



P.O BOX 5087-00506 Nyayo Stadium

Tel. No: 0774 239 594

Email: [info@eik.co.ke](mailto:info@eik.co.ke) [eikenya2013@gmail.com](mailto:eikenya2013@gmail.com)

Web: [www.eik.co.ke](http://www.eik.co.ke)

31<sup>st</sup> May, 2019

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE OF KENYA 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT BOMA HOTEL, NAIROBI ON 31<sup>ST</sup>**

**The EIK Council, the EIK members. All protocols observed.**

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

**Good Morning, Asalaam Aleikum, Hamjambo! Karibuni.**

On behalf of the EIK Council, I truly welcome and appreciate each one of you for joining us today in marking this auspicious occasion of our 5<sup>th</sup> official Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Since our inception in 2014, we have all walked the journey together. This has not only brought industriousness, but also continues to bring professionalism and integrity in the management of environmental matters.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

As you are all aware that environment is a cross cutting issue in human development, EIK's clarion call is "***Passion for Environment.***" We are therefore expected to unanimously champion for our motto and embrace it in all spheres.

**Towards this end,**

I have a triple A - (A<sup>3</sup>) point agenda that I would like to deliver to this meeting. This includes; **Achievements, Actions and Aspirations.**

**Allow me to start with the Achievements**

**1. Setting of EIK Structures**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

To ensure that we stand the test of time, we have developed structures with achievements as highlighted below:

**i. Registered Members:** The institute has managed to register **3,605** up from last years' **3,098** professional members who are all EIA/EA Experts. The members who have dutifully subscribed for the year 2019 are **2,027 (Associate – 1,714, Lead – 1,527 & Firm of Experts – 364)**. This absolutely depicts the growth of the membership numbers which will aid in strengthening the body. The variance between the registered and subscribed members is **1,578**. This means the growth of registration is equal to the growth of non-subscribers. I urge you all and others to so renew your memberships in order to allow the organization serve and carry out services for your benefit.

**ii. Council & Committee meetings;** these meetings have been held on a regular basis. There are three (3) standing EIK Committees as per the amended constitution;

- **Finance and Administration Committee – (F&A)**
- **Legal, Ethics and Membership Services Committee – (LEMS)**
- **Partnership, Education and Communication Committee – (PEC)**

I would like to thank the EIK Council and conveners (**F&A – Mutua P. Nzoka, LEMS – Linda Munyao and PEC – Susane Manyasi**) of respective committees for dedicating their precious time to organize and attend the meetings and for overseeing the tremendous strides that EIK has achieved. Also, the secretariat under the leadership of our able **CEO – Mr. Ronald Kimtai** has been a striving force for both meetings by scheduling and

overseeing the implementation of the Annual Work Plan action log, and reporting progress of actions to the council.

iii. **EIK Secretariat**; Presently the secretariat is headed by **Mr. Ronald Kimtai, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** on a permanent basis under the supervision of the EIK Council. Also, we recruited **Jackline Kageni** and **Selina Mkamburi** as the **Accountant** and **Office Administrator** respectively on a permanent basis to help the secretariat run effectively.

iv. **EIK policies**; since policies, standards and regulations are the ones that determines the successes of most institutions, we are of no exception. To date, we have the following policies that are in place are being implemented accordingly;

- ❖ **Strategic Plan, (2015-2020)**
- ❖ **Finance Regulations, 2017**
- ❖ **Organization Structure, 2017**
- ❖ **Membership Eligibility Criteria, 2018**
- ❖ **Signing of CoPPE, 2018**
- ❖ **Service Charter, 2019**
- ❖ **Organization Profile, 2019**
- ❖ **Communication Strategy, 2019**
- ❖ **Formation of Branches, 2019**
- ❖ **Election procedures, 2019**
- ❖ **Appointment Procedure for Trustees 2019**
- ❖ **Recall of Nominated Representative, 2019**

**“All the above mentioned documents and others developed since 2017 to date are available for your perusal.”**

Our strategic plan (2015-2020) is now due for review. We shall certainly invite your inputs for the development of the next EIK Strategic Plan.

## **2. EIK Bill, 2019**

The developed EIK Bill, 2019 has now been forwarded to the Attorney General's office for review. We await the advice in order to explore mechanisms to ensure it is enacted as soon as possible. It is important that we are entrenched in the Country's' constitutional and legal framework through an Act of Parliament as we continue to discharge our environmental mandate.

