

August 05-11, 2023

## A glimpse into the transformative journey with KEWI CEO



*The man of the moment; KEWI CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule peruses a file in his office .*

BY PIUS KI-

**W**hen Dr Leiro Letangule joined Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) early in the year, as the new Chief Executive Officer he assumed a full tray of issues that needed his immediate and urgent attention. Like the change management guru he is, he never looked back. He went through what lay in his tray,

purposed to make things work and stepped out to meet staff who needed reassurance and he did exactly that.

Dr. Letangule arrived in time to take over the mantle of management leadership that had remained held under acting capacity for more than a year as the search for the right person intensified.

Six months down the line, Dr.

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# A glimpse into the transformative journey with KEWI CEO



*Administration Block that is nearing completion at Kitui Campus.*



*The freshly painted Kisumu Campus Administration Block.*

Letangule is proving that indeed a man is worth his words. Adopting an open door policy that has largely boosted the morale of the staff, he has gained so much ground in regards to positioning the institution strategically on the launching pad for future greatness.

Dr. Letangule has registered a series of first ones and is keen to see the institute grow exponentially. He has sought to tap the magic of strategic collaborations with other likeminded institutions with an aim of tapping benefits of such engagements for the interest of both staff and students.

The CEO has initiated an all round program of improving the face of the institution by

having huge sections of the campuses painted afresh. The new face has really boosted aesthetic appearance of KEWI Campuses.

Internally, Dr Letangule has delivered infrastructural promises and is keen to extend the streak in a big scale. A new and modern security personnel house has been set in Nairobi Campus. Once complete, the infrastructure will give the critical personnel a decent working environment far from the ramshackle that stood as their house.

Modern car shades have also been built to take care of the surging number of visitors who have been strolling to the campus. The new shed will

also cater for staff.

Kitui Campus has benefited from a new borehole. The borehole came as a reprieve to the institute that had been experiencing water shortage for quite a time. The campus is also benefiting from a new administration block which is nearing completion. The block will also serve as the students centre.

Among a number of other benefits, from Dr. Letangule commissioned a new bus to Chiakariga Campus and this presented a move that was hailed by both staff and students.

The fast growing campus was experiencing transport challenges and the CEO was keen to solve the problem. He

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*Left: Jerry Teka, Safaricom Plc Internet of Things (IOT) Business Leader during a training on use of smart meters.*

intends to ensure that the remaining campuses also have their transport issues sorted out going forward.

These and a series of other internal gains and quick wins are setting the leadership of Dr. Letangule in the right performance and improvement trajectory.

During his first 6 months in office, he has also gone on a collaboration spree with strategic partners who have expressed their willingness to work with KEWI in a bid to tap into the benefits that come with such engagements and also help KEWI achieve its overall mandate. This is to align the institution on its mandate of providing directly or in collaboration with other institutions.

Dr. Letangule has witnessed the signing of a series of key Memorandums of

Association (MOU) that when implemented, will accelerate the institutes service delivery and accord both the students and staff loads of opportunity.

Signing of MOUs between respective institute's campuses and the local water utilities marked some of his first engagements.

Recently Dr. Letangule appended his signature in a historic signing of a partnership deal between KEWI and Safaricom Plc.

The agreement which has already started getting implemented will see Safaricom Plc finance the creation of model centers that encompass use of smart metering in Nairobi and Kitui Campuses for training

purposes to her students. The infrastructure will also be used by the water sector stakeholders to see, learn from and appreciate the value and use of technology in enhancing water efficiency.

Dr. Letangule has led in signing of Ksh 4.5 million African Development Bank (AFDB) funded contractual agreement between KEWI and the Consultant Mr. Francis Venzi, which aims to enhance the technical knowledge and skills of key personnel, stakeholders, and beneficiaries on green toilet system which are ideal for use in areas with no drainage systems and little water. The funding will see KEWI launch a series of strategic initiatives to promote and improve health and sanitation in communities in Kenya. The MOU is already getting implemented.

