

WATER NEWS UPDATE

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NCWSC PARTICIPATES AT WASIC FORUM

The Company recently participated in the inaugural Water and Sanitation Investors Conference (WASIC) held at Kenyatta International Convention Centre, Nairobi, from 6th to 8th March, 2024.

The event organized by the Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund) was officially opened by Hon. Zachariah Njeru, EGH, the Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation on behalf of His Excellency Dr. William Samoei Ruto, C.G.H, President of the Republic of Kenya.

The Cabinet Secretary noted that progress had been made in the water and sanitation sub-sector to realize the right to water and basic sanitation for all.

"The 2024 WASIC conference marks a pivotal moment in Kenya's journey towards achieving sustainable water and sanitation for all citizens. Through substantial investment, policy reforms, and strategic partnerships, significant progress has been made in expanding water infrastructure connecting millions to piped water and extending sewerage coverage to urban areas." He reiterated.



Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary , Hon. Zachariah Njeru, EGH, officially opens the WASIC forum at Kenyatta International Convention Centre.

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The three-day high-level forum themed '*Accelerating Investments for Sustainable Access to Water and Sanitation for All.*' primarily sought to attract investors to the water and sanitation sector with particular emphasis on blended financing models that are instrumental in accelerating the achievement of universal access to water and sanitation by the year 2030.

The Company showcased the Simplified Sewer System (SSS) project that has been piloted and implemented successfully at Mukuru Kwa Reuben informal settlement along Mosque Road and Apostolic areas in partnership with Nairobi City County Government, Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP) and Akiba Mashinani Trust (ATM). The project also included the installation of Pre-Paid Water Dispensers (PPDs).

The game-changing model offering complementary solutions to sanitation challenges posed by informal settlements saw 4,000 meters of simplified sewer service lines laid, 230 inspection chambers constructed, 3000 households connected and more than 12,500 beneficiaries reached after rollout.

The program which is used widely in Brazil and other Latin American countries is suitable for densely populated but well-structured settlements and is easily adaptable to Low-Income Areas (LIA). The context-specific sanitation approach has been tried, tested, and adopted in Tanzania and Namibia countries.



Board of Directors Chairman, Arnold Karanja, Board Member Cedric Alaro, and Managing Director, Eng. Nahason Muguna at our exhibition stand at Kenyatta International Convention Centre.

By: Tonui Kipkurui
Corporate Affairs and Liaison Department

WASIC forum through the lens....



Board Members Esther Muthoni, Johnstone Mukabwa, ICT Director, Martin Nang'ole, Corporate Affairs and Liaison Manager, James Karanja, follow proceedings during WASIC forum



Board Member, Johnstone Mukabwa, receives an award on behalf of the Company for sponsoring the WASIC conference.



A delegate is issued fliers on water saving tips and Simplified Sewer System project



Human Resource and Administration Services Director, Monica Tuli, and Ag. Internal Audit and Risk Director, Martha Kibui visit NCWSC stand.

2024/2025 Annual Budget Review Workshop Held

The annual budget workshop took place recently and served as a platform to present the 2024/2025 Financial year budget proposal whose theme is “Resilient Provision of Sustainable Water and Sanitation Services Amid Climate Change”.

The team which comprised of the Board of Directors and Board of Management was taken through presentations by respective BPOs highlighting key achievements within the current financial year 2023/2024 including challenges the Company was facing that hindered targeted achievements and the opportunities that would be pursued to ensure that the Company's mandate is met.

During the retreat several strategies were identified which would ensure the Company ran optimally and met its obligations to the customers. Plans of sustained Non-Revenue Water reduction were suggested where various targeted areas were noted for immediate interventions such as transmission losses, identifying and disconnecting illegal connections among other measures that would ensure that the water we distribute is fully accounted for.

The other key focus areas discussed included equitable distribution of water, robust debt recovery framework, targeted staff development initiatives, growing the customer base while improving customer experience and practicing sound financial discipline.

