



WEEKLY Newsletter

September 21-27 2024

KEWI and Gatsby Africa Unveil Mobile Workshop to Combat NRW Losses in Kenya



The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, Eng. Eric Murithi Mugaa, receives a dummy key for the double cab pickup from Mr. Abdi Wario, Program Director for Water, Gatsby Africa. In company are The Principal Secretary State Department for Water and Sanitation, Mr. Julius Korir CBS, The Principal Secretary State Department for Irrigation, Mr. Ephantus Kimotho, Water Secretary Eng. SAO Alima, Administration Secretary, Mr. Stephen Kihara, KEWI Chairperson Hon. Patrick Mbangula and KEWI Director/CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule EBS.

BY: FAIZAH JEPKORIR

In a pioneering effort to enhance operational efficiency and financial responsibility in the water sector, the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation, Eng. Eric Murithi Mugaa, on 26th September 2024, received a double cab pickup from Mr. Abdi Wario, Program Director for Water, Gatsby Africa (GA). This vehicle will serve as a

mobile workshop for Non-Revenue Water (NRW) training and consultancy services, marking a significant step toward addressing Kenya’s persistent water losses and promoting sustainable water management practices.

The handover ceremony, witnessed by KEWI CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule EBS, alongside other dignitaries, including Principal Secretary for Water and Sanitation, Mr. Julius Korir

HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 Kisumu Campus Conducts a Training on Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply
- 5 Institute Reiterates its Keeness to Delivering the Water Agenda
- 7 Improving Workplace Mental Health
- 9 Call for Short Course Training

KEWI and Gatsby Africa Unveil Mobile Workshop to Combat NRW Losses in Kenya

CBS, Principal Secretary for Irrigation, Mr. Ephantus Kimotho CBS, Water Secretary Eng. SAO Alima, and Administration Secretary Mr. Stephen Kihara. This initiative is set to enhance KEWI's ability to train water utilities on effective approaches for managing NRW, an issue that sees 45% of water in Kenyan utilities go unaccounted for—resulting to an estimated annual loss of Ksh 12 Billion.

The mobile workshop's introduction follows the successful completion of Phase 1 of the NRW initiative, during 7 water utilities across the country. This phase focused on best practices for mitigating both commercial and physical water losses, creating a strong foundation for future interventions aimed at building the capacity of water utilities for sustainable NRW management.

Building on this success, Phase 2 introduces enhanced tools and approaches through the newly established NRW Centre of Excellence at KEWI. This center will operate with the support of the mobile workshop, providing consultancy services and leasing equipment to help utilities manage water losses. Emphasizing the importance of equipping water utilities with the necessary knowledge,

skills, and tools, this phase aims to address operational inefficiencies that contribute to water wastage.

To further enhance KEWI's technical capacity, 5 staff



The CS signs the visitor's book at KEWI's CEO's Office. Dr. Letangule looks on.

members have undergone specialized training at IHE Delft in Netherlands, focusing on the latest NRW management techniques. This advanced training empowers KEWI to train local utilities using globally recognized methodologies. With the mobile workshop, KEWI can provide hands-on training and consultancy services to even the most remote utilities.

In addition, KEWI has recently launched a revitalized curriculum for NRW management, which includes pilot training on the management of technical and physical losses. This , introduces 3 short courses focused on an incentive-based approach to NRW, as well as the management of physical and commercial losses.

The fully equipped vehicle, described as a "mobile workshop," will play a key role in offering logistical support, in enabling visit to multiple sites for on-the-ground training. By bringing services closer to utilities, it is expected to bridge the gap between water utilities and necessary technical assistance, ultimately contributing to more effective water resource management.

Mr. Wario emphasized the significance of the mobile workshop, calling it a 'game-changer' for Kenya's water sector. "This mobile workshop is a game-changer in improving outreach services, and it will help the 92 water utilities better manage NRW. The ability to reach utilities far from physical lab will ensure that no water service provider is left behind in the fight against water losses."

Through this partnership, KEWI and GA are not only addressing the immediate challenges of NRW but also investing in the long-term sustainability of water resources. The mobile workshop will facilitate hands-on training, consultancy, and equipment access, empowering water utilities to reduce losses.

By combining global expertise, local knowledge, and practical solutions, KEWI and GA are shaping the future of water management in Kenya.

