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REPUBLIC OF KENYA

WEEKLY Newsletter

March 09– 15 March 2024

# Kenya Water and Training Research Institute Bill 2024 Approved by Cabinet for Onward Submission to Parliament

*KEWI CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule EBS, reacts during a meeting with Deputy Directors and Heads of Departments to brief them on the KEWATRI Bill 2024 progress.*

**BY PIUS KIMANI**

Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) Chief Executive Officer Dr. Leiro Letangule EBS, has hailed the move by the cabinet to give a nod to Kenya Water Training and Research Institute (KEWATRI) Bill-2024 as good news that have emboldened the institute quest to position itself as the primary vehicle for Research and Training.

The bill seeks to certify water practitioners in the water, sanitation and irrigation sector and conducting research, innovation and technological advancement on matters related to water, sanitation and irrigation.

In a communication released by the executive office of the

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# Kenya Water and Training Research Institute Bill 2024 Approved by Cabinet for Onward Submission to Parliament

president, the Bill was approved by the cabinet heralding a step closer to transitioning and elevating the institute to a better position in terms of advancing knowledge within the water sector. Once given an assent by the president, the new law will help the institute lead the nation towards sustainable development of the water sector and further help address the needs the Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Sector.

Dr. Letangule is optimistic that the approval is a show of confidence by the executive in the journey of KEWI to be a Centre of Excellence as it seeks to enrich the mandate of its service delivery and further enhance its capacity building for both institutions and individuals in the water sector.

Following the cabinet approval, the parent ministry through the Cabinet Secretary will receive a copy of the Bill and cabinet comments before forwarding the same to the Clerk of the National Assembly. The Bill then will go through the legislative process in parliament before Assent by the President.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

**TO LEAD THE** nation towards sustainable development of the water sector and address capacity needs in the Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation Sectors, Cabinet approved the **Kenya Water Training and Research Institute Bill, 2023**. Upon enactment into law, the Institute as the primary vehicle for research and training will be better positioned to play a pivotal role in advancing knowledge within the water sector and enhancing capacity building for both institutions and individuals.

# KEWI Boosts Trainers Support and Infrastructure Development

*KEWI CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule EBS, (centre), Mr. Eric Wamiti, Deputy Director, Academic Affairs (on his left) and Dr. Kimeli Chirchir, Deputy Director, Corporate Services during the meeting with KEWI trainers.*

**BY FAIZAH JEPKORIR**

Kenya Water Institute (KEWI), Chief Executive Officer Dr. Leiro Letangule, EBS, has emphasized the critical importance of punctuality and regularity, highlighting the trainers' significance as the backbone of the institution's operations. Dr. Letangule has urged the trainers to prioritize timely and consistent delivery of their roles as essential contributors to KEWI's core mandate.

In a recent address to trainers across all campuses, Dr. Letangule rallied the delivery team, stressing the need for high levels of professionalism in fulfilling the institute's core mandates. He assured his office's readiness to support initiatives aimed at enhancing service delivery and up scaling the trainers' capabilities.

Acknowledging the institute's progress, Dr. Letangule cited the recently conducted training sessions focusing on implementing the Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) Assessment tool as ones which aim at enhancing teaching methodologies and ensure trainers are equipped with the necessary skills to deliver effectively.

He further noted that it was of essence for trainers to adequately prepare themselves to help deliver their mandate and noted that the management was keen to promote career progression for them as a show of commitments towards enhancing their preparedness in delivering their mandate.

"We shall hold a 2 weeks Training of Trainers exercise at the end of this semester to help you all stay ahead of the game

TRAINING

# KEWI Boosts Trainers Support and Infrastructure Development

*Dr. Leiro Letangule issues his addresses when he held a meeting with KEWI trainers .*

when it comes to delivering your mandate." He announced.

Dr. Letangule stated that there were a range of infrastructural interventions the management was delivering on including the construction of a 12-story building in Nairobi Campus and the renovation of hostels and the administration block in the Kitui campus. He further noted that plans were progressing well on the possibilities of acquiring a land within Kisumu Town for purposes of relocating the lakeside campus that currently operates on rented premises to more expanded and easily accessible space.

He further informed that the governing council was actively working on the institutes strategic plan to help it align with the anticipated changes and especially now that the transition of KEWI to Kenya Water Training and Research Institute (KEWATRI) is in sight.

Dr. Letangule statements were corroborated by other speakers who noted that there was goodwill from the institute's leadership towards making the academic affairs department deliver.

