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**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE OF KENYA  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT COLLEGE OF INSURANCE, NAIROBI**

**The EIK Management Committee, the EIK members who are the rightful environmental experts. All protocols observed.**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, Mabibi na Mabwana**

**Good Morning, Asalaam Aleikum, Hamjambo waKenya wenzangu ambao mnaoshushulikia kuhifadhi mazingira yetu. Karibuni.**

On behalf of the EIK Management Committee, I welcome and appreciate each one of you for joining us today to mark this important occasion of our 3<sup>rd</sup> official Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Environment Institute of Kenya (EIK).

This occasion indeed from other similarly convened environmental experts meetings that made several attempts at bringing experts together is one that has finally culminated to a now vibrant Environment Institute of Kenya (EIK).

This is a journey that we have all walked together from the date of its launch in 2014 and together with you experts that has now brought industriousness, professionalism and integrity in the management of environmental matters.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen**

### **Engagement with NEMA**

EIK recognizes immensely and greatly appreciates the work of the Environmental regulatory body (NEMA) and has moved boldly to engage it in the following ways;

1. The MOU between NEMA & EIK that we promised to be finalized and signed before end of last year. I am delighted to inform you that, the public signing was done during the 2<sup>nd</sup> EIK Forum – Central Region on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2016 and EIK is implementing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with NEMA accordingly.
2. Through working together, NEMA did invite the participation of EIK to contain ever growing list of the emerging issues. This is nonetheless, includes: the support of the ban of plastic bag as for the Gazette notice No. 2356 issued by the CS Environment and natural resource; discouraging the approval of consumption of GMO's products in Kenya; reversing the installation of coal plants; reviewing the ESIA report for the SGR phase II; and other issues that drew our mutual responsibility.
3. Furthermore, on matters affecting experts and the EIA process, two nominees from the EIK management committee sit on the Environmental Experts Advisory Committee (EEAC) pursuant to the Code of Practice and Professional Ethics (COPPE) section 15 (2 & 3) and section 16. This is in line with the Regulation 13(3) of the Environmental (Impact Assessment and Audit) Regulations, 2003.
4. EIK actively participated in the EIA (Amendment) Regulation 2017 both at Technical Advisory Committee and at the stakeholder forum level. EIK is keenly following the regulation under other legislative stages and finally ensuring that it transforms into an act of law.

5. EIK as a professional body has been fully recognized by NEMA and therefore became entrenched in the Experts Registration and Licensing process. To this end, it marked the journey of ensuring that qualified, professional and genuine members are engaging in integrated environmental assessment and audit duties.

### **EIK Visibility**

To increase our visibility and contribute to the National environmental agenda, EIK continues to engage other environmental concerned stakeholders through dialogues and conferences. Notably, EIK has participated in:

- Engaging the CS of Treasury through submission of its commentary on the budget for the 2017/2018 to consider the environmental issues economically. With this, Mr. Suresh Patel one of the EIK committee members was commended by the CS Treasury for his write up regarding the budget gaps on fundamental sectors that plays a critical role as far as sustainable development is concern.
- Through the National Climate Change Steering Committee as convened by the Ministry of Environment, Water and natural resources. Mr. Suresh Patel, a committee member of EIK and an EIA Lead expert sits in the national board that deliberates on the national Medium Term Plan III (2018-2022) on climate change as per the vision 2030 aspirations.
- The Multi-stakeholder forum on the 1<sup>st</sup> Devolution on Sustainable Development Conference by **Serano Africa**. This was in ***Enhancing Institutional Arrangements for Sustainable Development in the Counties***. The key goal was to establish frameworks for creating and delivering scalable value for sustainable development within the devolved system. The conference was part of the wider activities aimed at the implementation of the SDGs Road Map – The Transition Strategy in Kenya. A number of EIK members attended; Mr. Imakya Lesarge, Betzy Bowen and

others who attended reported that the forum was in line with enhancing sustainable development in the counties.

