

WATER NEWS UPDATE



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Issue 07/24

Wednesday, July 31, 2024



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DANDORA ESTATE TREATMENT WORKS GETS A FACELIFT

The Company through Athi Water Works Development Agency (AWWDA) is currently undertaking rehabilitation and expansion of Dandora Estate Sewage Treatment Works (DESTW).

The main objective of the works is to improve the wastewater treatment process by enhancing the efficiency and capacity of the inlet works and anaerobic ponds in order to have better quality of effluent.

The rehabilitation once complete will increase the plant's capacity by an additional 20,000 m³ from 160,000 m³ /day to 180,000 m³ /day. The plant's capacity is 160,000m³/day and currently treats an average of 130,000m³/day of domestic and industrial wastewater.

Wastewater is treated through two processes: Physical treatment and Biological. Physical process entails the removal of all solid waste in the wastewater through a series of screens. Biological treatment process involves three types of stabilization ponds namely; Anaerobic Ponds, Facultative Ponds, and Maturation Ponds (Aerobic ponds).

The plant has been constructed in two phases. The construction of Phase I started in 1975 and consist of Office block, Inlet Works (Physical treatment), thirty-six (36No.) duty houses, Two (2No.) Series Oxidation Ponds, and three (3No.) maturation ponds. Upon completion, the plant was commissioned in the Year 1978.

The construction of Phase II kicked off in 1985 and is composed of staff estate, social hall, dispensary, 64 duty houses and new Inlet treatment work, generator room and additional 6no. series (series 3,4,5,6,7 and 8). Phase II was commissioned in the Year 1990.

After treatment in the maturation ponds the treated effluent is discharged back to the Nairobi River.



Workers at Dandora Estate Sewage Treatment Works (DESTW) undertaking rehabilitation and expansion of the wastewater facility.



Refurbished section of the Plant

NCWSC SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH TWO FIRMS

The Company has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Fresh Life to expand non-sewered sanitation to residents of the Informal Settlements through development of sustainable, equitable and dignified sanitation services.



Managing Director, Eng. Nahason Muguna, and Fresh Life Managing Director, Anthony Mulinge, exchange signed documents in the Board Room.

The areas of collaboration are: Research and Modelling, Sharing of Physical Facilities, Institutional Capacity Building and Resource Mobilization, Project Outlines, Work Plans and Social Marketing.

The partnership main objective is to increase sanitation coverage in Nairobi Informal Settlements by providing container-based sanitation solutions including safe waste collection and transport to residents living in non-sewered informal settlements in Nairobi.

Other targets include: provision of an alternative for disposal of collected waste by manual pit-emptier through community pit latrine waste transfer stations, resource mobilization through effective collaboration as well as actively advocating for the implementation of safely managed non-sewered sanitation.



Managing Director, Eng. Nahason Muguna, and Water & Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP) Country Manager, Antony Ambugo, exchange signed agreements.

The Company has also signed an agreement with Water & Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP) whose main aim is to enhance water, sewerage, sanitation and hygiene services to the residents of low-income areas within Nairobi City County.

The two entities will also work together to prepare, develop and implement sustainable, equitable and affordable services for all the residents of Nairobi City County.

NCWSC and WSUP have worked in partnership under successive MoUs over the last 13 years resulting in increased sewer coverage (conventional & simplified) in Nairobi's low-income areas amongst other outcomes.

BOOST FOR STAFF AS BOARD APPROVES MORE TEAM BUILDING PROGRAMMES

The Board of Directors has approved budget for team-building in the financial year 2024/2025.

In a Circular to staff, Managing Director, Eng. Nahason Muguna, said the decision was borne out of the efforts put by the staff to enhance service delivery.

"This is to inform you that the Board, in appreciation of the good work done by the staff so far, has approved budget for team-building in the financial year 2024/2025 to be undertaken in a County neighboring Nairobi." Reads the Circular in part.



Team Simba having all the fun at the beach in Mombasa

The approval for the second phase of the bonding programme is not without a caveat.