Mr. Eric Wamiti, Deputy Director, Academic Affairs noted that the implementation of the CBET Curriculum that focuses on embracing competency-based assessment tools was on track and thanked the management for the interventions it had occasioned as a way of enhancing the delivery of this critical deliverable.

Senior Principal Registrar Mr. Michael Ang'anyo, expressed gratitude for the institution's support for student activities. He highlighted that talks with Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) office were welcome to help address the issue of capitation, especially for students placed by the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS).

Mr. Ang'anyo informed that it was time for the institute to fully benefit from the loans board and government capitation as this would ensure that students remained in the institute since their fee problems would be addressed.

"The issue of capitation by HELB is welcome as it would help retain all the students placed in our institution by KUCCPS. We are anticipating an intake of at least 1700 students from KUCCPS in this coming intake." He informed.

Dr. Letangule wound up by noting that through strategic planning, infrastructure enhancements, and academic initiatives, KEWI was keen to continues and enhance its focus of producing skilled professionals and contributing to Kenya's water sector.

OUTREACH

# KEWI Chiakariga woos Students to join the Institute during a Career Fair

*A team comprising of KEWI Chiakariga members of staff and students pose for a photo with Tharaka University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter K. Muriungi, Ph.D. (center, in suit) when they attended the university's Career Fair.*

**BY DELVIN LEPARKOLWA**

The Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) Chiakariga Campus embarked on a transformative mission during Tharaka University's Career Week with a goal to connect with a diverse pool of prospective students, particularly targeting form 4 leavers.

The team of staff comprising of Lesenentei Leparkolwa, Evans Amunze, Florence Njeri, Castro Ntagudi, Korir Kipkurui and Moffat Mwai and a group of students went out of its way to market the institution as a center of academic excellence during the fair.

Their collective mission went beyond promoting the institute; they aimed to attract a new wave of students eager to pursue academic excellence at the Kenya Water Institute. During the career week, the team engaged in various marketing activities, showcasing unique programs and campus life.

Importantly, the team, supported by their students, played a significant role in marketing. They strategically interacted with attendees, with a particular focus on form four leavers, recognizing their pivotal moment in the academic decision-making process.

During this impactful career week, the Chiakariga Campus team had the honor of being received by Tharaka University's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter K. Muriungi, Ph.D. Ag., further strengthening the mutual relationship between the two institutions. In establishing lasting connections and showcasing the Chiakariga campus as a hub of academic excellence and vibrant community, KEWI team aimed to leave a lasting impression on potential students, encouraging them to consider the institute for their higher education pursuits.

OUTREACH

# KEWI Kitui and Chiakariga Engage in Charity Works

*(**Left**) KEWI and ALM Africa staff when they visited Shalom Children Home. They donated assorted items including foodstuff, stationery and clothing items. (**Right**) Kitui Kairat Group donating foodstuff to Muslim Community in Kitui Campus.*

**BY DELVIN LEPARKOLWA**

Members of Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) Chiakariga campus visited Shalom Children's Home in Mitunguu, Meru Town accompanied by staff from ALM Africa where they donated a range of items to the shelter in a combined show of love and care.

In an event that saw the members spend quality time with the children and engage in a flurry of activities, clothing, foodstuff, stationery and other assorted items were donated to the management of the home, a charitable endeavor they did to help address some of the problems within the home.

The team led by Ms. Esther Karimi, the institute's matron and Ms. Jenaide Wangari from ALM Africa KEWI showcased a remarkable unity as they all joined hands for a common cause. Their collective spirit exemplified the essence of compassion and generosity, transcending religious boundaries.

Fr. Francis Gachietta, the director of the facility appreciated the visit and termed it a worthy intervention as the show of love would go further in helping the children feel part and parcel of the society.

"This visit means a lot to this facility and to these children. Your love is what keeps us going." He said.

KEWI and ALM Africa organized the visit as a mean of giving back to the society and to the less fortunate as a show of upholding values of empathy and altruism.

Ms. Karimi was quick to note that the institute was keen to impact positively to those who are less privileged in the society.

"As a big family, we have a responsibility of being our brothers' keeper. We all need to experience kindness and empathy despite our social standing," She said.

Her statement was supported by Ms. Jenaide who noted that it was prudent to marshal efforts and come through for such facilities as doing so contributes to holistic growth of the children.

In the same spirit, a group of five people drawn from the Kitui Kairat Group, led by one Mr. Juma, visited the KEWI-Kitui campus and donated food to the Muslim students at the campus. This in the spirit of fasting, prayer, reflection, and charitable giving by the Muslim community is it observes the Holy Month, Ramadhan.

