



WEEKLY Newsletter

January 06- January 17 2025

KEWI and China’s Jiangxi Applied Vocational Engineering Institute Partner to Offer World Class Trainings



KEWI CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule, EBS (holding a document) poses for a group photo with a section of the institutes management and representatives from Jiangxi Applied Vocational Engineering Institute shortly after the two institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding at KEWI Headquarters, Nairobi.

BY: PIUS KIMANI

Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) Chief Executive Officer Dr. Leiro Letangule, EBS has hailed the partnership that has been formalized between the institute and Jiangxi Applied Vocational Engineering Institute (JAVEI), terming it as a milestone and a testament to the shared vision of transforming the water sector and empowering the next

generation of skilled professionals in Kenya.

Dr. Letangule who spoke during the blended signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two institutions noted that KEWI have always strived to deliver excellence in education and training, and the partnership was a significant step toward enhancing the institutes curriculum and program portfolio for addressing critical skills gaps.

HIGHLIGHTS

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KEWI and China's Jiangxi Applied Vocational Engineering Institute Partner to Offer World Class Trainings



Dr. Letangule, flanked by a section of management appends his signature on the MoU document between the institute and Jiangxi Applied Vocational Engineering Institute at KEWI, Nairobi.

Heaping praises to the teams from both institutions that tirelessly worked to see the partnership achieve the level of success it has achieved, Dr. Letangule informed that KEWI team had engaged in productive discussions with the technical team from Jiangxi, which had already shared a draft curriculum for talent training.

“We are committed to rolling out programs that not only serve our local needs but also provide our students with pathways to pursue higher education and international opportunities and thus are diligently reviewing this curriculum to adapt it to KEWI’s and TIVETA standards for approvals while maintaining the international

standards of quality and credibility of Jiangxi.”

The MoU which sets a collaborative framework for activities and programs in the academic and exchange areas of mutual interest, will see the two entities exchange visits between faculty and staff (including teachers and administrative staff), offer skill training, pursue development of teaching resources and technical standards, provide platform for cultivation of international students among other benefits.

All these, to enhance the education and scientific research level of both sides, promote the exchange of teachers from both sides, and

enhance understanding through visits, academic information, material sharing and exchanges in the areas of faculty exchange will be carried out based on equality and reciprocity.

Towards this new partnership and as a preparation of reaping big from it, the director noted that the institute had already dedicated a classroom to be equipped with state-of-the-art technology and multimedia tools. This, he emphasized will enable online co-training sessions led by Jiangxi trainers, ensuring KEWI students receive world-class instruction. He added that the introduction of e-commerce training was particularly exciting, as it added immense value to the institutes Information Communication Technology (ICT) programs currently implemented by the Management Information Technology (MIT) department. The training will equip the students with skills in international online commerce and business management,



Deputy Director, Research, Consultancy and Technical Services, Mr. Nelson Kwamini during the signing ceremony.

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Government of Jiangxi Province for their trust and commitment to the signed partnership.

Coming at a time when the institute is pushing to explore employment opportunities for its graduates both in the country and abroad, Dr. Letangule elatedly thanked the subsidiary for

Dr. Letangule gives his speech during the MoU signing ceremony between the institute and Jiangxi Applied Vocational Engineering Institute at KEWI Headquarters, Nairobi.

preparing them to thrive in the digital economy.

Terming the partnership as not only a big leap for KEWI but for the water sector, and Kenya as a whole, Dr. Letangule further noted that the construction sector, which absorbs a significant number of KEWI trainees, would also benefit greatly. This will be through co-implementation of courses in construction technology under the water and wastewater department, while developing specialized training methodologies for plumbing and pipefitting.

“These initiatives will ensure our graduates possess the skills needed for both local and international labor mobility, enhancing their competitiveness in the job market and improving service

delivery in the water and construction sectors.” He noted.