- The Presidential Round Table discussion convened by the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA). This was a forum for the public and private institutions to present what the government needs to prioritize in ensuring that the current challenges are addressed accordingly. EIK was represented by Mr. Suresh Patel - Committee and Mr. Ronald Kintai – Head of Secretariat.
- The Waste Management Conferences; these among them being the *Industrial Symbiosis* by KNCPC, NEMA & SME's, *Waste Management for Industrial and Urban Stakeholders*, *Environmental Impact Reduction and Business Models* by the “German Embassy Green Economy Cycle (GEGEC)”, and others that aimed at ensuring that Article 42 of the constitution of Kenya is taken into consideration. Ms. Juliana Tek – a Committee member has attended all the waste management forums since she was tasked to be advising the committee on waste management issues.

EIK considers these forums as important avenues for learning, sharing and presenting experiences in matters environment. In this regard, EIK is seeking to strengthen partnerships and forge new avenues with the other regulators, professional societies, institutions of higher learning, practitioners, environmental beneficiaries, general citizenry and relevant international partners to ensure a common approach when dealing with environmental issues.

**Achievement so far made:**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

To keep our eyes focused on the promises, EIK through the commitment of the committee members, all things being equal, we have managed to fulfil some of the following:

- i. **Registered Members:** The institute has managed to register **2,609** up from last year of **2,212** professional members who are all EIA/EA Experts. The members who have dutifully subscribed for the year 2017 are **1,744 (Associate, Lead & Firm of Experts)**. This absolutely depicts the growth of the membership number which will aid in strengthening the body professionally. I urge you all and others to so renew your memberships in order to allow the organisation serve and carry out services for your benefit. You members are our only source of income presently.
  
- ii. **Committee meetings;** these meetings have been held regularly on a monthly basis. I would like to thank the committee for dedicating their precious time to attend the meetings and for overseeing the tremendous strides that EIK has achieved. Also, the secretariat has been a striving force for the committee meetings by scheduling, keeping and overseeing the implementation of the action log, and reporting the progress of actions to the committee.
  
- iii. **Office space and personnel;** we hereby, gladly inform you that what most members had been yearning to see, finally was achieved. We have a functional and fully operational office in place to discharge duties to the interest of the members. This was long overdue to enhance independence from the regulatory body – NEMA. The office serves as a conduit for participation and also increases our scope in terms of outreach. Presently we do have the secretariat headed by Mr. Ronald Kimtai, the Executive and Administration Officer (EAO) on a full time basis carrying out secretariat duties under the supervision of the EIK Committee. Also, an intern was recruited to oversee matters finance and help on daily secretariat duties. I also take this opportunity to thank NEMA for having housed for the last for four years as we grew as a body before moving out of “home”.

- iv. **EIK Communication Strategy and Website;** A communication strategy is operational and we are grateful for your continued participation in all the forums and activities that EIK invites your participation. However, your views regarding challenges, solutions, concerns and observations on environmental matters have been deliberated and some actioned while others are in the action channel. As we speak now, the EIK website is active and operational where one can get the information concerning what EIK has been undertaking since the last AGM. I call upon all the members to so subscribe to the **EIK newsletters** on our website so as not to miss important events and information which may not be directly delivered through official mails. The website [www.eik.co.ke](http://www.eik.co.ke) also presents an opportunity for experts to share their writings, thoughts, achievements and ideas which we will post for the world to read. Let us also use social media actively to further our cause in environmental matters both collectively and individually because even in that sphere we are now seeing the emergence of unqualified social media environmental experts and we know the name we call them.
- v. **Regional Forums;** Notwithstanding, the committee realised the need of holding regional forums to explicitly understand the needs and challenges of the members, identify the resolutions by the members and draw solid conclusions thereafter. In so doing, we have managed to hold four (4) regional forums since the last A.G.M. This includes; the Coast forum - Mombasa, the Central forum – Nyeri, the Nairobi forum – Nairobi which was highly attended and widely publicised and the Western forum – Eldoret that was indeed very successful held last week. We thank all the members who participated in all or in either of the forums and I call upon those members who have not attended any of them to do so in the near future. The coming of together of experts was indeed a knowledgeable and valuable networking experience. We addressed the media and issued releases on areas that touched what the members had raised to be achieved either at county or national level. With this, the

environmental agenda will not be given a second thought in the National Agenda of Vision 2030 but rather we advocate a first and firm thought for the implementation.