The Board Chairman encouraged the team to concentrate on practical and realistic solutions which would bolster the Company's efforts towards sustainability and financial efficacy.



Board Chairman, Arnold Karanja, engaging the participants during the Budget Review workshop



Regional Manager for Western Region, Godfrey Masinde, makes his submission during the retreat

Know Your Water Source : Sasumua Dam

Sasumua dam is an impounding reservoir located on the Sasumua stream, a tributary of Chania River near Njabini Township on the South end of the Aberdare Mountains.



A series of small dams, weirs and pipelines divert water from the Chania River and Kiburu East Major, Kiburu East Minor, Kiburu West Major, and Kiburu West Minor streams into the reservoir formed behind Sasumua dam

The combined catchment area of the Sasumua, Chania and Kiburu streams is approximately 12,800 hectares. The dam, intake works and treatment works are operated by the Production Department. The capacity of the dam is 15.9 million m³ and contributes approximately 11% of Nairobi's current water supply.

Sasumua treatment plant is composed of three phases or stages; Stage 1 of the treatment works was commissioned in 1956 to treat 18,000m³/day of raw water, followed by stages 2 and 3 in 1961 and 1968 respectively. The combined stages were designed to treat a total of 63,500m³/day.

Treatment is by horizontal-flow sedimentation (stage 1) or vertical-flow sedimentation (stages 2 & 3), followed by rapid gravity sand filtration. Disinfection is by chlorination and pH adjustment by the addition of soda ash. Alum is used for coagulation.

After treatment water is conveyed to Nairobi by means of a 60 km buried steel pipeline which is duplicated over the first 30 km.

Peter Mironga
Sasumua Dam Coordinator

NCWSC hosts Nyeri Water and Sanitation Company Ltd for Bench-marking

NCWSC hosted a delegation of 35 members of staff from Nyeri Water and Sanitation Company Ltd on the 13th March 2024.

The Team led by their Technical Manager Eng. James Ngunjiri were on a benchmark tour to Ng'ethu treatment plant, where there was an exchange of knowledge on our water treatment plant processes. Such interactions within the water sector have had mutual benefits to parties involved in a bid to improve service delivery.



Ag. Maintenance Coordinator - Moses Kimani, takes the Nyeri Water team through treatment works operations



About Nyeri Water

Nyeri Water & Sanitation Company Ltd (NYEWASCO) is one of five Water Supply Utilities serving Nyeri County. The Company's broad mandate is to provide water and sanitation services to the residents of the Nyeri Central Sub-County and its environs. Nyeri Central Sub county area is divided in 40 zones with 48,500 customers served.

It's been ranked Best Performing Utility for 15 years in a row by the WASREB Impact Report.

Joyce Kinyua
Corporate Affairs & Liaison Dept

NCWSC MARKS WORLD WATER DAY

The Company in partnership with the Nairobi City County Government celebrated this year's World Water Day event at Gatharaini river, (Small Axe Park) Kasarani sub-county.

This year's theme was: 'Water For Peace' and sought to highlight the importance of fresh water, as well as advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources for global peace.

County Executive Committee Member for Green Nairobi, Ibrahim Nyangoya presided over the event and in relation to the theme noted that water can bring together different water stakeholders from different ethnicities or religious background around a common cause and provide an entry point for dialogue, reconciliation and peace-building.

He encouraged different water agencies on the need to cooperate for effective provision of water and sanitation services.

The County Director for Water and Sanitation Mario Kahinga, called on every stakeholder to keep our City clean and advocated for sustainable management of freshwater resources.

The day was also marked by a tree planting exercise at the Gatharaini Park as part of efforts to conserve the riparian area.



CECM for Green Nairobi, Ibrahim Nyangoya plants a tree to mark World Water Day event



County Director for Water and Sanitation Mario Kahinga is joined by students in tree planting exercise

Charity Supeyo
Corporate Affairs and Liaison Department

WOMEN IN WATER & SANITATION ASSOCIATION HOLDS 5TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Women in Water and Sanitation Association (WIWAS) held its 5th Annual General meeting on 20th March, 2024 in Limuru. During the AGM, members elected their officials for the next two years; the leaders were drawn from across the Water Sector having expressed interest to lead the Association.

