

May 17th – May 23rd

KEWI Advances Water Sector Innovation with Acquisition of Cutting-Edge Meter Calibration System



A section of technicians consult each other during the assembling of the state-of-the-art 6-meter Automatic Meter Test Bench at KEWI headquarters, Nairobi. The new equipment aims to reduce non-revenue water and boost sector efficiency in public and private sector and for training once launched.

BY: FAITH TAUNET

In a major stride toward enhancing the accuracy of water measurement and curbing losses, the Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) has acquired a state-of-the-art 6-meter Automatic Meter Test Bench, custom-built in China.

This advanced equipment, secured through a partnership with GATSBY Africa, is set to revolutionize water meter testing and calibration in Kenya.

The installation of the test bench is part of KEWI's broader efforts to tackle the persistent challenge of non-revenue water (NRW)—water that is produced but not billed due to leaks, meter inaccuracies, or theft.

Currently, the country loses a significant portion of its treated water this way, affecting both service providers and end-users. The government has identified NRW reduction as a national

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Up and below; a worker offloads components of the Meter Test Bench at KEWI Nairobi.

-priority, aiming to lower the average annual NRW ratio to 20% by 2030.

The newly acquired Meter Test Bench comes with several powerful features that include precise meter verification, the ability to simulate different water flow conditions, and the capability to record actual water consumption data. It can also detect internal system leakages and calibrate water

meters to ensure they give accurate readings.

These capabilities are not just vital for water service providers; they also align with Kenya's broader National Water Services Strategy. The goal is to improve water conservation, minimize waste, and ensure efficient use of resources, particularly critical as the nation grapples with increasing water demand and climate-induced scarcity.

Approximately 80% of Kenya's landmass falls within arid and semi-arid zones, making effective water management a matter of national

survival. With a growing population and shifting weather patterns, the per capita availability of water is expected to decrease sharply in the coming years.

KEWI plans to offer the meter testing services through its consultancy arm, allowing both public and private sector clients to bring in their meters for verification and certification. This not only provides a revenue stream for the institute but also offers an essential service to water utilities seeking to maintain accurate billing systems.

Moreover, the installation of this equipment is a beneficial for students enrolled in KEWI's Water Supply and Non-Revenue Water Engineering



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programs. It will give them valuable hands-on experience with real-world tools and technologies used in water system diagnostics and meter calibration.

“Providing students with access to such advanced technology ensures they are job-ready and can contribute meaningfully to the water sector upon graduation,” said Nelson Kwamini Deputy Director Research Kenya Water Institute.

The assembly of the test bench is scheduled for completion by this Friday, after which KEWI staff will undergo comprehensive

training on its operation. Full deployment and use of the bench are expected to commence in June.

Once operational, the test bench is anticipated to be a cornerstone in Kenya’s efforts to manage water more efficiently and transparently. With the right tools and talent in place, KEWI is positioning itself not just as a training institution, but as a critical

player in the national mission to safeguard water resources and improve service delivery.

As Kenya navigates the dual challenges of water scarcity and increasing demand, such investments underscore the importance of innovation and partnerships in solving long-standing issues. The acquisition of the Meter Test Bench is more than just a technological upgrade; it’s a strategic move that reinforces the country’s commitment to sustainable water management.

By focusing on accurate measurement and timely leak detection, KEWI and its partners are laying the groundwork for a more accountable, efficient, and equitable water sector, one where every drop counts.



KEWI and HRB Seek to Partner to Align Hydrology Training with Industry Needs to Enhance Professional Development



Hydrologist Registration Board (HRB) officials led by Ms. Georgia Mwendwa when they held a meeting with KEWI to discuss possible areas of collaboration.

BY: THOMAS SAGWE

While traditional hydrology training in Kenya has long followed rigid academic structures, often detached from real-world industry needs, a new initiative is set to change the narrative. In a strategic meeting held at the Kenya Water Institute (KEWI), institute representatives and officials from the Hydrologist Registration Board (HRB) have come together to reimagine hydrology education with an emphasis on relevance, practicality, and professional growth.

During the meeting, attendants recognized that current training modules, though well-intentioned, are no longer sufficient in preparing

professionals to tackle Kenya's evolving water challenges. KEWI, represented by Ms. Dorice Situma, Head of the Department of Water Resources & Environmental Management (WREM), acknowledged this shortfall and proposed a transformative approach. Unlike the past, where theoretical models dominated the classroom, the future of hydrology education now points toward a dynamic blend of fieldwork, continuous professional development, and cross-institutional collaboration.

