Our Man Mike!

KenGen Foundation’s Managing Trustee and former KenGen Corporate Affairs Manager Bows Out in Style.

41 Students Awarded KenGen Education Scholarships

Upper Tana CDCF Community Projects Handover Ceremony
The Giver Monthly is a free for distribution publication of the KenGen Foundation.

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The KenGen Foundation was established in the year 2012 to upscale and take charge of KenGen’s Corporate Social Investment programs.

Since its establishment, the Foundation has been involved in various activities. These include afforestation programs; expansion of the education program to include mentorship; and the establishment of partnerships and other fundraising activities.

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Cover image: Mike Njeru during the launch of GIC Phase IV.

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After 28 years of working in Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC), and the Kenya Electricity Generating Company, KenGen, and finally as the Managing Trustee of KenGen Foundation, I officially retired on February 28, 2018.

Leaving the Foundation has not been an easy decision but there is a beginning and an end to all our endeavors. This, I believe is the right time to move on to the next phase of my life, and to take time to do other things as I enjoy my family’s company.

The last 5 years working at the helm of KenGen Foundation has been a wonderful journey, mainly putting up its foundation blocks.

Together with the team I built from scratch, each and every one of our partners has been instrumental in inspiring us and in building the young organization to make it a key player in the Kenyan philanthropic landscape. You have pushed us beyond our comfort zone, believed in us and supported us, and ensured we are growing even beyond our expectations within a short period. I appreciate the trust that you put in me and my team, and hope that you will all continue to share with those I leave behind, your time, ideas and skills as the Foundation goes through its leadership transition.

The Board of Trustees will name my replacement soon. I am sure that they will work diligently to get the best candidate to replace me, one who will ensure a smooth transition and is capable of taking the Foundation to the next level. I have always wished to be replaced by one who is better than me. I cannot thank you and your organization enough for your support and your decision to walk the past 5 years with the Foundation and me. In case you need to reach me, my contacts are Cell phone: 0722753848 and Email Address: mkamavuria@gmail.com. Your messages and conversations will always be welcome.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

Mike Njeru

Appointments

Following the appointment of Mrs. Rebecca Miano as KenGen’s MD & CEO, she automatically takes over as the chair of the Foundation’s Board of Trustees.

The Foundation’s Senior Programmes Officer is currently the Acting Managing Trustee after Mike’s exit

Paul Wambugu, KenGen’s Innovation & Knowledge Manager, and Shadrack Munyalo, KenGen’s Assistant Finance Manager - Financial Performance & Budgeting, also join the Foundation as Trustees.
Starting from humble beginnings, to engaging in philanthropy, Mike Njeru’s story reads like a novel, and after 28 years of service, he finally hung up his gloves as the Managing Trustee of KenGen Foundation on 28 February.

Mike Njeru fits the bill of a tireless achiever who bridged the gap between communication and benevolence. He has proved that modest backgrounds can never deter a determined spirit.

Mike’s career started in 1982 in electronic media later moving to the print media as an editor at the Kenya Times and the Standard. In 1989, he joined Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) as the Communications Manager.

Following the restructuring of the energy sector and formal establishment of KenGen in 1997, Mike moved to head Corporate Affairs department at KenGen. His main task at that time was to give the new company a distinct corporate identity and nurture the new brand.

Speaking about his tenure, Mike said “I’m really proud of the KenGen brand, having raised it from zero to where it is now I feel so proud I was part of the people who brought it to where it is I am humbled to have had an opportunity to work with the good people of KenGen”.

Five years ago, Mike moved from KenGen to set up the company’s Corporate Foundation as its first Managing Trustee.

He continued, “Working at the helm of the KenGen Foundation has been a wonderful journey as I engaged mainly in putting up the organization’s foundation blocks. Together with the team I built from scratch, each and every one of us has been instrumental in building the young organization to a key player in the Kenyan philanthropy landscape. I appreciate the trust that our partners put in me and my team, and hope they will continue to engage with those I leave behind as the Foundation goes through a leadership transition”.

The Foundation Senior Fundraising Officer Cathy Kwena praised Mike’s tenure and had the following to say, “Mike was one of the best bosses I have ever worked (with and) for. It was a pleasure learning from him – especially how he quickly ‘read’ situations and people, and adapted, skillfully managing crises and difficult personalities.

Mike had an amazing ability to read his staff and recognize when we needed help or needed to be left alone to come up with solutions. Through our insightful chats, he showed us the importance of keeping everything in perspective - that work is important but that there is far more to what we are doing than getting a pay cheque. Through his hard work and guidance, we started touching lives in our own small way. And now he has left us to continue and grow this vision for the Foundation to the next level.

Bosses like Mike build teams. They grow and nurture institutional visions. Most importantly, they inspire people to become more than they limit themselves to be. I really miss Mike because he was a mentor (though he did not know it) to me. But I take with me the valuable lessons and say a big “thank you” to him for the opportunity to work and learn from him”.