"This is on condition that the Company achieves and sustains its revenue collection target of Ksh.1.4billion per month by December, 2024. Each one of us has a role to play in achieving the Company's goal by ensuring set targets within our areas of operation are met." He stated.

Eng. Muguna noted that the theme for the just concluded team-building program has been 'Stretched Out Performance to reduce Non-Revenue Water'. This, he added, is the number one priority at the moment as it poses a threat to sustenance of the Company operations.



Team Ndovu playing blind fold game to build team spirit

The just ended team-building program covered all employees and had the overall objective of improving staff productivity and performance within the workplace through fun, engaging activities to strengthen team spirit, trust, collaboration and communication amongst employees and teams within the organization.

Other specific objectives included: understanding the vision, mission and core values, enhancing staff bonding at all levels and fostering stronger relationships and cohesiveness in teams among others.

Tonui Kipkurui
Corporate Affairs & Liaison Department

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In the bustling heart of our Organization lies a hub of creativity and innovation – our Research and Development (R&D) Department.

Like intrepid explorers, they chart new territories, seeking out novel solutions to the challenges that confront us in the dynamic world of water and sewerage service delivery.

In the annals of NCWSC’s history, the R&D Department stands as a testament to our core values of creativity and innovation. Their journey is one of relentless curiosity, daring to ask "What if?" and "Why not?" in the quest for excellence.

Through their innovative research initiatives and benchmarks with best practices, they continually strive to enhance the efficiency, reliability, and sustainability of our water services.

From developing cutting-edge technologies to harnessing the power of data analytics for provision of valuable insights and recommendations that empower our leadership team to make strategic decisions with confidence, our R&D team is at the vanguard of pioneering solutions that redefine the possibilities of water management.

“But innovation is more than just a buzzword – it’s a way of life at Nairobi Water,” says the ICT Director, Martin Nang’ole.

“It’s about fostering a culture where every idea, no matter how audacious, is given the chance to flourish. Our R&D Department embodies this ethos, serving as a beacon of inspiration for all who dare to dream big.” He adds

R&D department is dedicated to solving complex problems that directly impact our operations and the quality of service we provide; identifying areas for enhancement, driving operational efficiency, and ensuring that NCWSC remains at the forefront of the water industry.

The team has spearheaded the development of bathymetry studies for Ruiru dam- enabling the Company to realize the live storage of Ruiru dam, a Work Environment Survey that brought forth a lactation station for our new moms.



Automatic Rain Gauge installed at Ruiru Dam. The instrument measures, monitors, record and transmit rainfall data to a base station.

The Department was instrumental in the development of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Policy and Fleet Management System.



Kabete Treatment Laboratory staff carrying out analysis while wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The NACADA surveys carried out internally also bore the ADAC policy on drugs and substance abuse among other innovations to be highlighted under this series of digitally speaking.

Yet, their journey is not without its challenges. In the ever-changing landscape of water management, obstacles abound, from resource constraints to technological setbacks.

But like true pioneers, our R&D and ICT team thrive on adversity, turning obstacles into opportunities and setbacks into stepping stones towards progress.



Ruiru Dam staff poses for a photo next to Automatic Rain Gauge installed at Ruiru Dam catchment.

“Beyond our organization, the research conducted by our team has a positive impact in the water industry. By developing innovative solutions and sharing knowledge with industry partners, academia, and government agencies, we contribute to the advancement of water and sewerage management practices regionally and nationally most recently through African Finance & Economic Affairs – AFEA,” indicated Margaret Benson, the R&D manager.

The team is soon rolling out a sports and physical wellness survey to identify gaps and collect feedback on staff’s engagement in sports. A physically health workforce is a productive workforce.

Indeed, Innovation is our compass and creativity our fuel. Together, we will navigate the waters of tomorrow with courage, curiosity, and conviction. BPOs and all staff are encouraged to contact the department via email at research@nairobiwater.co.ke for any research needs or proposals.

TEAM SIMBA IN PICTURES



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