One of the most significant contrasts presented in the meeting was the shift from

isolated academic instruction to an integrated partnership model. KEWI and HRB agreed to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will formalize a collaboration framework. This partnership aims to facilitate joint research, outreach programs, and the rollout of industry-specific short courses, marking a clear departure from siloed institutional efforts.

Another notable shift is the inclusion of field-based learning as a core component of training. Ms. Situma advocated for embedding practical experience into the curriculum, allowing trainees to engage directly with hydrological systems and data collection in real-world

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KEWI officials led by Ms. Dorice Situma when they met their HRB counterparts to explore areas of partnership.

environments. This approach is not only expected to enrich learning outcomes but also to align closely with national priorities such as Kenya's Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Participants at the meeting agreed on the urgency of revamping course content and even renaming certain modules to reflect industry-specific terminology and challenges. The goal is to make courses more attractive to professionals already working in the sector, thereby fostering a continuous learning culture grounded in applicability and impact.

The outcome of the meeting outlined several deliverables: a finalized MoU, a robust

collaboration framework, and a comprehensive calendar of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) courses tailored to current and future industry needs. A proposal incorporating all these elements is expected within two weeks and will be reviewed by the KEWI CEO before the official MoU signing set for later in the year.

The meeting also stressed the importance of stakeholder engagement and the development of risk mitigation strategies to ensure a seamless implementation of the agreed-upon reforms. By fostering open communication and shared accountability, KEWI and HRB aim to future-

proof Kenya's hydrology workforce against both environmental and infrastructural challenges.

In contrast to the outdated and fragmented training models of the past, this forward-thinking initiative marks a pivotal moment for the water sector. It underscores a joint commitment to excellence, innovation, and national development—ensuring that Kenya's hydrology professionals are not only well-trained but also well-equipped to secure the country's water future.



Rise to Lead and Embrace Excellence, Chiakariga Principal Rallies Students and Staff



A section of staff, and students from Chiakariga Campus pose for a group photo after a Prayer meeting at the institute.

BY: KORIR KIPKORIR

The Kewi Chiakariga Campus held a vibrant and well-attended a Prayer and inauguration programme this week on 22nd may 2025, marking a significant milestone in the institution's journey.

The event was preceded by Pastor Otuola who taught on the theme Rising to lead called to inspire. He insisted that leadership starts with self and that a call to leadership is a call to bless people and change the society. He urged students to understand their divine assignment and thus fulfill their purpose. He encouraged students as young people to bring the country in order by

being true to their calling and that they should execute their assignments with courage despite opposition and criticism.

The highlight of the event was a rousing speech by the Campus Principal, who addressed students, staff, and invited guest with a message centered on holistic development and excellence.

In his keynote address, the principal underscored the importance of discipline as the bedrock of academic and personal success.

"Discipline is not just about following rules," he said, "it's about cultivating a mindset that values responsibility,

respect, and self-control. He encouraged students to embrace order and have a good attitude.

Turning to dressing, the principal urged students to take pride in their appearance as a reflection of their self-worth and professionalism. He encouraged adherence to an appropriate dress code, noting that proper grooming fosters respect, both from peers and the broader community.

The speech also placed a strong emphasis on creativity and innovation, urging learners to think beyond textbooks and bring fresh ideas to their academic pursuits and extracurricular activities.

Rise to Lead and Embrace Excellence, Chiakariga Principal Rallies Students and Staff



Staff, and students from Chiakariga Campus during a Prayer meeting at the institute.

“Creativity will not only make you stand out,” he noted, “but it will also empower you to solve real-world problems in unique ways.” He urged students to come up with solutions to challenges they are facing in the institution such as using available materials to come up with a purified water drinking source.

Another key theme of the principal’s address was time management. He cautioned students against using all their time in social media platforms watching entertainment videos and memes and emphasized using the time for research and educating themselves on vital matters in the society.

He further encouraged active participation in co-curricular activities, recognizing them as integral to the all-rounded development of students. From sports to clubs and arts, he advocated for a balance between academic learning and extracurricular involvement, noting that these activities build character, teamwork, and leadership skills.

The principal called on all students to be good ambassadors of the campus both within and beyond the school walls.

“Let your behavior your achievements and values reflect positively on this

institution. The world will judge our school by how we carry ourselves,” he said.