## **3. Capacity Building for Members**

As clearly stated in the EIK constitution and strategic plan, EIK seeks to build the capacity of its members by offering courses on topical issues occasionally. To this end, EIK offered the following;

- i. Refresher course (I)** held on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 at Wangari Mathaai Institute for Peace and Environment attracted over **100** members against required number of **40** members.
- ii. Refresher Course (II)** Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019 hosted at the University of Nairobi Towers. The ESIA course (II) attracted **180** applications (**104 – Lead and 76- Associate members**) and confirmations with more calls to devolving the course at regional levels.
- iii. Webinar – Oil & Gas training**, EIK collaborated with international organisations and offered two webinars in Oil and Gas. 584experts logged in and were involved. All who followed from start to end were awarded certificates.
- iv. Biodiversity Workshop**, EIK in partnership with Biodiversity Consulting conducted a one day course on Application of the Mitigation Hierarchy to Manage Biodiversity Issues-an Overview of International Best Practice.

I sincerely thank all those who participated in the above courses and I encourage the PEC Committee to advance the plans for relevant courses more frequently, with at least one course every quarter.

#### **4. Media Interaction – Mainstream and Digital**

As we say information is power, we cannot fail to acknowledge and appreciate that the channel of communication plays an integral role in airing out information. Altogether, we have the active website ([www.eik.co.ke](http://www.eik.co.ke)) where relevant information is available and the vibrant social media accounts; **Facebook page is (Environment Institute of Kenya - EIK), Twitter handle being (@Eikenya2013)** where information is posted for easy access. Kindly follow us and like our pages for better visibility

We wish to inform you that, we have issued out a number of press releases that touch on the present and future scenarios. This includes;

- i. Abnormally heavy rains experienced countrywide**
- ii. Environment as a key aspect in prioritized government agenda**
- iii. Environment as the 5<sup>th</sup> agenda for the jubilee administration**
- iv. The DusitD2 Hotel attack.**
- v. Untamed oil spills causing land and water pollution at Kiboko, Makueni County.**

However, your views regarding challenges, solutions, concerns and observations on environmental matters have been deliberated and some actioned while others are in the pipeline. We request for your continued participation in all the forums and activities that EIK invites your participation.

#### **5. Amendment of the EIK Constitution**

During the 4<sup>th</sup> AGM, the meeting agreed with the amendments presented in order to effect smooth functioning of EIK and adopted the amendments validating the process. However, we had some matters pending for registration of the same with the registrar of societies. I thus call upon all members to confirm the amendments passed at the last AGM.

## 6. Partnership and affiliations

### Fellow experts,

EIK continued to aspire for more partnerships and affiliations.

- i. At the moment, EIK is a member of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) and enjoys all the benefits that includes; participation to the **KEPSA sector boards, roundtable meetings, workshops and conferences**. We are pleased to inform you that Mr. Herbert Mwachiro, EIK President was retained as KEPSA Sector Board Chair of Sports, Arts & Culture in the elections held on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 and is a member of the Kepsa Governing Council. Our Deputy President Ms. Linda Munyao served for one term as KEPSA Sector Board Vice chair of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. It is through that post that Linda was appointed Vice Chair of the Forestry Task Force that went round collecting and collating views from around the country. We were very proud to have her there further enhancing the image of EIK as a key environmental stakeholder. Congratulations Linda. Other EIK council members serve in various sector boards where they actively articulate our issues.
- ii. We are also paid up members of the **International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA)** thus raising the profile of our experts in the international field. Our membership to **APSEA** is at an advanced stage pending confirmation as corporate member.
- iii. EIK participated by sending Mr. Cyprian Riungu to the Uganda Association for Impact Assessment (UAIA) conference on 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 in Kampala Uganda. He delivered a key note address on **“Application of IFC PS6 (Performance Standard 6) in Advocating for Africa Towards the Circular Economy”** This was key step in ensuring that we join regional environmental professional bodies to champion sustainable environmental management.
- iv. Furthermore, the MoU with Wangari Mathai Institute of Peace and Environmental Studies is awaiting council approval and signing. The dots, comma’s and I’s are being refined.

