

January 18- January 24 2025

KEWI Enhances Sanitation Efforts with Arrival of Waste Collection Trucks



Deputy Director, Research, Consultancy and Technical Services Mr. Nelson Kwamini (right) flanked by Deputy Director, Corporate Services Dr. Kimeli M. Chirchir and Manager, Finance and Accounts Mr. Elvis Mwangi Songa and other officials receives an ignition key for one of the two trucks delivered at the institute for an AfDB project being implemented by the institute.

BY: FAITH GENESIS

In a significant step forward for public health and sanitation in Kenya, the Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) received two state-of-the-art waste collection trucks from the African Development Bank (AfDB) as part of the ongoing AfDB funded project on “Improving Public Health and Enhancing Technical Skills of Youth in Kenya through Sanitation Technology

Transfer,” The project, which is making strides in advancing sanitation solutions is currently being implemented in Tharaka Nithi and Kajiado Counties.

The trucks, officially received by Deputy Director Corporate Services Dr. Kimeli M. Chirchir, in presence of Deputy Director, Research, Consultancy and Technical Services Mr. Nelson Kwamini and other management officials are set to play a crucial role in the implementation of the Green

HIGHLIGHTS

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KEWI Enhances Sanitation Efforts with Arrival of Waste Collection Trucks



The two trucks delivered to aid in implementation of a AfDB Sanitation project.

Toilet Systems (GTS) initiative. This is by facilitating the safe and efficient transportation of waste from GTS sites to designated treatment facilities. The groundbreaking initiative is designed to revolutionize waste management practices in the sanitation Sector.

At the treatment facilities, the collected waste will undergo an innovative and environmentally friendly process. The waste will be exposed to direct sunlight for nine months, transforming it into a valuable resource: fertilizer. This sustainable approach not only addresses waste management challenges but also contributes to environmental conservation and agricultural productivity.

The fertilizer produced through this process has already garnered interest among local farmers. Over thirty farmers from Tharaka

Nithi and Kajiado Counties have been trained on the safe use and benefits of this manure derived from faecal matter. This initiative highlights KEWI's commitment to fostering acceptance and practical application of innovative solutions in local communities.

Beyond its immediate environmental impact, the project is equipping youth with critical technical skills in sanitation technology. By providing hands-on experience in operating and maintaining advanced sanitation systems, KEWI is empowering the next generation to lead transformative change in public health and waste management.

The acquisition of these trucks underscores KEWI's

dedication to achieving its project objectives and delivering long-term benefits to targeted communities. By ensuring the timely and reliable transport of waste, the initiative is setting new standards for public health improvements and community engagement in sanitation practices.

KEWI's leadership and innovative approach continue to position the institution as a trailblazer in sanitation technology transfer. The Green Toilet Systems initiative and the arrival of these waste collection trucks are powerful testaments to the institute's unwavering commitment to creating a healthier and more sustainable future for Kenya.

As KEWI drives this transformative journey forward, it remains steadfast in its mission to enhance the quality of life for communities while equipping young people with the skills to shape a brighter tomorrow.



Mr. Nelson Kwamini test drives one of the trucks.

Institute and Equity Bank Limited reaches out to start-ups for a Sanitation Value Chain Workshop



Call for Sanitation Business Ventures.

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BY: PIUS KIMANI

Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) is set to organize a one-day Sanitation Value Chain Workshop that will culminate into onboarding in a business development support project implemented by Equity Bank Limited.

Through a call for business ventures placed on its website and which seeks to unlock opportunities at the end of the sanitation value chain, the institute has called out to entrepreneurs or innovators who are passionate about transforming the sanitation

sector and driving sustainable development to apply for the opportunity before the end of February 2025

The call which also targets formal and informal businesses and start-ups that have a scalable solution with a clear business model and a commitment to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) seeks to further identify and promote sustainable, innovative, and practical solutions that transform wastewater management into profitable businesses, contributing to economic growth,

environmental sustainability, and also identify the efficient use of water resources, while emphasizing, resource recovery, recycling, reuse, and safe disposal.

The call is urging the participants to submit businesses that innovatively repurpose wastewater for reuse in agriculture, industry, or municipal purposes, integrate technology to enhance wastewater treatment processes and safe disposal methods, create commercial opportunities that generate income while addressing environmental challenges,



Institute and Equity Bank Limited reaches out to start-ups for a Sanitation Value Chain Workshop



particularly through recycling and resource recovery and contribute to water conservation, recycling, and sustainable water management practices.