Under his leadership, KEWI secured funding amounting to €26,325 (approximately Kshs.3.7M) for a Groundwater Sustainable and Equitable Development under Constraints of Ecosystem Conservation and Saltwater Intrusion Prevention in Large Deltas (GWS-SENCE) project under the collaborative program DUPC3 between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and the IHE-

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Delft Institute for Water Education will take place in the Lamu Delta over duration of five years.

Dr. Letangule has witnessed the implementation of a training project between KEWI and Gatsby Africa (GA) where training of 200 staff from 7 Water Service Providers (WSP) in Kenya was carried out.

Other similar areas where Dr. Letangule has scored excellently include but not limited to successfully organizing Water Quality Management Symposium in collaboration with Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, almost formalizing a

Memorandum Of Understanding with Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company LTD (NCWSC) to offer training on Non Revenue Water (NRW), partner with AQUAYA, the data-driven NGO to formulate best approaches for formally engaging Small, Local Providers (SLPs) to deliver safe water services in cities through Urban Resilience by Building and Applying New evidence in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (URBAN WASH), a USAID program which is led by Tetra Tech and a Consortium of partners, establishing a collaborative framework with the County

Government of Nandi that aims to see the two parities conduct joint capacity building activities and when formalized will see KEWI take a leading role in capacity building for the devolved government unit specifically on areas related to water resources management within the county for the benefit of its residents.

To cap all this Dr. Letangule organized intensive one week training on performance contracting for its staff. This is to improve on its performance and eliminate inefficiencies in its service. Indeed, the future looks promising.



*A sneak preview of the newly painted Tuition Block at KEWI, Kisumu Campus vis a vis the same block in its former state.*

## Dr. Letangule's Water Project visit Creates opportunities for Students Hands-on Learning



KEWI CEO  
Dr. Leiro  
Letangule  
(2nd right)  
at Rarieda  
water  
project.

BY JOHN WAWERU

In Kisumu Campus the Chief Executive officer has notably transformed the institution and is propelling the institution towards a positive trajectory.

Early in the year, the Dr. Letangule signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between KEWI and Rafiki wa Maendeleo Trust (RWMT), a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) based in Siaya County.

This strategic collaboration aims to revolutionize student learning exchanges, ensuring a seamless and enriching experience for participants.

It holds the promise of streamlined learning exchanges for students, promising them unparalleled opportunities for personal and academic growth.

Moreover, the MOU highlights a significant focus on water projects, wherein students involved will not only contribute to vital community initiatives but also reap substantial benefits from their involvement.

The collaboration's emphasis on water projects underscores Dr. Letangule's commitment to social impact, ensuring that participating students will gain invaluable insights while making

meaningful contributions to essential community endeavors.

The agreement will make learning exchanges for KEWI students and staff easier, and students who participate in attachments, internships, and other hands-on learning opportunities at RWMT water projects will benefit.

In a follow up on the same, the CEO visited the Rafiki wa Maendeleo Trust where they were taken round Rarieda Water project in Rarieda, that is primed to benefit KEWI students in practical experience on operation and maintenance of the system.

# KEWI hosts PWaSS Project-Kenya Launch



*BBW officials Michael Dorr and Lukas Sam, KEWI CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule and WIWAS chairperson Dr. Leunitah Sumba during the PWaSS Project-Kenya Launch.*

BY MOSES KIPSANG'

**T**hrough the signing of the Memorandum of Implementation Agreement (MOA) with bbw (German Partner), Kenya Water Institute (KEWI), and Women in Water and Sanitation (WIWAS), the PWaSS Project-Kenya Launch was commemorated on August 7, 2023. PWaSS Project-Kenya is the offspring of the Bavarian Institutional Water Cooperation (BIWAC) Project, which was previously carried out with the assistance of the Bavarian Institute of Water Cooperation (German Partner).

The event was specially graced by a variety of participants, including Managing Directors, Chief

Executive Officers, officials from the water sector, Water Service Providers, certified BIWAC trainers, BIWAC graduates trainees, German Partners, and KEWI alumni.

While WIWAS mainstreams women's issues and topics in the curriculum to be implemented, KEWI's responsibility is to develop capacity and implement the project's developed curriculum.