- v. On environmental awareness and education programs; we have had partnership development meetings with Embassy of Netherlands, USAID, European Union, and Rural Electrification Authority. The seeds for further cooperation have been planted within those organisations.
- vi. Additionally, following the Presidential directive that County Environmental Committees are up running and effective, we will embark to engage all the 47 counties to consider upholding the environmental agenda at the county levels by ensuring that we play a crucial role in those committees and would recommend qualified experts as members of the committees. This will be done in collaboration with the COG.

### **ACTIONS**

Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.

#### **Fellow experts,**

The backbone of EIK is the enhancing professionalism to achieve sustainable environmental management. We are of no exception on matters World Environmental Day.

#### **7. World Environment Day, 2019**

World Environment Day 2019 will be hosted by China, with a theme of "**Air Pollution**".

The same will be observed in Kenya as below;

**Theme:** Air Pollution, A Silent Killer

**Slogan:** Hewa Safi, Jukumu Letu (Clean Air, Our Responsibility)

**Date:** 5th June 2019

**Venue:** Railways Technical Institute, Nairobi County

We can't stop breathing, but we can do something about the quality of air that we breathe. Approximately 7 million people worldwide die prematurely each year from air pollution, with about 4 million of these

deaths occurring in Asia-Pacific. World Environment Day 2019 will urge governments, industry, communities, and individuals to come together to explore renewable energy and green technologies, and improve air quality in cities and regions across the world.

According to UN Environment, below are Air Pollution facts:

- i. **92** Percent of people worldwide do not breathe clean air
- ii. Air pollution costs the global economy \$5 trillion every year in welfare costs
- iii. Ground-level ozone pollution is expected to reduce staple crop yields by 26 per cent by 2030

EIK will continue engaging members and other stakeholders in achieving clean air environment.

#### **8. Engagement with the Senate and National Parliamentary committee on Environment and natural resources and Council of Governors (CoG)**

EIK is looking forward to paying courtesy call to the Senate and Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Natural Resource to continue the lobbying process for proposed EIK Bill, 2019. Nonetheless, it will engage the same committees and the CoG on various environmental emerging issues as well as prioritizing the formation and review of membership composition for County environmental committees.

#### **9. EIA Regulations**

EIK actively participated in the EIA (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 both at Taskforce Committee and at the Stakeholder Forums level. We are all aware that the regulations were validated on 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 at Intercontinental Hotel. EIK has seen the need for further review to seal the gaps and loopholes. We call upon all experts to review the document and submit their comments to form EIK comprehensive petition to the CS Environment Hon. K. Tobiko for consideration. CEO will share the document and the members to submit their comments in two weeks. **Deadline: 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2019.**

## **10. Webinar – Oil & Gas training**

Furthermore, PEC Committee and UN Habitat team will in coming days plan for an online training on managing Oil and Gas Contamination Sites. We call upon all of us to respond to this noble idea once called on to participate to equip ourselves with requisite knowledge in solving the emerging environmental problems.

### **ASPIRATIONS**

#### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Life without aspiration is lifeless and aspirations defines life.

## **11. Upcoming Regional Forum**

As we thank all the members who participated in all or in either of the previous forums i.e. Mombasa, Nyeri, Nairobi, Eldoret and Kisumu. I call upon those members who have not attended any of them to do so in the upcoming regional forum (*in July, 2019. The venue to be communicated in due course*) and the subsequent ones to come.

## **12. EIK Branches**

The coming together of experts was indeed a knowledgeable and valuable networking experience. We call upon all bonafide experts to belong and be identified in a given region. This will help in addressing our issues where the national EIK office may not reach and act swiftly. Allow me to partially commend members of **Central Rift** for championing the course aggressively. The **Coast** experts have not been left behind either. The benefit of EIK forming branches is immense. Few to mention and notably, it will actively participate in the composition of county environmental committees, helping in the planning of regional environmental forums where major environmental stakeholders from county to national government and public to private sector will actively participate. It is on this note that I wish to acknowledge the efforts of Expert Felix Nabusa of Nakuru and Expert Munyua Mwenga of Mombasa.

### **13. Introduction of CPD's**

As it is necessary that as we enhance the professionalism in our sector, there is need to introduce Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programs. The CPD process will help us manage our own expertise development on an ongoing basis. Its function is to help you record, review and reflect on what you learn. It's not a tick-box document recording the training you have completed. It's broader than that.