Winning participants will qualify for a chance to develop their ideas further at the KEWI Water Technology Innovation & Incubation Hub which will consequently provide access to resources, mentorship, and technical expertise to help scale up the ideas into competitive business ventures.

The call has outlined several key considerations for the participants who are looking for this opportunity to be inducted into the innovation and incubation hub. Among them is such start-ups to be operating within the sanitation value chain, focusing on waste treatment, resource recovery, recycling, reuse, or innovative by-products and demonstrate a

clear alignment with more than one SDG. The start-ups are also required to have a scalable and defensible business model that possess a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) or operational prototype.

Those with innovations and creative models in wastewater management solutions, particularly in recycling, reuse, and safe disposal which are commercially viable and scalable, can pass technical and environmental feasibility and have a wide social impact and sustainability are also encouraged to apply.

Terming it as an opportunity to commercialize ideas and get a chance to give life to innovative and industry-changing ideas in the sanitation sector, the head of the short courses coordination unit in the institute Eng. Nanetia Nchoko has outlined

scores of benefits that will be accrued by those who will attend and get the chance of getting farther attention from the implementing partner.

“Selected ventures will receive among other benefits collateral-Free Financing mentorship, coaching and capacity building from experts in sanitation, finance, and technology and access to investor networks and potential partnerships and key stakeholders in the sanitation and development sectors.” She spoke.

Interested participants and who also stand an opportunity to get business development support and formalization of the informal business venture are required to visit the website www.kewi.go.ke and fill in the application form.

Advancing Sustainable Water Solutions; Solar Energy for Water Supply Systems Training



A training session on Solar Energy for Water Supply Systems. Participants explored solar energy in water supply systems, focusing on its environmental and economic benefits, including reduced reliance on conventional power sources.

BY: BRITNEY MOKEIRA

This week, the Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) conducted an enlightening short course on solar energy applications in water supply systems. The course, designed for water resource managers, technicians, and community leaders, aimed to enhance the participants' capacity to adopt solar-powered solutions for sustainable water supply systems.

The course began with an Introduction to Solar Energy, providing a foundation in solar energy principles and its potential for addressing water supply challenges. Participants explored Solar Energy in Water

Supply Systems, focusing on its environmental and economic benefits, including reduced reliance on conventional power sources.

A practical session on Solar System Basics for Operators equipped attendees with essential skills to operate and manage solar-powered systems effectively.

The course delved into Solar System Design Principles, offering insights into system planning, including Sizing and Selecting Water Pumps. A hands-on session on system design enabled participants to apply theoretical knowledge in practical scenarios.

The training also emphasized the technical aspects of solar technology. Participants learned about the Installation of Solar Panels, with a comprehensive practical lesson on Solar Pumps Installation and System Integration, ensuring a thorough understanding of system assembly.

The sessions on Monitoring Solar-Powered Water Supply Systems and Troubleshooting Solar Water Supply Systems offered valuable strategies to ensure operational efficiency and minimize downtime.

Recognizing the importance of maintenance, the course covered Routine Maintenance Practices to extend the lifespan

Advancing Sustainable Water Solutions; Solar Energy for Water Supply Systems Training



A solar water desalination plant at KEWI.

of solar equipment. A session on Cost-Benefit Analysis on Solar Water Systems equipped participants with skills to assess the economic feasibility of solar projects. Finally, the course highlighted the significance of Sustainability and Community Involvement, fostering collaboration for long-term project success.

The benefits of this course are numerous. It empowered participants with technical and managerial skills, enabling them to implement cost-

effective, eco-friendly water supply solutions. By focusing on solar energy, participants can help mitigate climate change, reduce operational costs, and enhance water access in underserved areas. Moreover, the emphasis on sustainability and community involvement ensures these projects contribute to the socio-economic development of the regions they serve.

This course marks a significant step towards

harnessing solar energy for water supply systems, driving progress in water management and renewable energy adoption in Kenya and beyond.



Several Water Sector Entities Feel the Heat as Government Restructures State Corporations via Closures and Mergers



President William Ruto chairing a cabinet meeting at Kakamega State Lodge. The cabinet has okayed merging, transferring, dissolving, restructuring and declassifying several state corporations as a way of streamlining public service delivery. (Photo: State House Kenya)

BY: PIUS KIMANI

National Irrigation Authority (NIA), a state corporation charged with developing, coordinating and managing sustainable irrigation services for socio-economic development in Kenya and National Water Harvesting and Storage Authority (NWHSA) which is mandated to developing and managing national water works infrastructure towards enhancing food security, flood mitigation and water storage

for multi-purpose use are part of the 42 state corporations set to be merged in what has been termed as similarity, duplication and overlapping of mandates of government entities.