- vi. **EIK membership eligibility criteria;** the purpose behind the criteria is to ensure that: The membership reflects a high level of professional competence and integrity; EIK members are recognized as professionals in their field by other professions and by organizations whose work impinges on the natural environment. This has been given a clear berth by NEMA to wipe out *Quacks* and we will be circulating the final copy for your confirmation before the launch in 2018.
- vii. **EIK Bill;** EIK has developed a draft Bill that has been approved at the committee level and it is awaiting fine tuning to be submitted to the member experts and other stakeholders before it is forwarded to the national legislative organs both at the National Assembly and Senate. It is important that we are entrenched in the countries constitutional and legal framework through an Act of Parliament as we continue to discharge our environmental mandate.
- viii. **Professional remuneration guidelines:** Noting keenly on the concerns of the EIA/EA Experts for the professional consultancy fee on EIA/EA processes. The institute has developed a draft remuneration guidelines and in due course, will seek to carry out a wider consultative arrangements to accommodate the views of experts to determine its final stand. This should be acceptable to the experts and recommendable to other relevant stakeholders. This certainly, needs concerted efforts amongst the interested players.
- ix. **Accredited model contract:** The mechanism will serve as a binding means between the project proponents and the EIA/EA Experts. This will definitely reduce the incidences of remuneration clearance, defection of

parties therein, and documents delivery. This will also be served concurrently with the remuneration guide.

- x. **EIK strategic plan;** the strategic plan for the year 2015-2020 is under implementation stage as we all commit to achieving its objectives as stipulated therein. This was circulated sometimes back and your comments were considered for implementation. The plan is currently available in our website for public viewing and comments generation to help in the periodic review. An all-inclusive mid-term review most probably will be held next year on the Strategic Plan.
  
- xi. **Affiliation;** The EIK has shown its hankering for affiliation to regional and international membership. At the moment, membership to APSEA is awaiting the final approval in due course. Furthermore, EIK is a bonafide member of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) and enjoys all the benefits that includes; appointments to KEPSA sector boards, roundtable meetings, workshops and conferences.
  
- xii. **Partnerships;** we have sought partnerships with various institutions of higher learning and other agencies of recognition both locally and internationally. We have partnered with the Wangari Mathai Institute of Peace and Environmental Studies to offer Integrated EIA/EA courses and the MOU is awaiting signing. On environmental awareness and education programmes; UNEP, UN Global Compact Kenya and National Museums of Kenya have shown interest to implement the objectives of the partnerships. Furthermore, as a result to ensure that County Environmental Committees are up and effective, we have engaged all the 47 counties to consider upholding the environmental agenda in the county levels by ensuring that such committees are in place. To date, there are nine (9) counties that have set up CEC's as we continue to engage the main stakeholders to ensure that all the 47 counties have CEC in place.

## What is yet to be achieved?

- i. **Review of EIA curricula and vetting process:** This is a concern that most of EIA/EA Experts have been assertive for the institute to respond on the same. The issue requires a concerted effort to arrive at the most favourable resolution. The institute indeed has taken the right path in by getting the divergent views across the board for final determination.

This will be achieved through continuous consultations with the department of Environmental Education and Public Participation of NEMA. Universities that offer Environmental Degree course studies will also be engaged as a priority as well. This is to consider the changing environmental modalities that includes not only an impact but also the policy integrated assessment.

- ii. **MOU with Wangari Mathai Institute of Peace and Environmental Studies:**

According to the object (b) of the EIK constitution, we are in the process of finalizing the MOU with WMI to offer environmental related courses and Continuous Professional Development (CPD's) in considering the knowledge on the current emerging environmental issues. This is to be considered with other institutions of interest to make certain that the environmental agenda is taken into consideration across the sector.

- iii. **EIK Chapters;** this is inevitable as we are in the devolved system era.

We have given a priority as the management committee to open the regional chapters in line with the EIK Constitution in order to serve the members efficiently and effectively. In so doing, we will do a wider consultation for the adoption of the same. The chapters shall include the regions that hosted the regional forums.

- iv. **Continuous Professional Development:** We are working towards making the regional forums mandatory as provided by the law to act as

the platform where members attain the professional points that determine and improve the professional expertise. This is with regard to the **General Conditions** of the annual practicing license.