Dr. Letangule extended his gratitude to China Jiangxi International Kenya Ltd, a subsidiary of China Jiangxi International Economic and Technical Cooperation Co., Ltd (CJIC) which is an international conglomerate corporation focused on international contracting and domestic and foreign investment and JIVEI, a state-owned public full-time general vocational college approved by the People’s

committing to offer their input in this exciting exploration.

“One of the most exciting aspects of this collaboration is China Jiangxi International Kenya Ltd.’s commitment to absorbing the first cohort of Level 4 graduates. This provides our students with invaluable transition, bridging the gap between training and employment and setting them on a path to success.”



A delegation representing Jiangxi Applied Vocational Engineering Institute during the signing of the MoU.

Institute Conducts a Successful Four-Day Orientation Program for January 2025 Intake Cohort



Newly admitted students listen attentively during the closing ceremony of the Four-Day Orientation exercise at KEWI. The ceremony was presided by CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule, EBS.

BY: BRITNEY MOKEIRA

The Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) concluded a highly engaging and successful four-day orientation program this week, welcoming new students for the January 2025 intake. The program was designed to familiarize students with the institution's services, policies, and academic expectations, ensuring they are well-prepared for their academic journey and integration into the KEWI community.

The orientation commenced with a series of informative presentations on day one from key departments, including the registrar's office, housekeeping, security, and admissions. These sessions provided crucial insights into the administrative processes, safety measures, and housekeeping protocols at the

institution. Students were encouraged to make use of these services and were given clear guidelines on navigating the institution's structures, helping to ease their transition into KEWI.

On the second day, the focus shifted to communication and resource accessibility. The corporate communications department outlined KEWI's communication strategies, emphasizing the importance of clear and effective communication within the institution. Students also received a

comprehensive introduction to library services, highlighting the wide range of academic resources available to support their studies and research. The library staff demonstrated how to access both physical and digital materials, ensuring that



Deputy Director, Academic Affairs Mr. Eric Wamiti.

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that students are well-equipped to excel academically.

Day three delved into the academic framework employed by KEWI. Students were introduced to the Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) curriculum, a hallmark of KEWI's approach to skills-based learning. The CBET curriculum ensures that students acquire practical, hands-on experience that aligns with industry standards. Alongside this, they were sensitized on the

Portfolio of Evidence (PoE), a crucial component for documenting their learning journey and demonstrating their competencies to potential employers. These sessions underscored KEWI's commitment to producing highly skilled and competitive graduates.

The final day focused on technological and procedural support. Sessions led by Heads of Departments (HODs) and the Exam Registrar department introduced students to KEWI's e-learning platforms, the E-Citizen portal, and examination procedures. These presentations were designed to equip students with the digital



CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule giving his remarks during the closing ceremony of the four day orientation exercise for the newly admitted students.

skills necessary to navigate modern learning environments effectively. The exam sensitization session offered clarity on examination policies, expectations, and best practices, providing students with a solid foundation to excel academically.

The orientation program concluded on Thursday with a heartfelt address from KEWI's director, Mr. Leiro Letangule. The director congratulated the new students on their decision to join the institution, assuring them of the institute's unwavering commitment to providing a transformative and high-quality education. The director also emphasized

KEWI's dedication to fostering a supportive environment that encourages academic and personal growth.

In conclusion, the four-day orientation program was a resounding success. It not only equipped students with essential knowledge and tools but also instilled confidence and a sense of belonging as they embarked on their academic journey at KEWI. The program reflected KEWI's mission to nurture well-rounded, competent professionals ready to contribute meaningfully to the water sector and beyond.

Consumer Interests Will Dominate Any Investor Engagement We Bring on Board, Assures Water CS

BY: PIUS KIMANI

Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary Hon. Eng. Eric Murithi Mugaa has dispelled fears that the government through his ministry was privatizing water supply and sanitation services in the country.

