

May 2nd – May 9th

Institute Welcomes New Students to Pursue Water-Related Programs and Advance Water Sector Excellence in Kenya



Ms. Lilian Mutangili, an officer at KEWI Nairobi verifies the requirements of a newly recruited student during the just ended May 2025 Intake admission exercise as her guardian looks on.

BY: BRITNEY MOKEIRA.

The Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) recently completed the successful admission of over 300 new students across its campuses. The new students have enrolled in a wide range of diploma, certificate and artisan programs offered at KEWI, including Water Engineering, Water Resources Management, Wastewater Management, and Plumbing and pipefitting among others.

From the very first day, it was evident that the students were eager to learn, enthusiastic about their academic journey, and hopeful about the contributions they would eventually make to their communities and the country at large.

One of the new students, Peris Mhache, shared her excitement about joining KEWI.

“I am happy to be here. KEWI has a strong reputation, and I

HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 Igniting Possibilities: KEWI Empowers Freshers Through Orientation
- 5 Successful Completion of Smart Water Metering Short Course at KEWI Nairobi
- 6 KEWI: Driving Sectoral Transformation Through Capacity Building and Strategic Alignment
- 8 When the World Breaks: Trauma and Our Assumptive World

Institute Welcomes New Students to Pursue Water-Related Programs and Advance Water Sector Excellence in Kenya



Students queue to have their information and data captured, verified and entered in the system at Chiakariga Campus during the admission exercise.

believe this is the best place for me to grow academically and professionally. I look forward to gaining the skills that will help me make a difference in the water sector," she said.

Joe Griffin, who joined the Diploma in Water Engineering program, echoed similar sentiments.

"Joining KEWI is a dream come true. I've always been interested in water systems and infrastructure. I can't wait to start learning and eventually play a role in solving water challenges in our communities," he stated.

As an institution, KEWI remains deeply committed to offering quality education that meets the dynamic needs of the water sector. With a focus on hands-on training, applied research, and innovation, the institute ensures that students

graduate with not only academic knowledge but also practical skills relevant to today's industry challenges. Investment in modern learning facilities, experienced faculty, and strong industry linkages further strengthens KEWI's capacity to deliver on its mandate.

As the new semester kicks off, KEWI is fully committed to providing a supportive, inclusive, and intellectually stimulating environment for all students. Mentorship programs, student clubs, and professional development

activities are part of the holistic approach to education that KEWI promotes. The institute believes in cultivating not only technical skills but also leadership, ethics, and community responsibility.

With the admission of this vibrant new cohort, KEWI continues to strengthen its legacy. The institute looks forward to seeing these students grow, thrive, and eventually emerge as the next generation of

professionals who will contribute to Kenya's sustainable development and resilience in the face of climate change and water scarcity,

As we welcome them into the KEWI family, we remain confident that the future of the water sector is in capable hands.



A student has her data captured at the admission centre at Nairobi Campus before getting admitted.

Igniting Possibilities: KEWI Empowers Freshers Through Orientation

BY: FAITH TAUNET

KEWI launches week-long program to welcome and empower first-year students

Every new beginning carries a spark a surge of energy, a sense of drive, and the promise of endless possibility. At such moments, the sky isn't the limit; it's just the beginning. In this spirit, the Kenya Water

Institute recently welcomed its newest cohort of first-year students.

To support them as they embark on this exciting academic journey, the administration thoughtfully organized an orientation day, which is currently underway.

This initiative is designed to help the newcomers find their footing, familiarise themselves with the institute's culture, and, as the saying goes, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do." Or, in this case, when at the Kenya Water Institute, embrace the KEWI way of life.

The orientation kicked off on 8th May 2025 and is set to continue through the following week. The week-long initiative



Mr. Pius Kimani, an ICT officer takes the newly admitted students through a session on National Cohesion and Values at Nairobi Campus during the ongoing orientation exercise.

includes a series of interactive sessions aimed at easing students into academic life, familiarizing them with institutional policies, and introducing them to opportunities available both inside and outside the classroom.

On the first day, students were guided through key aspects of institutional rules, student welfare, and academic

conduct. Feisal Hassan Principal Registrar student welfare, a leading figure in student affairs, addressed the importance of upholding KEWI's code of conduct and stressed the seriousness of exam malpractice. His talk emphasized discipline, responsibility, and ethical behaviour within the academic environment.