WIWAS announced the elected officials through a social media post; Eldah Odongo (KIWASO) was elected as Chairperson unopposed.

While Kate Tsuma & Maureen Karugu (NCWSC) were elected as Treasurer & Organizing Secretary Respectively. Kate & Maureen are Coordinators in Planning & Corporate Affairs departments respectively.

Eng. Daniel Ng'ang'a, Managing Director Murang'a Water & Sanitation Company was elected the Male Champion, unopposed.



WIWAS members pose for a group photo at the Annual General Meeting held at Jumuia hotel in Limuru

Other notable organizations represented in the Executive Committee are Nyeri Water & Sanitation Company, Tana Water Development Agency and Water Resources Authority.

Karen Muthoni
Corporate Affairs and Liaison Department

Ida Mbuthia Gatwiri: I lost my sight, not my vision



Ida Mbuthia, Customer Care Assistant, Call Centre, HQ offices

Imagine for a moment being served one of life's devastating blows: losing your sight. This was Ida Mbuthia Gatwiri's grim reality in 2011 when she lost her sight in the midst of writing her final year exams at Kenya Water Institute (KEWI).

Ida, a Diploma holder in Water Engineering, graduated in July 2015 and joined the Company in January 2017. She currently serves as a Customer Care Assistant at the Company's Call Centre, at the Headquarter Offices.

In sharing her story, Ida says she felt sick and experienced unusual and prolonged aches. She would later be diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), a neurological condition, that triggers the weakening of the optic nerves causing vision problems such as blurred sight and vision loss.

What followed was a period of pain and darkness, what she calls a "tragic beginning".

"I lost my sight completely in 2011. I am completely blind. It was strange because I had never had eye problems growing up." She states.

She later joined Machakos School for the Blind for a rehabilitation program that helped her adjust to life without sight. After completion of the one-and-half year program, she went back to complete her water engineering course.

She adds that although she is visually impaired, the condition has never altered her outlook in life.

"While this is not the life I imagined, I have made peace with it. I was first in denial but acceptance has been a big part of my life. My blindness has not been about missed milestones. My condition has not dimmed my vision. In any case, it has heightened my sense of self to living a full life." She adds.

So, how does Ida do her work? With the help of a sighted guide, she reports to work on time and perform her duties. The Company has also facilitated her with JAWS (Job Access With Speech), a computer application, that allows blind and visually impaired users to read the screen.

The screen reader program was procured from the Kenya Union of the Blind (KUB), and customized to enable her interact with business applications in the Company.

Ida says her colleagues have been a support system at work and in her private life.

"Thankfully, my colleagues are understanding. They have stuck by me. I am glad they accepted me and my condition. It has offered me a sense of community and reassurance." She adds.

Lucy Kamau, her colleague at the Call Centre, says she has walked the journey together with her for the last seven years.

"I first interacted with her when she got posted to the Call Centre in 2017. From then on, we have been each other's sister's keeper. I have on some occasions even accompanied her for pre-natal clinics all the way to the labor ward. I have seen her become a mother to two beautiful children." She narrates.

The dotting mother of two is registered with the National Council for People with Disabilities (NCPWD) and was elected to represent staff with disabilities when the Kenya Union of Water and Sewage Employees (KUWASE) held its elections in September 2022.

The Water Engineering graduate boasts of having scored many firsts since assuming the leadership position.

"I have been able to fast-track development of a database of all staff suffering from various disabilities and ensured that the Company facilitates them with trainings on disability mainstreaming in collaboration with National Council for People with Disabilities (NCPWD)." She says

She adds that she has successfully overseen digital migration of all staff abled-differently to the e-citizen portal as well as assisting them undergo vetting by Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) for tax exemption and reliefs.



TEAM TWIGA IN PICTURES