



Kakamega County Water And Sanitation Company



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Go For Further Your Studies, CEO Advises Staff To Embrace Education

The Company acting CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono has advised staff to embrace education to further their studies to acquire knowledge and skills to enhance their performance at work.

She urged staff across all cadres to find time to further their studies noting that with the ever-changing technology, staff should embrace new ideas and skills that will sharpen and improve their productivity.

“I want to urge our staff to be ready and willing to go for further studies. Let them not be in comfort zone thinking that they have already made it in life,” said Ms Ashiono.

The CEO said KACWASCO relies on its staff for operational efficiency and world class service delivery which she noted that to be achieved the workforce should acquire modern knowledge and skills.

“We encourage you and in your own volition to undertake further learning for your own good and for the good of the Company. We would not like it to see you stagnate and leave the Company as you joined it with the same skills,” she said.

Ms Ashiono said the Management is fully behind the idea and will continue to support staff through capacity building and strengthen the Company in line with its 2021-2026 Strategic



Ms Christabell Ashiono

Plan.

“We want you to polish your skills and competencies in whichever area to enable you to offer world class services. We want to be a world class Water Service Provider (WSP) and it is through you that we will attain that status,” the CEO said.

She noted that the Company will continue to support any initiative geared towards improving knowledge and skills.

In the same breadth, the CEO applauded various staff who have been at the forefront in upgrading their studies and training.

Among them is the Company’s Executive Secretary Ms Clarice Onyango, Customer and Public Relations Man-

ager Ms Mary Mariga and the immediate former Human Resource Manager Ms Linet Wasaba.

Ms Onyango joined the Company with a Bachelor’s degree and is now a master’s degree holder and plans to further her studies.

Ms Mariga joined the Company with a Bachelor’s degree, did her masters studies while at the Company and is now carrying out her doctorate studies.

Ms Wasaba who is now at Lake Victoria North Water Works Development Agency joined KACWASCO with a diploma certificate and left the Company a master’s degree holder.

The CEO challenged the rest of the staff to take up the mantle to improve Company productivity and performance

Since she took over the reign as the acting CEO, Ms Ashiono has organized several workshops for training of various staff and benchmarking to equip them with relevant skills.

She added that in the spirit of partnership, Lake Victoria North water Works Development Agency has promised to support KACWASCO in conducting staff capacity building.

Support Us To Establish Water Bottling Plant, CEO Urges Development Partners



KACWASCO top management team led by Ag. CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono with KNCCI officials pose for a picture after a consultative meeting

Acting CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono has appealed to development partners to support the Company establish a water bottling plant.

She said the Plant will serve as an alternative source of revenue for the Company to offer it a financial muscle to run its operations effectively.

“I call upon development partners and well-wishers to support KACWASCO establish a water bottling plant so that we can have our water brand on the market. This will help us generate more revenue to effectively run our operations effectively,” said Ms Ashiono.

She noted that the Company is ready to partner with any investor interested in the venture to ensure its success.

The CEO who was speaking during a meeting with officials from Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) appealed to the Organization to help KACWASCO get the investors who will help in setting up the Plant.

She urged KNCCI to also support the Company in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities including tree planting at the water sources to protect them.

“I urge you to support us in pro-poor initiatives to help the urban poor settlements access clean and safe water and provision of sanitation services. It is our role to support those in such areas live a healthy life,” she said.

Ms Ashiono asked KNCCI which was led by its Chairman for Kakamega branch FCPA Wycliffe Kibisu to also help the Company in smart metering initiative saying smart meters give accurate water meter readings and cannot be tampered with easily.

FCPA Kibisu promised to help KACWASCO get development partners for different development programmes that will spur growth of the Company.

“We are ready and willing to partner and work closely with KACWASCO for its growth,” said FCPA Kibisu.

KAKAMEGA O&M Team Restores Water In Kakamega Town

Kakamega Area Operations and Maintenance (O&M) team rehabilitated the main water distribution line within the town CBD to restore water supply in affected areas.

There was a major breakdown on the main water distribution line which affected water supply to Dharau area, town scheme, Maraba, Lutonyi and Shikhambi.

Area Manager Mr Idd Osundwa said the major breakdown was as a result of double pipe bursts along the line due to high water pressure.



He noted that the bursts resulted into high water loss affecting their customers especially commercial ones.

“I am happy that we managed to repair the pipes and restored supply to our customers on time,” said Mr Osundwa.