Anthony Igecha, the Foundation’s Senior Programs Officer had this to say about Mike: “Mike was our boss for just a few years, but his inspirational and motivational words of advice will push me to do my best for the rest of my life. During my career I will always remember Mike Njeru in these few words; ‘As other bosses give orders, he gave us direction. As other bosses give targets, he gave us a vision. As other bosses lead by authority, he has always led us by respect.”

“I’m really proud of the KenGen brand, having raised it from zero to where it is now I feel so proud I was part of the people who brought it to where it is I am humbled to have had an opportunity to work with the good people of KenGen” - Mike Njeru
I shall surely miss the heated team discussions that were always held on Tuesdays, where we would defend our performances and celebrate and or receive a thrashing for our good or bad performances.

Sir Mike, farewell to a boss like no other. We shall surely miss you.

“Coming from the same professional background, Mike is the kind of leader who has a hands on experience in all matters communication. When I joined the Foundation, Mike gave me a solid footing – through his brilliance with words, eye for design, and willingness to allow creativity”, said Ernest Nyamasyo, the Foundation’s Communication Officer.

“Mike never says ‘no’. He says ‘re-work it’, and this has really worked itself into the KenGen Foundation brand. The office will miss Mike greatly. His will not be a ‘hard act to follow;’ it will be an impossible act to follow. I wish him all the best.”

Dorcas Arama, the Foundation’s Accounts Officer said, “Using our talents and leaving a legacy is something we all desire to do, and Mike has succeeded in doing this.

Mike was firm, fair, and consistent-you knew where you stood with him and if you got a telling off, you most likely deserved it. Once an issue has been addressed, it was over and done with. He was very good at encouraging initiative and cultivating teamwork.

A good listener and delegator, it was as if Mike followed the maxim “The best way to keep power is to share it, and the best way to influence is to listen’. Today, KenGen Foundation is a better place to be because of his efforts.

Congratulations on a wonderful career, and best wishes for the next phase-it has been our pleasure to know you and to work with you”.

The Foundation Administration Officer Lydia Mbaka had the following to say about Mike, “Being the Managing Trustee of the Foundation, Mike had a natural

Pomp and Colour during Mike’s Farewell

KenGen bid farewell to Mike Njeru, whose glamorous career came to an end after serving the sector for 28 years, in a colourful farewell party that was held at Sankara hotel organised by the KenGen Foundation, friends and family, on 26 April.

Speaking at the party, the Chairman of the Board Joshua Choge, said that Mike will be remembered for the critical role he played building the KenGen corporate identity after the company separated from KPLC to become a strong, attractive brand that it is today.

At the same time the Chairman heaped praises on Mike particularly for the role he played in the community management by creating the stakeholders coordination committees that ensured the company undertook projects smoothly.

Mr. Choge singled out the establishment of the KenGen Foundation which he said was Mike’s greatest legacy adding that through the Foundation, KenGen had changed the lives of many Kenyans.

Addressing the congregation, Chief Guest Mike Njeru narrated how he was headhunted by former KPLC Samuel Gichuru to join the energy industry having previously served as a journalist at the Voice of Kenya (VOK), Kenya Times, and the Standard Media Group, and how he ended in philanthropy as the KenGen Foundation’s Managing Trustee.

“It was my desire to retire at the age of 55 and I remember in the year 2012, I went to the former MD Eddy Njoroge and told him - you know what (?), in December I want to retire at the age of 55 because I don’t feel challenged to work in Corporate Affairs anymore. That work should be done by young people and he said NO!. We have been talking about starting a Foundation suppose I allow you to retire then I give you a contract to start a Foundation, hence I took up the new challenge first of all working in a completely new field coming from Corporate Affairs to philanthropy.” He stated.

Mr. Njeru also said that he felt he had left the Foundation on the runaway and that he believes his successor will be able to take off and take the organization to greater heights, and also thanked the KenGen staff for their continuous support through the Giver Initiative.

“One thing that has helped shape the Foundation is the KenGen Staff who believe in the young organization and
talent for leadership. Working as his Personal Assistant for the past 4 years, I learned to anticipate his needs. The team will definitely miss Mike…. His work truly made a lasting impact, and it was great working with him. I wish Mike all the best in his future endeavors”.

Jovita Ateya, the manager of Megawatt Café, a KenGen Foundation social investment, said, “It was a pleasure working with Mike, a jack of all trades including hospitality matters. He always has an insightful input. Mike's passion and the enthusiasm with which he executes his duties with is admirable”.

As he looks back over the years, Mike said he is blessed to have found a profession that he loved so much. “I leave the company a very happy person and very humbled especially looking at how far the Company has come. My experience in KenGen has been amazing. I know I will be seeing fruits of some of the things I worked hard to bring up including the KenGen brand and the KenGen Foundation. I served with love and I am thankful that I got as much back”.