Mid-morning, the focus shifted to student engagement beyond academics. Abdulkadir Guyo Registrar student welfare facilitated a session on co-curricular activities, clubs, and societies, urging students to explore their interests and get involved in extracurricular pursuits. He outlined how participation in these



Mr. Eric Wamiti, Deputy Director, Academic Affairs addresses the newly admitted students during the opening ceremony of the weeklong orientation exercise.

Igniting Possibilities: KEWI Empowers Freshers Through Orientation

groups fosters a well-rounded and vibrant student life.

By midday, academic matters took centre stage again. Mr. Sheldon Yegon Registrar Exams and a member of academic staff, discussed examination policies and procedures, explaining the structure of Continuous Assessment Tests (CATs) and main exams. He also answered students' questions regarding exam frequency and weekly schedules, offering clarity on academic expectations in an interactive format.

In the afternoon session from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., Eric Wamiti, Deputy Director of Academic Affairs, provided an overview of the Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation. He detailed the two main departments within the ministry and KEWI's role in offering training, advisory, and consultancy services. Wamiti also introduced the students to key partners such as WASREB, which regulates the water



Up and below: orientation exercises underway in Chiakariga and Nairobi Campus respectively.

sector. The session included engaging discussions on current affairs and invited students to share their career aspirations.

On Friday morning, the spotlight turned to national values and cohesion. Pius Kimani delivered a powerful presentation on the importance of shared values for peaceful coexistence. Using real-life political scenarios from Kenya, he emphasized, "You cannot be

able to live with your colleagues if you don't have certain values. So, there are values you need to uphold for cohesion to exist. He as well took the student through the Service Charter for KEWI.

Later that day, between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., students were taken on a guided campus tour to help them familiarise themselves with essential facilities. These included laboratories, classrooms, and the cafeteria, among other key service areas critical to student life. The tour aimed to ensure that the new students feel comfortable and confident navigating their new environment.

As the orientation week continues, the program stands as a testament to KEWI's commitment to student success academically, socially, and professionally ensuring that every new student begins their journey on solid footing.



Successful Completion of Smart Water Metering Short Course at KEWI Nairobi

BY: C. KIPTOO

The Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) Nairobi campus proudly hosted its first short course of the semester on Smart Water Metering, held from Monday, 5th May to Friday, 9th May 2025. This engaging and timely training program commenced on a high note, attracting participants from various water sector institutions, most notably Mombasa Water and Sanitation Company (MOWASCO).

The course offered a blend of in-depth theoretical instruction and hands-on practical training, delivered by KEWI's team of experienced instructors and trainers. The curriculum covered the fundamentals of smart metering technology, focusing on its role in enhancing efficiency, accuracy, and real-time monitoring in water service delivery.



Staff from Mombasa Water and Sanitation Company (MOWASCO) pose for a group photo after completing their training on Smart Water Metering.

One of the key highlights of the course was a study visit to Runda Water Company, located at the Village Market in Nairobi. During this visit, participants explored various types of functional smart meters and observed their real-time operations. They were introduced to the software platforms powering these meters—namely Gosoft and Siemens software—which facilitate remote data transmission, fault detection, and billing operations. The visit gave participants practical insight into how digital systems streamline water service management.

Furthermore, the trainees were taken through the entire water treatment process, from raw water intake to the delivery of clean piped water to

consumers. This comprehensive exposure reinforced the importance of integrating smart technologies into water utility systems.

The course concluded on Friday with a certificate award ceremony, marking the successful completion of the training. Participants expressed satisfaction with both the practical and theoretical components of the course, appreciating the relevance and applicability of the skills gained.



KEWI: Driving Sectoral Transformation Through Capacity Building and Strategic Alignment

BY: PIUS KIMANI

Kenya's Water, Environment, Sanitation, and Irrigation sector has been undergoing sweeping reforms aimed at strengthening the management of scarce water resources while improving the quality and reach of services to citizens.

These reforms have driven not only technical and operational shifts but also structural changes within institutions mandated to lead these efforts. At the center of this transformation is the Kenya Water Institute (KEWI), a pivotal institution that continues to play a crucial role in human resource development, innovation, research, and policy support within the water sector.

With resilience and adaptability, KEWI has grown into a premier institution, navigating operational and political landscapes to support Kenya's journey toward water security and sustainable development.