Kisumu Campus Conducts a Training on Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply Networks

BY: BY OTIENO FREDRICK &
ENG. KEVIN ODHIAMBO

In a bid to strengthen technical capacity of Water Service Providers (WSPs) across the country, KEWI developed a 5 Week Course on Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply Networks currently being implemented at Kisumu Campus. The training is tailored for 150 staff from Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company (NCWSC) and is being implemented in 5 cohorts of 30 participants per week from Monday 23rd September 2024.

The aim of the training is to equip participants with skills in operation and maintenance of Water Supply Networks to improve performance and operational efficiency of WSPs.

The course is structured in modules that cover critical aspects of Wastewater Collection and Treatment; Conventional Drinking Water Treatment Process; Pipeline Profile, Pressure, and Size Classification; Pipe Installation and Pressure Testing; Pipeline Sterilization and Water Quality Monitoring; Non-revenue Water Management and Meter Servicing and Calibration; Drinking Water Treatment Simulation and Jar Testing;

Operation and Maintenance of Water Treatment System; Preparation and Implementation of Operation and Maintenance Plan.

The training was designed to address gaps that affect Optimization of Water Supply Networks and instigate timely response to inefficiencies in the management of Water Supply and Sanitation Systems.

Sitting at the confluence of academia and industry, the course provides participants with real opportunities to

company while taking advantage of new openings in sustainable Management of Water Supply and Sanitation infrastructure.

Additionally, the course focuses on new and emerging technologies in Leak Detection, Pipe Repair, Water Treatment, and latest tools and equipment in Water Distribution and Troubleshooting of Water Supply Systems.

The training highlights the impacts of ineffective and poorly resourced Operation and Maintenance as an impediment to access to clean water and sanitation services. This is primarily accentuated by the absence of or inadequate operation and maintenance of hydraulic infrastructure and loss of revenue



Group photo of Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company (NCWSC) staff following a successful completion of a training on Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply Networks

establish and evaluate current practices in Operation and Maintenance of Supply systems at (NCWSC), and presents a platform for sharing knowledge and experiences while exploring opportunities for expanding water supply to underserved communities. It also seeks to address technical limitations and inadequacies in the

through leaks and bursts.

These outcomes invariably, lead to further decline in service provision and adverse outcomes on public health. Consequently, the efficiency in operation and maintenance should not only reduce contamination of drinking water but also limit exposure from dilapidated infrastructure that foments leaks and seepage

Kisumu Campus Conducts a Training on Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply Networks

of waste water supply lines. Similarly, it was recommended that support for critical Operation and Maintenance practices be cascaded beyond academia and research to industry players.

The course is part of ongoing efforts by the institute to engage industry players

through shared platforms to leverage on existing knowledge and skills to foster improvement in management of critical assets of Water Companies, and eliminate inefficiencies by streamlining operation and maintenance through institutional frameworks and strong internal

governance instruments. If implemented, these measures will provide necessary resources for last mile connectivity.

It was observed that operation and maintenance of water supply systems still face considerable challenges from institutional, financial, and technical inefficiencies. As such, the role of KEWI in formulation and strengthening

of policies and internal processes for effective Operation and Maintenance practices could not be overemphasized.

The course is part of ongoing efforts by the institute to engage industry players through shared

necessary resources for last mile connectivity.

The training was graced by the Senior Principal Registrar Mr. Anganyo M.O and the Campus Principal Dr. Emily Chepkoech. In his remarks, Mr. Anganyo welcomed the participants to KEWI and

encouraged them to draw as much knowledge from the technical expertise in the institute. While idealizing KEWI as the epitome of Water Knowledge, he encouraged participants to savor the ambience and splendor of Kisumu City, and in particular, urged them to



Kisumu Campus Principal Dr. Emily Chepkoech addressing participants drawn from NCWSC of the Short Course training.

platforms to leverage on existing knowledge and skills to foster improvement in management of critical assets of Water Companies, and eliminate inefficiencies by streamlining operation and maintenance through institutional frameworks and strong internal governance instruments. If implemented, these measures will provide

explore the beautiful beaches and sample the delicacies on offer.

On her part, Dr. Emily extended a hearty welcome to the participants and thanked them for choosing Kisumu Campus for their training. The Principal further pledged total and unwavering support in making their training memorable.

Institute Reiterates its Keeness to Delivering the Water Agenda

BY: PIUS KIMANI

Kenya Water Institute's (KEWI) efforts to offer a significant contribution to the attainment of key ministry targets and ultimately help in the achievement of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) are on course.