- v. **Signing of CoPPE;** This will be effected and be mandatory next year before renewing the practicing license and membership certificate. The issue of unprofessional experts has to be tackled head on to ensure clean-up of the field. We have a number of cases that culminates from not understanding the practice of EIA/EA and before signing the CoPPE one ought to have understood what it calls for.
- vi. **EIK County Consultative meetings:** We have taken note of all concerns raised by the members and other stakeholders and the forum report will be launched before the end of the year to start a new chapter on EIK-County Consultative Meetings (EIK-CCM) to push the environmental agenda to county levels in respect to Kenya's Environmental Mid Term Plan III (2018-2022).
- vii. **International Affiliation;** we are targeting if successful in our application to host the 2020 world conference for the International Association for Impact Assessment. We will be finalizing with the registration process in due course and start the lobby process for hosting it in Kenya. There are more benefits attached to the affiliation bodies which not only as a corporate member but also as an individual member. The upcoming IAIA conference will be in Durban South Africa as from 16-19 May, 2018.

**Environmental Weekly Articles:** We have dedicated journalists who request for environmental articles that serve as the outreach to the general public on the environmental concerns. We are challenging each other to come out with best approaches on; waste management, air quality/pollution, water quality/pollution, biodiversity conservation and others which can be published weekly. In so doing, we increase awareness on the environmental matters as per the contemporary

changing world. This will aid also in the Continuous Professional Development approaches to acknowledge the emerging issues and consider the related resolutions to the County or Nation Environmental Action Plan.

**A Peek into the Future:** It would be an injustice if I did not mention the recent changes that have seen Registration, Licensing and EIA project fees no longer part of the environmental assessment process. This therefore further necessitates the need to urgently complete the review of the proposed EIA/EA regulations, 2017.

Internally we are at a stage where a review of the EIK Constitution is inevitable to allow us as a body to reach into future with a much clear vision of our destiny. We will be outlining how this process will be carried out with your total participation.

Several thoughts come to mind as a result of consultations with a number of experts:

1. We need to create activities for proxy functions of NEMA to reduce burden of ensuring compliance by NEMA. This could include Waste Management, Air quality management, Water quality management and other pollution related management.
2. We need to create business proposals for the Private Sector (EIK members included) for them to enter into activities like plastic recycling, waste into wealth, air quality testing (motor vehicle) centre, mobile industrial air quality units and waste water sale. We can brain storm how we can allow NEMA to generate revenue form such activities.
3. We need to promote environment management in the schools as this can be engrained in the curriculum right from primary level. There is need to train teachers for that and generate joint revenue with NEMA.
4. We need to help create Green Label Enterprises. Improving of resource utilization efficiency that will allow for less material input but more products.
5. We can create Green Value Chain support programs. This will involve informing enterprises on how to go about procuring green inputs.
6. Take a lead role in supporting NEMA and ensuring the public have embraced the alternatives for the plastic bag ban as directed by KEBS.

As EIK we believe the above should be good for setting a new beginning as we encourage our members to engage in applying environment management in revenue generation rather than just doing EIA and EAs.

As I conclude let me state that **“Environmental Matters have no Boundaries”** and equally, EIK will have no boundary in fostering the acclaimed EIA/EA Experts. This will be done by promoting public participation through information dissemination, developing capacity building through sharing of available opportunities, enhancing ethical adherence through the sharing out of the Code of Practice and Professional Ethics (CoPPE). Issues of regulation and policy assessment through oversight and adherence to the principle of sustainable development shall bring about a cleaner, healthier and safer environment.

Let me quote

**“Sooner or later, we will have to recognise that the Earth has rights, too, to live without pollution. What mankind must know is that human beings cannot live without Mother Earth, but the planet can live without humans”**

On behalf of the EIK Management Committee I thank you all for your continuous environmental commitment and for taking time to be with us here this morning. That is not taken for granted but instead highly appreciated and acknowledged.

Thank you all, Shukran kwenu nyote, kila la heri, God bless you all na Mungu atubariki sote na wote!!!!

**Herbert Mwachiro**

**Chairman.**

**Environment Institute of Kenya**