KEWI's origins trace back to 1960, when it was established as a training unit under the Hydraulic Department of Public Works. Initially, its focus was to train water supply operators, but the institute has undergone significant transformation over the decades. In 1970, it was restructured into a training section, and in 1974, with the



Ms. Damaris Muthoni, a Water Quality Technologist takes a group of trainees through some aspect of water quality testing at KEWI Water Quality Laboratories, Nairobi.

formation of the Ministry of Water Development, it was elevated to the Water Development Staff Training School. It later became the National Water Training Institute in 1985, before assuming its current identity as the Kenya Water Institute.

A landmark development came in 2004 when KEWI's mandate was expanded through the integration of the Ministry's Applied Water Research department, enabling the institute to venture into research, consultancy, and outreach.

To remain relevant and effective, KEWI has consistently aligned its strategies with both national priorities and global development frameworks. Its operations are governed by the Kenya Water Institute Act No. 11 of 2001, which provides the legal framework for its activities.

KEWI's strategic direction is also informed by Kenya Vision 2030, the Fourth Medium Term Plan (2023-2027), the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Africa's Agenda 2063, and the East African Community Vision

2050. These frameworks guide KEWI's efforts in shaping a dynamic and responsive water sector that can meet both current and future demands.

The institute operates within a well-defined policy and regulatory environment. Instruments such as the Water Act 2016, the NACOSTI Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Act No. 29 of 2013, and the National Water Policy 2021 help ensure that KEWI's training, research, and institutional governance remain in step with best practices and evolving standards in education, environmental stewardship, and water governance.

KEWI plays a central role in actualizing Kenya Vision 2030, which aims to transform the country into an industrialized, middle-income economy

KEWI: Driving Sectoral Transformation Through Capacity Building and Strategic Alignment

offering a high quality of life. Access to safe and clean water, along with adequate sanitation, is a cornerstone of this vision. Given Kenya's classification as a water-scarce country, Vision 2030 emphasizes the conservation of water sources and the adoption of innovative water harvesting and management techniques. KEWI's mandate to develop a skilled workforce and drive applied research directly supports these objectives.

The Fourth Medium Term Plan (2023–2027), with its theme of "Accelerating Socio-Economic Transformation," further elevates KEWI's role. The plan recognizes water, sanitation, and irrigation as fundamental to resilience and inclusive growth. In this context, KEWI is tasked with delivering competency-based training, conducting capacity building, and offering professional certification. The institute is also expanding its consultancy and research services to inform policy and improve service delivery. Plans are underway to establish a dedicated research fund to support water-related studies and to enhance technical support for county governments.



In alignment with the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, KEWI contributes to five national priority areas: affordable housing, food security, universal healthcare, MSME development, and the digital economy. KEWI supports the housing agenda by training professionals in plumbing, sanitation, and water resource management. In agriculture, the institute promotes efficient irrigation techniques, especially in arid and semi-arid regions. To bolster healthcare, KEWI trains water technologists and sanitation technicians and supports water quality monitoring – key in preventing waterborne diseases.

In supporting MSMEs, KEWI equips graduates with technical and entrepreneurial skills, empowering them to start and grow water-related

enterprises. The institute offers tailored programs targeting youth and women, thereby fostering inclusive economic participation and strengthening community resilience.

KEWI is also embracing digital transformation to enhance efficiency and service delivery. The digitization of academic and administrative processes – from student registration to e-learning platforms and research dissemination – has streamlined operations. The institute also integrates ICT into its training programs, preparing graduates to navigate and succeed in an increasingly digital economy.

As Kenya advances its socio-economic development agenda, KEWI remains a cornerstone of the water sector. Through its commitment to capacity building, research, and innovation, the institute continues to equip the nation with the knowledge and skills necessary to manage water sustainably. KEWI's alignment with national and international development goals ensures its continued relevance and impact as Kenya strives toward a water-secure and prosperous future.

When the World Breaks: Trauma and Our Assumptive World

BY: REBECCA NJERI &
DAR NYANCHOKA

In the heart of Kigali, Rwanda, over 50 delegates from across the region came together for a transformative four-day mental health conference and excursion centered on Trauma Healing.

Among the delegates were professionals, scholars, and practitioners—each carrying their own stories, pain, and purpose. For many, the conference provided a rare and sacred space to confront the invisible wounds that linger deep within: the trauma we often don't speak about yet quietly carry.

The event was graced by renowned scholars and guest speakers from both Kenya and Rwanda. Through their insights, and with the backdrop of Rwanda's haunting history, participants were taken on a deeply reflective journey. Our itinerary included powerful site visits—none more striking than the Genocide Memorial Centre, where history speaks in silence and sorrow.