As an EIA/EA expert, you are required to maintain and develop your skills throughout your career. You must confirm that you are doing so by making a ***CPD declaration*** every year. We intend to provide various avenues where members can attain continuous professional development and in key areas like Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which the upcoming Environmental Regulations embrace and members are listed as the Experts to undertake.

### **14. Accredited Contractual Agreement “EIK Remuneration Order” for experts**

EIK sought the advice from Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK) on matters developing a professional remuneration order. The advice given was not expected and favorable to the environmental experts. In an effort to ensure that our experts are in charge of environment matters in the projects they are engaged to undertake ESIA's, I am glad to inform you that EIK is working towards the development of a contractual agreement with proponents which will allow them to be engaged throughout the life of the whole project.

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 and discourage existence of unqualified practitioners (***Quacks***). This will also be served concurrently with the remuneration guide.

### **15. Review of EIK strategic plan**

The strategic plan for the year 2015-2020 is under implementation as we all commit to achieving its objectives as stipulated therein. The committee is looking forward to conduct an all-inclusive review by 2020 to ensure that the next plan is implementable as per the objectives of the EIK constitution and to the future good of EIK. This is by taking into account the pending actions from the current plan.

#### **16. Recognition of Astute Environmental Experts**

EIK intends to recognise efforts of some of our members who have made distinguished contributions towards environmental management. Allow me to commend the following experts who have in one way or another championed the course of environmental conservation and management; **Mr. James Mutinda, Prof. Jacob Kibwage, Prof. Ratemo Michieka, Prof. John Muthama, Dr Grace Cheserek, Eng. Suresh Patel, Surveyor Cyprian Riungu, John Nyaga, Stephen Tirop, Anne Njoroge, Eng. Stephen Mwaura, Godfrey Onyango, Dr Bernard Kaaria, Gullam Hussein, Mohammed Bulle, Caroline Moki, Bernadette Njoroge, Dr. Pamela Were, Primrose Thuku, Virginia Muthui and many others who selflessly give themselves to the cause of environmental management and sustainable development.** We are looking forward to start the scheme of conducting “**The EIK Environmental Awards**” which will identify and recognize various experts and see them awarded for exemplary services toward environmental conservation and management in our beloved Kenya.

Let me quote,

***“One of the first conditions of happiness is that the link between man and nature shall not be broken.”***

***—Leo Tolstoy***

On behalf of the EIK Management Council I thank you all for your continuous environmental sustainability 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

**PRESIDENT**

**ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE OF KENYA**

*Off the Cuff*

- 1. Plastics and the social impact*
- 2. Importance of Chapters – Devolved level be part of the environmental agenda*
- 3. Corruption – NEMA and also within our ranks. Those cut and pasters are corrupt. Reduce fraudulent experts eliminate corruption*
- 4. Well rounded experts not only for assessments and audits well versed in matters – Climate change, Radiation, Solid waste, Maritime waste, and elaboration of sustainability. Providing solutions in those areas that will bring about business opportunities.*
- 5. Education of Forests must continue and why we must champion indigenous trees over exotics with justification. New species are also coming up and we must have this knowledge in order to spread it and explain the benefits. For example bamboo now is in high demand. How and why?*
- 6. Inspector General – vehicles pollution, law enforcement,*
- 7. Knowledge of the legal framework important – new laws coming out of parliament and they are now being passed as miscellaneous amendments so it is easy to miss out on them. We want to be the key influencers on policy, law and anything else within the realm of the environmental regulatory framework.*
- 8. Interrogate Treasury and the planners who sit in that building and ask them of the environmental considerations they have factored in the entire budgetary process and estimates. And if not why?*

9. *This will be the same with other ministries Public Works, ICT, Agriculture, Health, Internal Security and others.*
10. *Same with Big 4 Agenda – Housing (new deals being signed), Universal Healthcare, Food Security and Manufacturing – There must be environmental considerations.*
11. *Lastly we have to look for work that allows us to work. Monitoring and Evaluation continuously of our Kenyan Environment is critical. The environmental and sustainable health of this country is in our hands.*
12. *We are the first among equals in terms of being Environmental and Sustainability advisors. Our role is much wider than what people think. Our role is much wider than what we ourselves think and know. The populace are begging and are in need of our services. Let us give it to them as professionals and only then will our place in society be wholesomely respected and appreciated.*