

MAY 06- MAY 12 2023

## KEWI in Netherlands for Groundwater Research Workshop



KEWI Chief Executive Officer Dr. Leiro Letangule(2nd right) and Deputy Director Corporate Services Mr. Eric Wamiti (right) during a site visit in Netherlands.

BY PIUS KIMANI

Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) joined other partners at the Institute of Water Education (IHE) in Delft, Netherlands for a 3 days kick-off workshop for a project themed “Ground Water SuSustainable and Equitable uNder Constraints of

Ecosystem and Saltwater Intrusion Prevention in Large Deltas”, GWS-SENCE.

In this program, KEWI roles include field research, training, institutional strengthening, and community capacity building.

The project is under the collaborative Partnership Programme for Water and

### HIGHLIGHTS

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## KEWI in Netherlands for Groundwater Research Workshop

Development (DUPC3) between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and IHE Delft.

The workshop brought together other stakeholders from Egypt and Nigeria to come up with project activities and plans for 4 components that defines the project. The project seeks to advance groundwater research in coastal deltas, including the Niger delta (Nigeria), Nile delta (Egypt) and Tana delta (Kenya).

The project objectives include conceptualization of groundwater systems, determination of problems, data collection and monitoring, groundwater and society, groundwater-surface water interactions and groundwater dependent ecosystem and formulation of pathways for change.

Other partners include University of Nairobi, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Institute, Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, Water Resources Authority, and Regional Centre for Groundwater Resources



*Above and below: Participants during the GWS-SENCE workshop in Delft, Netherlands.*

### Education

With the success of the project hinged on four components namely; Partnership and Joint Learning, Research and Advocacy, Education and Training, and Institutional Strengthening, KEWI's role in the project will assess the ecological sustainability, maintenance or restoration of the composition, structure, and processes of ecosystems including the diversity of plant and animal communities and the productive capacity of ecological systems within the area of study

The major benefits KEWI expects to get from the project include enhanced capacity for groundwater hydrology and technology, improved groundwater supply for the case study area, updated curriculum

for groundwater training and information exchange between the different participants and the KEWI staff involved in the project.

The community will benefit from enhanced groundwater monitoring systems, development of models for saltwater intrusion prevention, sustainable groundwater development, and equitable use of groundwater resources, especially for marginalized groups and groundwater dependent ecosystems.

KEWI was represented at IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, the largest and renowned knowledge centre on water infrastructure, technology and sciences in the world, based in Delft, by the Chief Executive Officer Dr. Leiro Letangule and the Deputy Director Corporate Services Mr. Eric Wamiti.



## KEWI Floorball members named in the Provisional Team to Ivory Coast



*KEWI Floorball Men team during one of their training sessions.*

BY PIUS KIMANI

**K**enya Water Institute (KEWI) Floorball team and the current reigning champions have maintained their stellar performance and are having their sight on dominating the national and international arena in the relatively new sports discipline.

This is after 16 members of the men and women floorball team from the Institute were selected to comprise a provisional team of 70 that will be battling it out to represent

Kenya during the African Cup Championship set to be held on September 2023 in Ivory Coast.

The selection comes as Kenya Floorball's Most

Valuable Player (MVP) Hosea Kipkorir form part of the duo that will headline the national team provisional squads. Kipkorir and other winners were named and awarded during an award gala also prepared to mark the end of the fifth season of the floorball league.

During the season-ending award ceremony held at International Christian Center, Nairobi West, Kipkorir scooped the coveted position to beat of Timothy Mburu who came a close second. Evelyne Nyanduko from KEWI and who was the 4th best topscorer of the season lost narrowly to Anita Jerono who clinched the MVP award in women category.

Vincent Kiptoo was named as the national captain of the men team.

During the gala that saw six men's and women's teams participate with National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) men and Tsunami women's club emerging overall winners of the 2022/23 season, KEWI mens team emerged position 2 while the ladies team clinched the third position in the women category.

Kevin Maina, who has been spearheading the trainings at KEWI was named as the best coach. This also saw him included in the team of coaches that will be conducting the training of the team that will represent Kenya in Ivory Coast.

The 16 members of the team

## KEWI Floorball members named in the Provisional Team to Ivory Coast



*Hoseah Kipkorir who was named the Most Valuable Player (MVP) during the Kenya Floorball Federation Awards Gala in Nairobi.*

squad include Vincent Kiptoo (Captain), Hosea Kipkorir, Tysson Kibor, Nick Osoro, Victor Koros, Kevin Kihanga, Daniel Kihoti and Sebastian Wambua. Ladies whose efforts paid off are Jane Wambui, Evelyne Nyanduko, Abigael Koech, Faith Keitany, Martha Wanjiru, Purity Tanui, Rhodester Mwende and Monica Shako.

Meanwhile, KEWI Sports Officer Byron Omondi has lauded the efforts the Institutes management is putting in supporting the sports department. While noting that participating in tournaments and leagues is very crucial for the growth of the teams' skills and

confidence, Byron has indicated that such engagements have prepared them to win more trophies if the exploits during the award gala is anything to go by.

Byron applauded the goodwill exhibited by the Institute's director Dr. Solomon Letangule who has promised to support the sports department. Byron revealed that there are plans to have friendly tournaments and leagues across various sports disciplines. This, he says, will help KEWI build strong and competitive teams that will be able to take up challenges and deliver success.

who made it to the provisional

## KEWI Mulls Collaboration with Kenya Space Agency (KSA)

BY. DORINE EVA



Stephen Njung'e Kihu and the Director/CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule were hosted by The Kenya Space Agency (KSA) Ag. Director General, Brig Hillary Kipkosgey. In their discussions, they covered a wide range of collaborative opportunities including Hydro-geological Surveys and Data Sharing using the newly launched Taifa-1 Satellite.

