

Nyeri County plants 20,000 indigenous trees to mark World Water Day

BY SAMUEL MAINA (KNA)

The Department of Water, Environment, and Climate Change, in partnership with stakeholders, led the planting of 20,000 indigenous trees at Mahoya Hill in Tetu, Nyeri County, in commemoration of this year's World Water Day.

The activity, which began with a procession at Ihururu Trading Center, also served as a rallying call to protect the county's endangered water catchment areas.

Water and Sanitation Providers Association (WASPA), Chair Mr Thomas Odongo, who was Chief Guest during the event commended the County Government for the bid, terming it a demonstration of continued leadership in advancing sustainable water management.

"The tree planting exercise we undertook this morning is closely linked to this mission. Healthy eco-



Water and Sanitation Providers Association (WASPA) chair Mr Thomas Odongo flags off celebrations to mark this year's World Water Day at Ihururu in Tetu. A total of 20,000 indigenous tree species were planted on Nyeri hills during the celebrations.

systems are the backbone of sustainable water supply. By protecting and restoring water catchment areas such as Nyeri Hill, we are investing in the long-term availability and quality of water. It is a practical reminder that environmen-

tal conservation and water management, must go hand in hand," said Odongo.

"At the same time, we cannot ignore the realities we are currently facing as a country. The heavy rains being experienced across many parts of Kenya have

led to flooding, affecting homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods. While we work to expand access to water, we must also strengthen our systems to withstand extreme weather conditions," Odongo appealed.

Odongo singled water as a driver of inclusive development and therefore stressed on the need to involve all in conserving this critical resource.

He noted that this critical obligation is amplified in this year's theme "Water and Gender - Where Water Flows, Equality Grows," that emphasizes that access to reliable and safe water enables communities to thrive and enhances overall well-being.

"The theme of gender equality further challenges us to ensure that water services are inclusive and responsive to the needs of all. Equitable access to water strengthens communities and supports balanced development," he said.

He also commended the Governor for Nyeri County, Dr Mutahi Kahiga, and his Administration for advancing environmental conservation efforts in the region and pointed out that the move had kept the county ahead of the pack on matters of caring for the ecosystem.

Odongo promised to continue partnering with all stakeholders in improving service delivery to the country and ensuring there is availability of resources to meet the growing needs of the nation.


"We also recognize Nyeri

County for leading in tree/forest cover currently above 45 percent compared to national coverage of 12 percent approximately. At the water sector, we remain committed to providing efficient, reliable, and sustainable water and sanitation services to the people who we serve. We understand that strong water systems are essential for economic growth, public health, and community development. Our focus continues to be on improving service delivery, expanding access, and ensuring that our infrastructure meets the needs of a growing population," Odongo stated.

The Nyeri County Executive Member (CECM) for Water, Fredrick Kinyua, said the tree-planting exercise was closely linked to the theme of the year since a healthy ecosystem is the backbone of every sustainable water supply.

Kinyua stated that by protecting and restoring water catchment areas such as Nyeri Hill, was akin to investing in the long-term supply of quality of water.

The CECM also highlighted the need to replenish degraded water catchment areas with indigenous tree species, which he singled out as the most ideal way of conserving traditional




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