in addressing mental health issues in the workplace. This training under-

As Mental Health Awareness Month comes to an end, KEWI stands as a beacon of hope, leading the charge in promoting mental wellness and breaking down barriers to mental health care.

10th Water Forum in Bali Indonesia: Water for Shared Prosperity

The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Hon. Zachariah Njeru EGH accompanied by the Principal Secretary, State Department for Water and Sanitation Mr. Julius Korir, CBS were among the Ministry top leadership attending the 10th World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia. The CS had the pleasure to deliver a Keynote address to a High Level Panel discussion organized by Tri Hita Karana Forum and the World Economic Forum.

The theme of the discussion was "Blended Finance for Global Sustainable Water" held at the Hibiscus and Frangipani Room, Bali International Convention Centre.

Water being a critical resource for humanity, blended financing solutions and Public-Private Partnerships as a means of tackling the funding gap in the water sector is the way to go.

The CS thanked the Tri-Hita Karana Forum and the World Economic Forum for extending this invite to share the Kenyan experience in developing financing approaches towards achieving SDG 6 and accelerating water resilience.

At the Forum, the CS had the opportunity to pitch for Kenya's ambitious plan to develop 100 mega dams to boost water harvesting for domestic, irrigation, hydro power generation and flood mitigation as its primary objectives. In the plan, the country seeks to draw resources from the private sector through Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives to achieve the targeted objectives for the betterment of services provision, enhance economic development, job and wealth creation.

The CS had the opportunity to reiterate the Government's commitment towards providing an enabling environment and necessary support measures to the initiative including developing a robust legal and policy framework to guide private sector funding under PPP. The 34 dams have already been identified, through feasibility studies and forwarded to investors for expression of interest, a big step towards achieving water security.

Kenya remains open to business and creating partnerships with Development Partners in the Water, Sanitation and Irrigation sector.

Round up of The Week's Events

Gatsby Africa Program Director Mr. Abdi Wario Bonaya, and KEWI Deputy Director Research, Consultancy and Technical Services, Mr. Nelson Kwamini lead their respective teams in signing the contracts for the second phase of their joint project and handing over of equipments for KEWI NRW Centre.

Quote of the Week

"Your mental health is just as important as your physical health."

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Long - Term Programmes

Diploma in Water Engineering Technology (DWET) Diploma in Wastewater
Diploma in Water, Sanitation Engineering Technology (DWSET)
Diploma in Water Resources Management Technology (DWRTM)
Diploma in Irrigation and Drainage Engineering Technology (DIDET)
Diploma in Information Communication Technology (DICT)-KNEC
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 (CWLT)
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
Drilling Operations and Management
Water Quality Sampling and Testing
Microbiological Water Quality Assessment
Integrated Water Resources Management
Non-Revenue water
Water Management
Customer Care

Vision

A Technical Centre of Excellence in Training, Research, Innovation and Consultancy in the water, Sanitation and Irrigation Sector.

Mission

T o offer Competency-Based Training, Research, Innovation, Consultancy and Outreach Services in the Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Sector for sustainable development.

Core Values

Good Corporate Governance
Professionalism
Customer Focus
Innovativeness
Inclusivity
Patriotism
Integrity

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OTHER SERVICES OFFERED

Water Quality Laboratory Services
Drilling and Test Pumping Services
Ground water Assessment Services
Conferencing Services
Troubleshooting of pumps boreholes and distribution systems
Repair of pumps boreholes and distribution systems

Your feedback is crucial for our improvement

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