Speaking during a mid-morning show in a local television station, Eng. Mugaa has said that his ministry was keen to ensure that the consideration of the citizens prevailed in all circumstances and dealings that will involve private investors coming through to help address the water issues in the country.

Responding to question on whether the ministry was transferring the rights of ownership to private investors, something that would consecutively transfer the powers of regulation on the prices of water in the country,

the CS noted that the government would ensure that any investor who would come on board would offer the intended services at a cumulative price that would be affordable to the final consumers of the natural resource.

Admitting that the ministry was pioneering blended financing via Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model for the financing, construction and operation of bulk water infrastructure in the country on concessional terms, the CS said that against the backdrop of a water-stressed market where water insecurity has been exacerbated by climate change, the government through the ministry was keen to unleash the potential of water PPPs to provide water for drinking, irrigation,



Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary Hon. Eng. Eric Murithi Mugaa. He has dispelled fears that the government was transferring the management authorities of critical water and sanitation services to private investors.

sanitation and hydropower plants.

“To be able to achieve the target as envisaged in the vision 2030, we need to have investments exceeding 400 billion shillings and to help address this, we have been granted a leeway to rope in private investors who will invest in the critical infrastructure needed to ensure that water supply remains on top under the Public-Private-Partnership model. However, any private investor will have to factor in the final cost of water supply to the final consumer as key requirement for such to be considered viable for partnership.”

On this, Eng. Mugaa noted that the role of distribution of water to the final consumer remained the duty of the water service providers and whose tariffs were set and agreed



Ongoing construction of Kabianga Water Supply Project in Belgut Constituency, Kericho County (Photo: Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation)

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upon based on public participation exercises recommendations. However, with the PPPs relying on loans for financing, developers will have to design them to ensure that lenders make a reasonable return on investment. Eng. Mugaa noted that the ministry was keen to give lenders investment comfort and confidence through government support measure packages. This will help ensure that any investor would feel accommodated and be able to recoup their invested funds back while maintaining affordability of the commodity to Kenyan citizens.

“The governments and development finance institutions are keen to support water projects by providing Viability Gap Funding (VGF), to help bridge any gap between



Muruny (Siyoi) Dam project under construction in West Pokot County. Realization of mega projects in the ministry requires joint financing efforts between the public and private sector and thus the need for Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) financing model. (Photo: Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation)

project costs and cash flows expected. This arrangement allays any fear that the citizens will be at the mercy of the investors who may be driven by profitability rather than affordability”

a water PPP because effective risk sharing which may include revenue shortfalls due to water demand fluctuations, tariff adjustments or drought, factors which would require negotiating for the revenue risk to be underwritten by Government or shared.

To enhance financial viability and investor appeal, Eng. Mugaa noted that prudent risk allocation was a core ingredient for the success of

On irrigation, Eng. Mugaa noted that the government was keen to increase the irrigated land by 40,000 acres per year. To sustain the viability of these projects, water as the enabler is needed and for such, mega dams for water harvesting and storage are needed. With construction of these dam projects being capital-intensive, the public purse would be strained and as such a good number of them are likely to be structured as PPPs.



Section of the Northern Collector Tunnel Project which is part of the Nairobi Water Master Plan, a component of the Fourth Nairobi Bulk Water Supply System. (Photo: Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation)

Institute Seeks Spiritual Guidance as it Holds Its Opening Year Breakfast Meeting

BY: FAITH GENESIS

The Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) gathered its leadership, staff, and student for an inspiring Opening Year Breakfast Meeting that was hinted as a moment of spiritual renewal, reflection, and collective purpose-setting for the institution. The day's theme centred around gratitude, divine guidance, and the commitment to navigating the year ahead with faith, unity, and diligence.

The CEO, Dr. Leiro Letangule, EBS opened the session with a heartfelt greeting and a call to prayer. He acknowledged the strength and grace of God that had carried the institution through the past year, recognizing that without divine help, the challenges faced would have been even more difficult. His message resonated deeply with the attendees, reinforcing KEWI's identity as an institution rooted in faith.

