



WATER NEWS UPDATE

NCWSC PARTICIPATES IN MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS TRAINING



Presidential Advisor on Mental Health and Chairman, Hospital Group, Dr. Frank Njenga (front row seated, 2nd right) pose for a photo with NCWSC and Chiromo Hospital Group staff after end of mental health induction training.

The Company in collaboration with Chiromo Hospital Group recently conducted mental health induction training on Alcohol, Drugs and Substance Abuse for the Board of Management.

Kenya's Presidential Advisor on Mental Health and Chairman, Chiromo Hospital Group, Dr. Frank Njenga, was the key note speaker of the event.

Njenga said depression and mental disorders was on the rise and called for support devoid of stigma and discrimination.

"There cannot be health without mental health. Ignore mental health at your own peril. We need to advocate for early detection and diagnosis of mental disorders because these conditions are relatively easy to treat if detected early." He said.

He also added that mental illness is a burden to the employer. "Unrecognized mental illness is expensive to the employer since employee concentration is poor." He added.

Chiromo Hospital Group Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Vincent Hongo said the facility continues to register a rise in the number of patients seeking services on mental illness. He called for institutionalization of wellness programmes by employers among other interventions.

Director of Human Resources and Administration Services, Monica Tuli, applauded the partnership with the health facility saying it will go a long way in assisting the staff combat the condition.

"We are grateful for the partnership. We shall roll out staff sensitization programmes to improve on mental health of our staff as this will positively impact on their productivity as well." She said.

The half –day training also touched on wellness, promotion and prevention of mental disorders. Other topics covered are: stress and stress management; negative effects of alcohol and drug abuse as well as parenting skills drug addicts.

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Director of Human Resources and Administration Services, Monica Tuli, receives a Certificate of Training from Presidential Advisor on Mental Health, Republic of Kenya, and Chairman, Chiromo Hospital Group, Dr. Frank Njenga.

NCWSC & WSUP CONDUCT SIMPLIFIED SEWER EVALUATION AND UTILITY FRAMEWORK SELF ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP

The Company and Water & Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP) – Kenya conducted an evaluation workshop for the Simplified Sewer System (SSS) Pilot project at Mukuru Kwa Ruben.

The purpose of the workshop was to glean the learnings from the project through a Survey undertaken by Armitech consulting, a firm contracted by WSUP-Kenya. The workshop was officiated by Mario Kainga, Deputy Director Water & Sanitation, Nairobi Metropolitan Services.

Mr. Kainga, lauded the team for the great work done so far in the pilot project. He expressed confidence that the project shall be a success. "Evaluation is key for any project's success, the success of this project is a success story for NMS, NCWSC and most importantly for Nairobi Informal settlement residents" he said.

Participants were taken through the history of the SSS project where WSUP & NCWSC visited Rio De Grande informal settlement, Brazil in 2016 to see the project undertaking and results in Rio De Janeiro which was followed by the gazetting of the Mukuru Special Planning Area (SPA) by Nairobi City County Government; the areas covered are Mukuru Kwa Ruben, Kwa Njenga and Viwandani as one of the City of largest slum upgrading program.

Participants were taken through results of a survey conducted by Armitech Consulting for all stakeholders involved in the project. All stakeholders felt that proper documentation, community involvement & buy in are key for purposes of the success of the pilot and upscaling the Simplified Sewer System in Nairobi for NCWSC and the Country at large.

The issue of Operation & Maintenance and thus sustainability is a concern for all stakeholders due to the dynamics of the project such as no fees charged for connection to the sewer for the users; this was because the project was undertaken during the Government directive on free water provision for informal settlements at the onset of the Covid19 pandemic

NCWSC as the utility recommends that a minimal fee is charged to customers coming on board which will enhance ownership and on the utility end, the company will be able to finance & undertake periodic maintenance.

Another concern was solid waste management in the pilot area as a key threat to the success of the project. CBOs have taken up waste management at a fee of Kes. 20 per household however, the NMS intimated that these groups still lack proper disposal mechanisms, in most cases the garbage is just transferred to other areas of the informal settlement.

It is noteworthy that at the policy level, Simplified Sewer System has been documented. Water Sector Regulatory Board (WASREB) recognizes SSS as a technology for sanitation accessibility and has included it on the Inclusive Sanitation Guidelines of 2020.

Nairobi Metropolitan Services and Nairobi City County have included the SSS in the Water & Sanitation Revolving Fund Policy and draft bill as well as the Ministry (national) level under the draft National Sanitation Guidelines.

The objective of the SSS project is to make sanitation accessible and affordable for informal settlements residents in Nairobi City. The success of this project means the SSS is up scaled across the country.

WSUP in partnership with World Watemet have embarked on a project to support NCWSC Informal settlements region to identify areas of improvement and develop a road map for attaining desired goals using the Utility Strengthening Framework (USF) approach.

The team also conducted a self-assessment workshop as well as evaluate the findings of Key informant interviews of section heads in ISR as one of the USF activities.

The partnership also seeks to support ISR to establish NRW baseline in the Kiambui informal settlement in Nairobi. The workshop was attended by NMS representatives, Akiba Mashinani Trust representatives, Water & Sanitation for the Urban Poor and NCWSC.



From left seated: Eden Mati, Country Program Manager- WSUP Eng. Michael Ngari- Armitech Consulting, Mario Kainga , Deputy Director, Water & Sanitation - NMS, Jane Weru - Director, Akiba Mashinani Trust (center), Eng. Githinji - NMS, Eng. Mugo, NCWSC Donor Projects Manager (far right) during simplified sewer evaluation and utility framework self- assessment workshop

STAFF RECEIVES COVID-19 JAB



Staff receives Covid-19 jab administered by Nairobi Metropolitan Services personnel.

The Company through the Nairobi Metropolitan Services recently rolled out second dose of Covid-19 vaccination at the Headquarters, Kampala Road.

All staff who received their first Covid -19 Vaccination dose were encouraged to get their second jab during the free and voluntary exercise.

The vaccination is one of the many interventions the Company has undertaken to contain the spread of the pandemic. It has also emphasized on the strict adherence to Ministry of Health protocols and containment measures such as maintenance of social/physical distance of at least 1.5 meters in offices; observing proper hygiene practices i.e. hand -washing and/or sanitizing



Staff receives Covid-19 jab



Supply Chain Department Management team reviewing departmental policies and procedures at a retreat at Naivasha.



Corporate Affairs Manager, Mbaruku Vyakweli, makes his submissions on enhancing performance and competitiveness in the Government communications during the 2021 Public Relations Society of Kenya (PRSK) summit.



Staff led by Ag. Finance Director, Paul Omondi, pose for a photo during the send-off party for former Finance Manager (Revenue), JK Mwangi, who has proceeded for retirement



World Waternet Delegates hands-over donations of Non-Revenue Water equipment –Ultrasonic flow meter, portable water meter teting kit and thickness gauge to Managing Director, Eng. Nahason Muguna. Looking on are Ag. Technical Director, Eng. Lucy Njambi, Non-Revenue Water Manager, John Otieno and Production Manager, Eng. Philip Githinji.