

SPEECH BY DG NEMA DURING THE HANDING OVER OF THE CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT FOR COMMUNITIES IN KIENI SUB COUNTY BY THE RCE CENTRAL KENYA

The Vice Chancellor

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to join you in this event, to hand over to the community some investment done on climate change adaptation by NEMA in collaboration with our partner Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DEKUT).

This project is undertaken within the wider framework of RCEs. NEMA has been spearheading the establishment of RCEs as platforms to spearhead sustainable development initiatives in the country. An RCE is a network of existing formal, non-formal and informal education organizations mobilized to deliver ESD to local and regional communities. RCEs are Centres that bring together organizations at local / regional level to jointly promote ESD.

Kenya now hosts 9 RCEs of which 7 have been acknowledged by the United Nations University. Kenya has the highest number of RCEs in Africa. I thank DEKUT for being one of the recently acknowledged RCEs (in November 2014) and for being one of the active players in climate change adaptation through this project.

The project we are about to hand over to the community is one among several projects funded by NEMA through RCEs. In the last two years, NEMA has disbursed Ksh 6.5 Million to six RCEs to fund diverse initiatives which include

2013-14 – NEMA spent 2.5 million

1. RCE Pwani for development of the Botanical Garden at Pwani University (1.5 Million). The project serves three purposes namely Educational, Recreational and Research.
2. RCE Central through Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (Kshs. 500,000). This was to support Climate change project for communities and schools in Central Kenya

3. RCE Mau Complex Ecosystem through Egerton University (Kshs. 500,000). This was meant for training communities and schools and implementing climate change activities in schools

2014-2015 – NEMA has spent 4 million

4. RCE Nyanza through Maseno University (Kshs 1,000,000) for management of E-waste in the greater Nyanza Region
5. RCE Mount Kenya East through Kenya Methodist university (Kshs 1,000,000) for management of wetlands/river rehabilitation
6. RCE North Rift through the University of Eldoret (Kshs 1,000,000) for management of wetland areas and rehabilitation.
7. RCE Pwani through Pwani University (Kshs 1,000,000) for further improvement of the Botanical Garden

Every year, we request RCEs to send applications to NEMA to be considered for funding. The projects are meant to steer actions at the local level to promote sustainable development. NEMA is keen to fund those projects that demonstrate innovation and collaboration and this explains why this project was chosen.

The project on 'Capacity Building on Adaptation to Climate Change for Communities in Kieni Sub-County was funded by NEMA, following a successful proposal application by Dedan Kimathi University of Technology for the activities of RCE Central Kenya. The project was awarded Kes.500, 000 (Five Hundred Thousand) and this amount was disbursed through NEMA Nairobi Regional office. The project aimed at educating the local communities on environmental issues and how to adopt to climate change through water harvesting.

Kieni sub - County was selected due to its dry conditions and adverse effects of climate change in the area. The area has very low water harvesting initiatives both at family level and institutions of learning. The institutions offered better demonstration centres since the catchment is larger and benefits a wider population.

The project was commenced in August 2014 following an inception meeting held on 6th August, 2014. The project period was expected to be three months but it was extended since it was behind schedule to mid November.

I note with appreciation that various planned activities have taken place such as 1) Assessment of water resources in Kieni East and Kieni West of Kieni Sub-County and 2) Recruitment and mobilization of community members within the identified project sites.

I am informed that the identified project sites included Labura Primary School, Labura Secondary School, Mweiga Adventist Secondary School and DeKUT Farm which has a large catchment of employees from Kieni who can adopt the technologies. So far installation of the water tanks and gutters has been done in the above institutions. 6000 litre tanks have been installed each at Labura primary, Labura secondary, Mweiga Adventist secondary schools and 8000 litre tank and gutters installed at DeKUT farmhouse. Today, we are here to hand over this project to the project beneficiaries.

As I conclude, I wish to reiterate that climate change is the biggest challenge of our time. I appeal to the university to spearhead development of more innovative bankable proposals to secure funds to undertake more climate change activities for the benefit of the community. NEMA on its part will be a good partner even though our resources are minimal.

In 2012, NEMA was recognized as a National Implementing Entity under the Adaptation Fund of the UNFCCC. I am happy to report that this year, NEMA will be rolling out climate change interventions worth Kshs 1 billion funded from the Adaptation Fund. NEMA will implement these projects in collaboration with 11 (eleven) other institutions.

NEMA is also in the process of developing other proposals to access more funds for climate change interventions under the Green Climate Fund of the UNFCCC. I wish to assure the Central RCE stakeholders that NEMA shall involve you in implementation of climate change activities within this region.

Thank you and I wish you all the best in your endeavors.