*(Extra reporting by Judy Wanjira)*

# Research Findings Recommend Increased Awareness Campaigns on Humanure-based Sanitation Practices

BY PIUS KIMANI

A study and research report has recommended the need for continual research, development and implementation of awareness campaigns focusing on institutional workers and students to enhance their understanding of humanure-based sanitation practices which include use of treated human waste as a manure to improve agriculture and subsequently help address the issue of improved sanitation brought about by untreated fecal matter.

This is after the report indicated that 75 percent of the 335 respondent who were involved in the study revealed that they were not aware of the Green Toilet System (GTS), a technology that seeks to use Urine Diversion Dry Toilet (UDDT)

Titled "**Assessing the farmers perceptions towards the use of humanure in Tharaka Nithi and Kajiado Counties for agricultural sustainability**" the study which was funded by African Development Bank (AfDB) further recommends fostering of environmental stewardship through close collaborations between the workers and agricultural extension services to further engage farmers in sustainable agricultural practices that utilize humanure (treated human waste).

The study, informed by the escalating global concerns about environmental degradation and resources scarcity, sort to explore factors affecting the uptake of UDDT technology termed as The Green Toilet System (GTS), seeking to understand the factors influencing adoption of the technology from the point of deposition of the feces in the UDDT to the final humanure output.

The report which focused on gender, design, attitude, awareness and perception of the people on the new technology noted that 50 percent of respondents raised concerns on exposure to communicable diseases arising from how the excreta is handled while a percent of farmers were reluctant on adopting and using human manure for agricultural purposes. This, the report identified, is as a result of deep-rooted cultural and psychological barriers that that must be addressed to promote sustainable use of this manure for agricultural purposes.

Eng. Simon Ndeweni, a Water and Wastewater expert from Kenya Water Institute who led a consortium of other researchers in conducting the study noted that there was the need for in-depth research and advocacy for the integration of humanure management practices in local and national sanitation polices to help advance its environmental and agricultural benefits

"There is the need to encourage community-driven initiatives for the proper collection, treatment and utilization of humanure involving local leaders and influencers." Eng. Ndeweni is quoted.

The report which is published on KEWI website and in the International Journal of Research Studies in Agricultural Sciences (IJRSAS) an internationally peer reviewed, open access journal that publishes journals and books can be accessed via https://shorturl.at/AKL57

# KEWI and Ekowai Tech Spa Mull of Partnership Deal for Environmental and Water Sustainability

BY EBININO RONIEX

Ekowai Tech Spa, an innovative company dedicated to environmental stewardship, recently embarked on a comprehensive visit to the Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) Nairobi and Kisumu Campuses in a significant step towards advancing sustainable water management and sanitation practices,. The visit marked a pivotal moment in the collaborative efforts between Ekowai and KEWI to address pressing water-related challenges in Kenya and beyond.

The company's commitment to environmental sustainability and its innovative approach to tackling water constraints, pollution, and environmental deterioration align seamlessly with KEWI's mandate to promote standards of service in the water sector through human resource development, research, and consultancy services.

During the visit in KEWI, Nairobi Campus, the Ekowai team engaged in fruitful discussions with KEWI Management, exchanging valuable insights, sharing best practices, and exploring potential areas of collaboration. The discussions centered around the exploration of opportunities for joint research and funding proposals aimed at developing innovative solutions to address the water challenges facing communities in Kenya and beyond. Both Ekowai and KEWI expressed their commitment to leveraging their respective expertise and resources to drive positive change in water management practices.

Moreover, the visit provided an opportunity for Ekowai to gain firsthand knowledge of KEWI's facilities, including its state-of-the-art research laboratories and training facilities. The Ekowai team was impressed by KEWI's dedication to excellence in education, research, and consultancy services, reaffirming their confidence in the partnership's potential to make a tangible impact in sustainable water management.

As Ekowai continues to pursue its mission of advancing environmental sustainability, the partnership with KEWI stands as a testament to the power of collaboration in addressing complex environmental challenges. By pooling together their expertise, resources, and innovative technologies, Ekowai and KEWI are poised to create meaningful and lasting change in water management practices, not only in Kenya but also on a global scale.

MINISTRY OF WATER, SANITATION & IRRIGATION
KENYA WATER INSTITUTE

# NRW. CONFERENCE 2024

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COMING SOON

**Theme:**

Sustaining Water Security Through Accountability

# Round Up of the Week's Events

*Learners from the Living Water Service Center, take a short course on Plumbing and Pipefitting at Kisumu Campus.*

## Quote of the Week

*"Between stimulus and response, there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom." – Viktor Frankl*


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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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