"We believe that when we put all our plans before God," Dr. Letangule shared, "He will help us navigate the challenges that come our way."

His words were a reminder that prayer was central to KEWI's operations, and seeking divine wisdom was key to overcoming obstacles in



CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule and Governing Council Chairperson Hon. Patrick Mbangula and the invited clergy during the KEWI Opening Year Breakfast meeting.

the year ahead. He emphasized the importance of beginning the year with a focus on God, and that every worry, plan, and decision should be entrusted to Him.

The spirit of the meeting was further elevated through a series of powerful scripture readings by prominent members of KEWI's

leadership. KEWI Governing Council chairperson, Hon. Patrick Musili Mbangula highlighted the importance of resilience in the face of adversity. Quoting Joshua 1:6-7, which encourages strength, courage, and obedience to God's commands, he encouraged everyone to be strong and courageous as they moved forward into the new year.

His sentiments were echoed by deputy director, Corporate Services Dr. Kimeli Chirchir whose readings from Isaiah 40:10-13 emphasized the immense power and strength of God. His message was clear: KEWI must rely on God's power to face the challenges of the year. The words



A choir performs during the Opening Year Breakfast Meeting at KEWI

Institute Seeks Spiritual Guidance as it Holds Its Opening Year Breakfast Meeting



Above and Below: Moments during the prayer breakfast meeting

provided reassurance that no matter the hurdles ahead, God's strength would be sufficient to overcome them.

The presiding clergy's reading from Genesis 1:1 underscored the importance of involving God from the very beginning of all endeavours. "In the beginning, God created..." was a powerful reminder that God's involvement in the foundation of any institution ensures its success.

The clergy emphasized that no matter the faith traditions represented at the meeting, everyone believed in the power of God to make things work. By starting the year with faith, KEWI's endeavours were bound to prosper.

The clergy's message was particularly poignant, as they reminded attendees that both the individual and institutional challenges ahead could be

faceted confidently when God was involved from the start. They also referenced the significant projects, teams, and departments within KEWI, reassuring everyone that while difficulties may arise, God's guidance would ensure success.

Hon. Mbangula, in his remarks and while reflecting on the challenges faced in 2024 acknowledged that the past year had not been easy, but through God's grace and the effective leadership of the CEO, KEWI had successfully navigated the turbulence. His words highlighted the resilience of the institution and the importance of God's guidance in overcoming difficult times.

Looking ahead to 2025, he declared it a year for performance and growth and pointed to the institution's progress in recent years, emphasizing that KEWI is now considered one of the top-performing institutions in the sector. This success, he noted, was not just due to hard work but also to the divine strength and wisdom that guided their path as well as the able management of the CEO.

He encouraged all members of the institution to continue working hard, emphasizing that each individual's effort was integral to the overall success of the institution.

Hon. Mbangula concluded his speech with a motivational message that set the tone for the year: "Be strong, be courageous, and work hard." His words served as a call to action for everyone within KEWI, urging them to face the challenges of the year with faith, resilience, and determination. The importance of collaboration, diligence, and trust in God's power was emphasized, setting a positive and forward-thinking tone for 2025.

KEWI's Opening Year Breakfast Meeting was not only a spiritual renewal but also an important reaffirmation of the institution's commitment to excellence, performance, and unity. The leadership's collective vision, reinforced by the shared prayers and scriptures, laid a strong foundation for the year ahead.



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Quote of the Week

“The only way of discovering the limits of the possible is to venture a little way past them into the impossible“

Arthur C. Clarke.

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Round up of The Week's Events



Moments during the Opening Year Breakfast Meeting at the institute.

Round up of The Week's Events



Moments during the 5 day Professional Development Program (PDP) trainings on Water Quality Sampling, Testing and Standards at KEWI.



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Vision

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