While engaging with the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation Eng. Eric Muriithi Mugaa, at KEWI headquarters in Nairobi, KEWI Director/CEO Dr.

Leiro Letangule noted that the institute was packaging itself as a critical department within the ministry capable of taking up to completion high-level development projects within the ministry and offering the much-needed consultancy and capacity building required to enhance such projects.

His reassurance came at a time when Eng. Mugaa stressed that the ministry was focusing on bigger regional projects that would bring better trickle-down effects to the intended beneficiaries instead of smaller ones that provide thin impacts.

With KEWI realigning her policies to mirror the bigger goal envisaged by the government through the



A group photo of CS Eng. Eric Muriithi Mugaa (Front row, second from left) with officials from the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation.

ministry, Dr. Letangule noted that the fast-approaching transformation of KEWI into Kenya Water Training and Research Institute (KEWATRI) through the KEWATRI Bill that is currently being fast-tracked in the parliament is keen to ensure that its mandate is rich enough to offer tangible results for the ministry.

Dr. Letangule noted that the institute has had her Strategic Plan 2023-2027 and policy framework aligned to the Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP4 2023-2027) of the Vision 2030 and BETA plan as well as other policy frameworks like Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), among others. This, he said, would help the institute

remain on course and stay committed to achievable levels of performance, both quantitative and qualitative.

KEWI, has stayed on course in regards to compliance with key requirements by the ministry, like the digitalization agenda in the government and the onboarding of services onto the e-citizen. This, has largely enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of its service delivery through automation. The institute has also worked closely with development partners, who have committed their funds to key projects that align to the ministry deliverables. Recently, KEWI has worked closely with key partners like Gatsby Africa, who, through their funding, has set up a non-revenue centre

Institute Reiterates its Keeness to Delivering the Water Agenda

of excellence and recently, donated a vehicle that will enhance mobile services. This collaboration, that will ultimately help the water utilities across the region address the menace that is non-revenue water has started yielding fruits, with the NRW reducing from 45 to 43 percent, a major feat for KEWI, the ministry, and the economy.

To enhance its sustainability and retain its chances of enhancement of its budgetary allocation, KEWI is keen to turnaround her research and consultancy output with a specific goal of contributing robustly to the water agenda within the larger water sector and ultimately contribute to policy directions within the ministry. This will be in tandem with the call by the cabinet secretary to departments within the ministry to commit fully to their performance contract commitments.

This, he said, if observed, would become a blueprint for the ministry's trajectory to improve service delivery in state departments. Coming at a time when the government is observing austerity measures, KEWI is keen to use all tricks in the book to avoid sanctions like

reduced budgetary allocations that may limit its service delivery.

With an aggressive policy of turning around her operations with a view to

training, research, and consultancy in the water sector and thus a critical department within the ministry that is capable of delivering the water agenda in Kenya.



Dr. Leiro Letangule addresses participants during the ratification of the Performance Contract for Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation.

anchoring itself as a critical contributor to key ministry commitments, KEWI lately embarked on precise and strategic attentions to its service delivery mechanisms that align to the overall policy framework in government, which is anchored on BETA. Recent developments, like the reclaiming of its ISO certification and the review of its strategic plan, among others, have shown commitment that the institute is equal to the task and a force to reckon with in advancing

With the ministry indicating surged interest in the KEWI mandate and investing considerably in enhancing it, it can only be noted that the institute will be a critical voice in championing the water agenda as envisaged in the BETA blueprint. Its involvement will be a strong voice in championing for policy frameworks that may be passed into laws and ultimately help create a resilient sector.

Improving Workplace Mental Health



KEWI members of staff receive a mental health and staff wellness talk from AAR Healthcare (K) limited officers.

BY: PIUS KIMANI

Recently, local media was awash with sad news of a young Kenyan nurse who took her life in what is purportedly a toxic work environment. It was reported that despite some few visible stress signs that the young nurse exhibited, her life appeared normal. However, there were some few pointers that indicated that there could have been some disruption in her life than what people could openly see and identify.

This particular case highlights a significant percentage of persons who have lost their lives due to work-related traumas. Research has indicated that 1 in 6 people experience mental health problems in the workplace and 12 billion working days are lost every year to depression and anxiety. These alarming statistics call for a wide reflection on how to

improve a healthier and happy working environment.