It was in those moments of quiet reflection that the title for this article came to me: "When the World Breaks." Because that is exactly what trauma does—it shatters the assumptive world we all live in.

[The Assumptive World: What We Believe Before Trauma](#)

Before trauma enters our lives, we walk the world with



Ms. Rebeccah Ndungu receives a certificate during the Kwibuka 31 commemorations in Rwanda capital, Kigali.

certain unconscious beliefs that shape our sense of safety and purpose. Psychologists call this the "assumptive world." It includes beliefs such as:

- *The world is a safe place.*
- *People are generally good and trustworthy.*
- *If I do the right thing, I will be okay.*
- *Tragedy happens to others – not to me or my loved ones.*

These assumptions are the invisible scaffolding of our emotional and mental well-being. But what happens when tragedy strikes and those beliefs collapse?

[Rwanda: When a Nation's Assumptive World Shattered](#)

The 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda is one of the most profound examples of a shattered assumptive world. In just 100 days, over one million people were brutally murdered by friends, neighbours—even family. The trauma was not just physical. It was psychological, spiritual, and deeply personal.

Imagine a child seeing their once-loving community turn into a nightmare. Or a parent unable to promise safety because their own sibling had become a perpetrator. In Rwanda, the collapse of the assumptive world wasn't individual—it was national.

As one Rwandan author poignantly wrote in the wake of the genocide: *"The angels left*

When the World Breaks: Trauma and Our Assumptive World



Rwanda.”

Trauma’s Impact: The Slow Death of Trust

Trauma is more than a bad memory. It is a betrayal of the mind, heart, and soul. Whether in a national context like Rwanda or in individual experiences, the effects of trauma manifest in four significant ways:

- *Loss of trust in others – People are no longer safe.*
- *Loss of trust in the world – Familiar places now trigger pain.*
- *Loss of trust in self – Victims may carry misplaced guilt or shame.*

- *Loss of trust in faith – Many ask, “Where was God?” during their darkest hour.*

The Children Left Behind: Fragmented Futures

For children, trauma can have even more lasting effects. Their assumptive world is still under construction, and traumatic experiences stop that process. These children may grow up expecting betrayal, abandonment, or harm as a normal part of life.

As adults, they may struggle with emotional intimacy, parenting, leadership, and decision-making – all because of unresolved childhood pain.

This underscores the urgent need for trauma-informed approaches in education, mental health, and public service.

Is Healing Possible?

Yes—but it is neither automatic nor easy. Healing a shattered assumptive world requires:

- *Time*
- *Safe spaces for dialogue and storytelling*
- *Professional psychological support*
- *Community-based healing initiatives*
- *Faith and spiritual resilience*

The journey is personal, but it is also collective. As we learned in Rwanda, healing is not forgetting. It is remembering differently honouring the past while choosing to build a future based on restored trust and renewed hope.

As KEWI continues to prioritize mental wellness, the lessons from Kigali remind us that while trauma breaks the world we once believed in, healing is possible—with compassion, community, and courage.

Let us keep walking this road—together.

The authors are Kenya Water Institute’s members of staff in Human Resources and Administration and Counselling Departments respectively. They were in Rwanda to attend Kwibuka 31, a function organized in commemoration of the 1994 Genocide meted against Tutsi and moderate Hutu. This event aims to remember the victims of the horror massacre and honor the survivors, and ensure such atrocities against humanity never happen again.



Ms. Dar Nyanchoka receives a certificate during the Kwibuka 31 commemorations in Rwanda capital, Kigali.

Picture of the week



Mr. **Kennedy Kirimi**, the nurse in charge of the KEWI Sick Bay, takes a newly admitted student through a medical check-up – a prerequisite for admission as a student at KEWI.

"Taking care of your health is part of taking responsibility for your future. Don't ignore the small signs – listen to your body. We work closely with local hospitals and clinics, so in case of emergencies, you're

Quote of the Week

"You don't lead by pointing and telling people some place to go. You lead by going to that place and making a case." Ken Kesey

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor

Dorine Eva Irungu

Writers:

Pius Kimani
 Britney Mokeira
 C. Kiptoo
 Faith Genesis Taunet
 Rebeccah Ndungu
 Dar Nyanchoke

Photographer

Pius Kimani

Designer

Pius Kimani

Round up of The Week's Events



Moments during admission and orientation of the new students at the institute.

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

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