Sequa is funding the PWaSS project in Kenya, which will be carried out jointly by KEWI, WIWAS, and bbw (the German partner). Updating BIWAC courses to include women's issues and launching in KEWI a business plan to ensure that BIWAC

courses are sustainable, organising a competition for Kenyan trainees on talents, ten (10) new BIWAC trainers will receive additional training at KEWI-Nairobi, Kisumu, and one other location (Kitui or Chakariga), as well as curriculum development for Master certified BIWAC trainers.

All competent BIWAC Trainers will be tested and certified (50% of new trainers should be women), and certification will be given based on participation or merit.

The PWaSS Project-Kenya, which aims to improve skills in especially for women working in the water sector, is an extremely timely initiative. The Ministry's objective to advance gender equality and women's

# KEWI hosts PWaSS Project-Kenya Launch

active engagement in the Sector is aligned with one of the project priorities for women's advancement and capacity building which is women promotion and participation.

The project's goal is to solve the problems currently facing Kenya's water sector, specifically the lack of skilled workers and the need to reduce gender inequities.

In the past, BIWAC has successfully collaborated with KEWI, WASPA, KWIA, and other water sector stakeholders to build capacity for the Water and Waste Water Training for Artisan course in BIWAC I, BIWAC II, and BIWAC III, respectively, in the years 2017-



*KEWI CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule and WIWAS Chairperson Dr. Leunita Sumba during the MOU signing ceremony at KEWI.*

## Quote of the Week

*"Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection."*

**-Mark Twain**

## EDITORIAL TEAM

### Editor

Dorine Eva

### Writers:

Pius Kimani

John Waweru

Korir Kipkirui

Abigael Songok

Moses Kipsang

### Photographer

Pius Kimani

### Designer

Pius Kimani

## Round Up of the Week's Events



*KEWI CEO Dr. Letangule hosted National Research Fund CEO Prof. Dickson Andala to discuss areas of mutual collaboration including: Developing a working MOU, doing joint proposal writings for research findings, exploring opportunities in research on the blue economy, creating a platform for innovation for both*

*students and staff, training KEWI researchers on grant proposal writing, publishing of research work done by KEWI in refereed journals, and enhancing private sector engagement in research activities.*



*KEWI Deputy Director Academic Affairs Mr. Eric Wamiti (left) in a group photo with The Governor of Machakos County Hon. Wavinya Ndeti (centre) during the commissioning of a Water and Sanitation Taskforce to spearhead reforms in the water and sanitation sector as well as restructuring water companies. Mr. Wamiti is among members who were nominated to join the taskforce to undertake comprehensive review of all the 6 public water service providers, to assess development and implement strategies to improve water management and ensure sustainable water supply and sanitation services within Machakos County while overseeing the restructuring and reorganization of the water service providers within Machakos County so as to be full owned by the County Government.*



### Long - Term Programmes

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 Diploma in Water, Sanitation Engineering Technology (DWSET)  
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 Drilling Operations and Management (DOM)  
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 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  
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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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## 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](mailto:info@kewi.or.ke)  
Website: [www.kewi.go.ke](http://www.kewi.go.ke)

### For enquiries about our TVET programmes

Contact the Registrar, Admissions Office.

Phone: 0735339206

Email: [admissions@kewi.or.ke](mailto:admissions@kewi.or.ke)

#### KEWI Nairobi Campus

P.O. BOX 60013 – 00200  
Tel: 0722207757  
Email: [info@kewi.or.ke](mailto:info@kewi.or.ke)

#### KEWI Chiakariga Campus

P.O. BOX 12 – 60215  
Tel: 0729009104  
Email: [chiakariga@kewi.or.ke](mailto:chiakariga@kewi.or.ke)

#### KEWI Kitui Campus

P.O. BOX 1514 – 90200  
Tel: 0707566395  
Email: [kitui@kewi.or.ke](mailto:kitui@kewi.or.ke)

#### KEWI Kisumu Campus

P.O. BOX 7825 – 40100  
Tel: 0722207757  
Email: [kisumu@kewi.or.ke](mailto:kisumu@kewi.or.ke)

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[communications@kewi.or.ke](mailto:communications@kewi.or.ke)



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