With causes of mental health challenges ranging from different sources such as environmental, genetic, social influence etc, its crucial for organizations to offer work related health support which will ultimately lead to a workplace that is supportive and accommodative.

Training of workplace mental wellness coaches who help colleagues to navigate the rough poor mental health terrain within the workforce contributes largely in combating poor mental health. Such officers are quick to note signs that point to some mental health issues. Further investment in efforts and resources in evidence-based approaches and interventions by organizations at their respective workplaces help in ensuring that everyone has an

opportunity to thrive in their work.

Safe and healthy working environment acts as a protective factor to mental health. Unhealthy conditions such as stigma, discrimination, harassment, and poor working conditions pose significant risk that cumulatively affect workers mental health and overall work productivity. This, coupled with insecure jobs which lack adequate protection, always leave workers exposed to psychosocial risks and can be combated by encouraging a stigma and discriminative free working environment which ultimately create a healthier and inclusive work place environment.

An organization that cultivates an open and trusting environment and encourages positive workplace relationships scores big. These approaches help offer respect

Improving Workplace Mental Health

to those undergoing mental health challenges by making such workplaces safe spaces for victims of mental health to discuss their challenges without judgement.

Organizations that empower their workers and have emphasized and help implement the prioritization of work-life balance have reported high levels of a healthier and satisfied workforce. This acts of feeling valued, secure and empowered have translated into retaining top skills and talent in workplace.

It's imperative to note that workplace targets shouldn't only be limited to business growth. Incorporating mental

health care as a key performance indicator in an organization is a clear and measurable indicator that workplace related mental health is a key component in eliminating work related mental disorders. Extending mental health support to dependents of workers within an organization by building joint team building activities also encourage stronger and resilient workers who contribute to a healthy workforce.

It's therefore of key importance to prioritize a healthy work place that focuses on improving the overall wellbeing of workers who ultimately help deliver

the success needed in all workplaces .



Quote of the Week

“It's the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.”

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor

Dorine Eva Irungu

Writers:

Faizah Jepkorir

Britney Mokeira

Pius Kimani

Otieno Fredrick

Eng. Kevin Odhiambo

Photographer

Pius Kimani

Designer

Pius Kimani

Call for Short Course Training



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



KENYA WATER INSTITUTE

COURSE: LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE IN WATER & SANITATION

TARGET GROUP:

Board Members, CEOs, Senior Management Officers of Water Service Providers and Water Institutions
CECM, Chief Officers and County Directors.



October 02-04 2024



Pride Inn Beach
Resort, Mombasa



shortcourses@kewi.or.ke



www.kewi.go.ke

Round up of The Week's Events



Moments during the handover of a double cab pickup to The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Water Sanitation and Irrigation, Eng. Eric Murithi Mugaa by Mr. Abdi Wario, Program Director for Water, Gatsby Africa, which will be used as a mobile workshop for Non-Revenue Water Training (NRW) and Consultancy services, in the water sector. This initiative is a game changer in tackling water losses and promoting sustainable practices in NRW management.

Round up of The Week's Events



A delegation from the Hunan Provincial Department of Water Resources in China, led by Deputy Director Mr. Youan Kanfu, paid a courtesy visit to KEWI. The visit aimed to strengthen collaboration on student exchange programs and research initiatives. The team also toured the institute's facilities to explore potential areas of collaboration.



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 (DWRMT)
 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 (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
 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

To 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

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

The Director,
Kenya Water Institute,
P.O. Box 60013-00200 Nairobi
TEL: +254 722-207757
Email: info@kewi.or.ke
Website: www.kewi.go.ke

For enquiries about our TVET programs
Contact the Registrar, Admissions Office.
Phone: 0735339206
Email: admissions@kewi.or.ke

KEWI Nairobi Campus
P.O. BOX 60013 – 00200
Tel: 0722207757
Email: info@kewi.or.ke

KEWI Chiakariga Campus
P.O. BOX 12 – 60215
Tel: 0729009104
Email: chiakariga@kewi.or.ke

KEWI Kitui Campus
P.O. BOX 1514 – 90200
Tel: 0707566395
Email: kitui@kewi.or.ke

KEWI Kisumu Campus
P.O. BOX 7825 – 40100
Tel: 0746212708
Email: kisumu@kewi.or.ke

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



communications@kewi.or.ke



[@kewi_kenya](https://twitter.com/kewi_kenya)



Kenya Water Institute



www.kewi.go.ke