The principal also touched on the need for strategic school marketing, calling on both staff and students to help raise the profile of KEWI Chiakariga Campus. He emphasized excellence, innovation, and student success stories as the best tools for promoting the institution.

The address was met with enthusiastic applause and set the tone for an inspired and focused academic term. With the principal’s leadership and a motivated student body, Kewi Chiakariga Campus looks poised for continued growth and success.

Ministry Unveils New Water Regulations to Boost Access, Governance, and Sustainability



Principal Secretary State Department for Water and Sanitation Mr. Julius Korir, CBS when he received the Ministry's legal team brief on newly developed water regulations aimed at enhancing services at the ministry.

BY: PIUS KIMANI

The State Department for Water and Sanitation has taken a significant step in improving the governance and sustainability of water services in Kenya.

This is after the Ministry's legal team briefed Principal Secretary Mr. Julius Korir, CBS, on three newly developed water regulations aimed at increasing access to clean water, enhancing sector governance, and strengthening the management of water and sewerage services.

The new regulatory instruments include the Water (Services) Regulations, Legal

Notice No. 54 of 2025; the Water (Harvesting and Storage) Regulations, Legal Notice No. 57; and the Water (Resources) Regulation, Legal Notice No. 58. Together, these regulations are designed to improve the efficiency, accountability, and resilience of Kenya's water sector.

PS Korir emphasized the importance of developing a comprehensive communication strategy to accompany the implementation of these regulations. "These reforms impact multiple stakeholders—citizens, businesses, and the environment. A well-designed

communication approach is vital to ensure these changes are clearly understood, accepted, and implemented effectively," he noted.

The Water (Services) Regulations, Legal Notice No. 54, to be overseen by the Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB), aims to improve access to water and sanitation, especially in underserved regions. The regulation mandates that water service providers (WSPs) adopt structured leadership and transparent governance systems. It also promotes the provision of water and sewerage services in a manner that is both sustainable and

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Principal Secretary State Department for Water and Sanitation Mr. Julius Korir. The new regulations provide a robust legal and institutional framework for improving access to safe water, safeguarding public health and protecting the environment.

and commercially viable.

This regulation serves as a foundation for improving the quality-of-service delivery while ensuring fairness and accountability in the sector. By enforcing uniform standards across service providers, it seeks to close service gaps and create a more equitable water distribution framework across the country.

Meanwhile, the Water (Resources) Regulation, Legal Notice No. 58, will be implemented through the Water Resources Authority (WRA) with technical support from the National Water Harvesting and Storage Authority (NWHSA), which was established under Section

30 of the Water Act, 2016. This regulation provides a framework for managing and conserving Kenya's water resources, with a strong focus on climate change adaptation and flood mitigation.

It addresses the management of dams and waterworks, sustainable utilization of water resources, and preventive strategies to counter water-related disasters. Importantly, it also highlights the role of water harvesting in enhancing water security.

The Water (Harvesting and Storage) Regulations, Legal Notice No. 57, complements the other two by promoting rainwater harvesting and

storage solutions. These efforts are essential in combating the growing threat of water scarcity, especially in arid and semi-arid areas.

Together, these regulations mark a turning point in Kenya's approach to water resource management. They provide a robust legal and institutional framework for improving access to safe water, safeguarding public health, protecting the environment, and enhancing climate resilience. As the government and its agencies move toward implementation, the involvement of all stakeholders will be key to realizing the transformative potential of these reforms.

Round up of The Week's Events



Moments during the closing ceremony for the short course training at KEWI Nairobi

Picture of the week



Samwel Wachira and **Michelle Maina** both Plumbing and Pipefitting students at Main Campus, drawn by curiosity, edged closer to a group of workers assembling a new machine at KEWI Main Campus.

And just like that, they found themselves face-to-face with KEWI's latest technological marvel: a cutting-edge 6-meter Automatic Meter Test Bench. Seizing the moment, they queried firsthand about the advanced system and its groundbreaking capabilities.

Talk about being in the right place at the right time – the early birds had caught the tech worm!

You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives

Quote of the Week

"You can't innovate if you exclude diverse voices."

Megan Smith, Former U.S. Chief Technology Officer

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Long - Term Programmes

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 Diploma in Water Laboratory Technology (DWLT)
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 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
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 Water Quality Sampling and Testing
 Microbiological Water Quality Assessment
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 Non-Revenue water
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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
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Innovativeness
Inclusivity
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