In a radical purge that that is set to leave careers of hoards of chief executive officers in limbo, the 42 entities will be merged into 20, 9 others dissolved, and their mandates transferred to line ministries while 16 others with outdated mandates will be dissolved entirely. The

purge has also seen 3 more water sector players i.e. Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB), Water Regulatory Authority (WRA) and Regional Centre on Ground Water Resources, Education, Training and Research (RCGWRETR) merge has been termed as part of the efforts by the president to not only streamline but also improve on efficiency in service delivery of state corporations.

In a Cabinet Dispatch released to the press, the president noted that the

Several Water Sector Entities Feel the Heat as Government Restructures State Corporations via Closures and Mergers



President William Ruto addressing the cabinet meeting at Kakamega State Lodge. Ruto has allayed fears of job losses amid the implementation of the restructuring of the state corporations in his government. (Photo: State House Kenya)

reforms were necessitated by the increasing fiscal pressures arising from constrained government resources, demand for high-quality public services, and the growing public debt burden

“Many state corporations have struggled to meet their contractual and statutory obligations, leading to an accumulation of pending bills exceeding 90 billion as of March 31, 2024,” the dispatch read.

While the move puts careers of many executives in jeopardy, the president emphasized that

such a move was necessary as it will help address operational and financial inefficiencies, enhance service delivery, and reduce reliance on the exchequer. However, the president has moved to allay fears of job losses among civil servants working in the affected entities.

“No state corporation function will be lost, and no jobs will be lost as all affected employees will be absorbed into the Public Service,” the president assured.

The move had caused jittery and chilling memories

of the 1990s where thousands of jobs were lost during the implementation Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) that was pushed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. This is because the restructuring is part of the budgetary support programme that Kenya has with the IMF.

Kenya has a multi year programme with the IMF in which president William Ruto’s government has committed to the multilateral financier to reduce the size of its budget to lift the country from its current

Several Water Sector Entities Feel the Heat as Government Restructures State Corporations via Closures and Mergers

state of high risk of debt default.

The new move has placed a fresh headache to the Public Service Commission (PSC) as it will have to delicately balance on how it will deploy the more than 3000 employees who will have to be deployed.

However, it was not all lost as the cabinet on the same breadth approved a range of improvements in various sectors including Transport, National Treasury, Interior and Tourism.

The president through his cabinet approved Thika and Githunguri Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project. The project which seeks to improve quality of life, health and livelihoods of people as well as the environment in the towns of Thika and Githunguri in Kenya by improving access to water and sanitation, is set to provide clean and affordable water to 250,000 people and will see 126,000 people connected to



Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary Hon. Eng. Eric Murithi Mugaa (Centre) and his counterparts during the cabinet meeting at Kakamega State Lodge. (Photo: State House Kenya)

piped sewage in the project area.

Designed with a capacity to provide services for the estimated population of 500,000 in 2045, the project will improve environmental sustainability and climate resilience of the residents and will provide jobs, training and income to people living in the area during its construction and operation.

The reform has also seen the Water Sector Trust Fund (WSTF) whose mandate is to provide conditional and unconditional grants to the Counties and to assist in financing the development of and management of water and sanitation services in the

marginalized and underserved areas reclassified as a state corporation and reverted to the ministry with a strengthened and more focused governance structure.

To enhance and strengthen Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Kenya, the

president under the Dual Training Policy model instructed that trainees spend 50% to 70% of their training in industry and the rest in institutions to ensure that they acquire relevant practical skills.

Once implemented, the policy will not only ensure strong collaborations between training institutions and the industry but will help address the skills mismatch in the labor market by integrating classroom instruction with hands-on industry training. This will be through leveraging the latest technologies and expertise to enhance employability of graduates.

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“Believe you can and you are halfway there”

Theodore Roosevelt.

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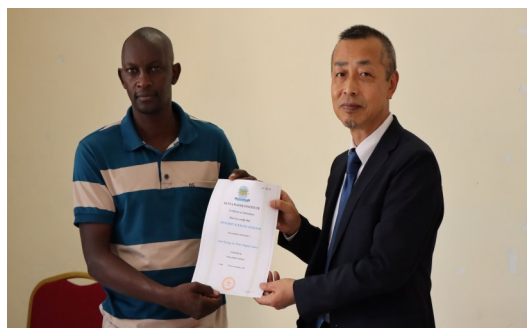
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Round up of The Week's Events



Moments during the short course training on Solar Energy for water supply systems.

Round up of The Week's Events



Moments during the orientation of the newly admitted students on Library Services.



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