This will play a critical role in hydrogeological surveys by providing the Institute with accurate and up-to-date information about water resources and providing highly precise and detailed earth observations, allowing make of informed decisions about water management.

By providing detailed information about groundwater levels, the satellite can help to identify potential sources of water for irrigation, drinking water and other purposes.

**K**enya Water Institute's  
Governing Council  
Chairperson Brig. (Rtd)

## When the Toilet Broke, Mapenzi Made a Choice for Life

BY: DORINE EVA & PIUS KIMANI



Constance Mapenzi during the interview.

Constance Mapenzi is among a growing number of women trying their hand at plumbing at the Kenya Water Institute. But they still find it difficult to get a foothold in a male-dominated industry.

When you walk among the crowd on the Kenya Water Institute Nairobi Campus, it is completely impossible to determine whether there are more men or women among the approximately 1000 students.

While the debate in Denmark for decades has been about how to get more women into the traditionally male-dominated technical vocational courses, KEWI has already come a long way with gender equality.

“These are traditionally male-dominated professions, and most jobs still go to men. But there are more and more women among the students”,

says Daniel M. Mwaura, who is a project coordinator for 3F in East Africa.

3F runs a development project together with the Confederation of Danish Industry, Danish Trade Union Development Agency and Divérs. The project aims to give young people in Kenya the skills to take part in the green transition in the water and construction sectors. The project focuses on achieving gender equality.

“Currently, 460 students receive support via the project. Most of them go to KEWI and a majority of them are women.” says Daniel M. Mwaura.

One of the women who on a daily basis learn about, among other things, assembling water pipes and setting up toilets, is Constance Mapenzi. She comes from a village at the Coastal Region.

Mapenzi, as she is called by her fellow students, became interested in the plumbing trade when, after high school in 2018, she got a job as a domestic helper in a small town on the coast of Kenya.

As is often the case with this type of job in Kenya, the working conditions were miserable. The days were long, the pay vanishingly small and the work hard.

But the alternative to earning her own money was to marry young, have children and take care of the home as her parents expected her to.

Constance Mapenzi could not imagine that life. Instead, it was a broken toilet in the house of family she worked for that made her decide on a different direction in life.

When a plumber was called to fix it, she watched as he began to take it apart.

“I think it was interesting and asked if I could help. In the time to follow, I started helping him with other tasks and became his apprentice. I got a share of what little income he could muster. Soon it was clear to me that I wanted to be a plumber.” says Constance Mapenzi.

While there is a shortage of craftsmen in Denmark, the picture is different in Kenya. There, youth unemployment is enormous and jobs are few. Many young people therefore



## When the Toilet Broke, Mapenzi Made a Choice for Life



*"I will be the first female plumber in our home area. I want to prove to everyone that a young girl like me can handle this kind of job."*

try to offer themselves as have been given that voluntary labour for a period of opportunity. I will be the first time in the hope that one day female plumber in our area. I some paid tasks will become that a young girl like me can handle this kind of job," says self-employed.

Constance Mapenzi chose to volunteer at a water and sewer superstructure training at company in the coastal town of KEWI when she finishes her Malindi, where she did odd jobs basic education at the end of alongside her work for the local the year. plumber.

When a delegation from KEWI then I hope that I can get a was on a company visit last year, permanent job. I am prepared they happened to talk to her and to work anywhere, as long as I arranged for her to start at KEWI. can use my profession." she

"I am simply so happy to says.

Veronica Muhia, who has a special focus on gender equality, explains that despite the large number of female students, there is still a long way to go for gender equality in the labor market within the water sector.

"In general, men have a better chance of getting the skilled jobs because the industry is male-dominated."

Often the women get administrative jobs in the offices, but there are also women who get the skilled jobs in the water sector."she says.

## KEWI Kitui Campus Reap Big in New Infrastructural Developments

BY ABIGAEL SONGOK

"I am committed to enhancing the institutional capacity of the campus to enable KEWI to fulfill its mandate to offer training, administer examinations, and offer research and consultancy services in the wider water sector."

Barely a month after he made his maiden visit to Kenya Water Institute -KEWI- Kitui Campus, KEWI Chief Executive Office Dr. Leiro Letangule has followed up his words. This is by initiating a series of new developments within the campus with an aim of improving the general standards of the learning institution.

The ongoing construction of an administration blocks, a student center, and the equipping and installation of the newly drilled borehole have already started in earnest. This has raised the level of confidence and morale within the staff and students. Once complete the new administration block will house the administration offices, which include the reception area, the principal's, the administrative officer's, and the accounts offices. Adjacent to the administration block is the ongoing construction of the student center. The facility will be devoted to student recreation and socialization. The center is anticipated to make a major

contribution. This is not only because it will house the first dispensary in Kitui campus but also because it will provide a proper community center for the campus. This will encourage greater interaction among students by providing spaces for them to meet, share, work, and learn together. The Principal KEWI Kitui Campus, Mr. Elkanah Mataru Kaburi, has expressed his enthusiasm and optimism about the completion of the ongoing projects. He notes that the new developments will go a long way in not only improving the efficiency on campus operations but also the effectiveness of the delivery of services on campus.



*Above and below: Ongoing construction of KEWI Kitui Campus Administration Block and erection of the borehole mast.*





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# Round Up of the Week's Events



*Dr. Letangule presenting the Training Report of Partnership between Gatsby Africa and KEWI.*



*KEWI CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule with KEWI trainers during a one day workshop at Nairobi Campus.*

# Round Up of the Week's Events



*New KEWI students during May 2023 Intake admission exercise.*



*KEWI Governing Council Chairperson, Brig. (Rtd) Stephen Njung'e Kihu and KEWI CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule at KSA offices.*

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