He said it has taken them time to excavate the affected points because it is covered by the tarmac blaming road contractors for the mess.

“Roads are as important as water. The problem with contractors is that they don't provide for the sleeves as required. We are forced to break part of the road to access our pipeline. This is hard, time consuming and also puts us at loggerheads with agencies in charge of roads,” he said.

Stop Interfering With Our Infrastructure, CEO Tells Developers

Acting CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono has urged private developers and contractors to stop interfering with the Company's infrastructure especially in Kakamega town.

She said residents, developers and contractors have erected structures on top of water and sewerage pipelines making it difficult to access them in case of bursts and leakages.

"Our sewer lines were constructed a long time ago and some have been clogged because there are structures built on them making it impossible to rehabilitate, reconnect or relocate the lines," said Ms Ashiono.

So bad was the situation in Kambi So-

mali area in Kakamega town where houses were built on a blocked line that was serving at least 200 households causing odor smell.

She urged developers to consult and liaise with the Company before embarking on construction of buildings within town so that they can be guided on where to erect their structures and not to tamper with the lines.

"Having buildings on sewer lines poses a major risk because it is not possible to fix a burst line existing under a building, such lines cannot be easily relocated to a different line network, by the time such a problem is fixed, many people will have suffered the consequences," said Ashiono.

Road contractors have also been accused of failing to provide sleeves during their construction complicating the work of operation and maintenance team during rehabilitation of broken lines.

According to Kakamega Area Manager Idd Osundwa, the O &M teams have always been forced to break part of the roads locate and access the broken pipes among other faults that occur on the lines.

"Roads are as important as water. The problem with our contractors is that they do not provide for the sleeves. Breaking part of the roads is a tedious and time-consuming activity," said Idd.

Governor Wycliffe Oparanya rolled out an ambitious plan to elevate Kakamega town into city status.

The Governor had earlier indicated that for the initiative to be achieved there was need to have a functional sewerage system in the estates of Amalemba, Otiende, Mudiri, Old Airport and Lubao.

Ms Ashiono said they are in process of increasing sanitation system coverage from 14 per cent to 40 per cent but decried opposition from a section of residents unwilling to pave way for the project or allow sewer lines near their residential areas.

She added: "We have discovered many sewer lines have been blocked by solid waste disposed by residents but we are facing challenges fixing the situation because some residents will not let us do it."



KACWASCO O&M Personnel cut part of the road to access and repair water pipe in Kakamega town

It Was A Great Honor To Be Rewarded, Says Bulinda

He was recognized as the most improved all round employee at KACWASCO during the Staff Performance Management Dinner at Ciala Resort in Kisumu.

Mr Innocent Bulinda, Expenditure Accountant said he was never expecting his name to be among employees who were being recognized and rewarded by the Company for their exemplary work.

“It was a surprise to me. I was so delighted and humbled especially when the crowd cheered as I went to receive my certificate. It is a moment I will always treasure,” he said.

He added that for him to be recognized it was due to understanding what is required of him as per the Company’s Strategic Plan that made him to work hard, tirelessly and perform his duties efficiently.

“The most important thing for me was to first understand the Company’s Strategic Plan, vision and mission, which then drove me to be committed to ensuring that the Company achieves its goals and targets,” said Mr Bulinda.

He said the Finance Department is on an upward trajectory, being on the front line in implementation of the enterprise resource plan and also having achieved a seamless, efficient payment of staff allowances as well as suppliers.

He noted that the Company CEO, Ms Christabell Ashiono, is also the reason behind the success of most of the



Commercial and Finance Manager CPA Edwin Bukweye (R) presents a Certificate of recognition to Mr Innocent Bulinda as the most improved all round employee 2022.

employees at KACWASCO.

He acknowledged that the training and benchmarking they attended had been very key to him, especially in sharpening his skills and improving his view towards his career growth.

“Our CEO has been a moral beacon for all of us and especially the young staff. She has always supported us in different ways and also instilled in us both discipline and hard-work ethics which have seen us undertake our duties with diligence and efficiency,” he noted.

Mr Bulinda added that he looks forward to helping KACWASCO team pull together its synergy and work together to achieve a symbiotic goal, urging other staff to work together to make working for KACWASCO family a fabulous experience.

“Through team work we can achieve a lot for this great Company. I call upon my colleagues to work as a team and perform their duties as personal responsibilities so as to help the Company not only to efficiently deliver its services to customers but also achieve its revenue collection targets,” he concluded.



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