Pictorial on the next page

Mike Njeru joins renowned acapella group Ninga Melodies during his send off party.

Joseph Muthee, who spent countless hours on the road with Mike as his driver, said “I can’t thank Mike enough for the opportunity that I had working for him. The support and guidance Mike offered me during all those trips will remain dear in my heart. I might not remember all that Mike told me, but I remember how he made me feel. To Mike, you have achieved your professional ambitions, and now its time to achieve your personal aspirations. Thanks for everything, I am forever grateful.

In retirement, Mike plans to spend most of his time at his farm, tending to his cattle, sheep, and goats and growing bananas, mangoes and other fruit trees.

On the future of the KenGen Foundation, Mike stated that it was everybody’s responsibility in KenGen to realise that the Foundation is a baby of the company and it is the objective of the company to support and protect it to enhance its growth.

He further expounded on his two months of retirement experience where he stated one is likely to get away with certain things.

He gave an example of how he was recently stopped by a young policeman who ended up not booking him based on the account of being a senior citizen. He wrapped up his speech by giving five take home points: Always enjoy your work at all times; be yourself; save and invest; make friends and keep them; and lastly make a very good plan for your retirement.

For her part, KenGen MD & CEO Rebecca Miano, in a speech read on her behalf by Strategy and Business Performance Director David Muthike stated that she had worked with Mike for many years and one thing she always struggled to emulate from him was his ability to always remain cool, calm, and collected even in the most demanding of circumstances.

“As destiny would have it, we were the unfortunate lot to be moved to the faceless company when in 1997 the sector was reformed which came with unbundling of the energy sector.

“Mike and I worked very closely during the formative stages of the brand. At that time, he was Corporate Affairs manager and the work of creating the new brand was one of his key assignments. Today, without fear, I can proudly say that the KenGen corporate brand is Mike's brainchild and for this the company is forever grateful for the sacrifices he and the team made to get this done. Today we enjoy the fruits of that history thanks to you Mike,” she reiterated.

Other Key speakers during the farewell party included former KenGen Managing Director and CEO, Albert Mugo, Human Resources and Administration Director, Abraham Serem, Regulatory and Corporate Affairs Director Eng. Simon Ngure, and KenGen Foundation Board of Trustees Paul Wambugu,

Others were CEO, East Africa Philanthropy Network, Evans Okinyi, Managing Director, Better Globe Forestry Ltd, Jean-Paul Deprins, Director, Corporate Affairs, Communication and Sustainable Development, Susan Maingi, family and friends who all paid tribute to Mike's amazing Journey at KenGen.
In a colorful ceremony held at Starehe Boys Centre, 20 secondary school students and 21 university students were awarded sponsorship during the Annual KenGen Education Scholarships Awards on 18 April. This is the 13th batch that the Company is awarding education scholarships.

Hosted by the KenGen Foundation, the event was graced by KenGen’s Chairman Mr. Joshua Choge; Eng. Simon Ngure - representing KenGen’s MD & CEO; Supply Chain Director Philip Yego; and Josphat Mwaura, Member of Managing Committee Starehe Boys Centre and CEO of KPMG.

Speaking during the award ceremony, Eng. Ngure reiterated the value of hard work to the scholarship recipients adding that he too was a beneficiary of the programme.

“Coming from a humble background myself, I know all too well the struggles that you go through looking for schools fees to fund your education. KenGen has so far invested over 300 million in education scholarships and other related activities towards nurturing tomorrow’s workforce and leaders, and for this we should be grateful”, he said.

On his part, the KenGen Chairman, Mr. Joshua Choge encouraged the secondary schools students to choose relevant courses that will be marketable once they graduate to university, adding, “Through the Education Scholarships Programme, KenGen is nurturing a generation with adequate skills and know-how, capable of tackling intricate challenges of the modern world, ultimately make our country enjoy a thriving economy to sustain a strong society free from the burden of poverty and social injustice”.

The Education Scholarships Awards comes after three days of the KenGen Foundation Annual Mentorship, now in its fifth year.

The KenGen Foundation Annual Mentorship aims at guiding the scholarships beneficiaries into becoming academic giants, while at the same time encouraging the discovery of talents and nurturing of life skills to provide for a balanced approach in achieving transformational leadership.

Opinion leaders, motivational speakers, and distinguished achievers of the

Pic caption:Eng. Simon Ngure with KenGen Chairman Mr. Joshua Choge and KenGen Foundation Ag. Managing Trustee Anthony Igecha during the event.
Intricacies of the KenGen Foundation Annual Mentorship

The young man approaches the burning embers albeit hesitantly. He looks up and chants, “Ice cold! Ice cold! Ice cold!” before he walks across the hot coals, amid cheers from his peers. At the end, he instinctively checks his soles, and then laughs with relief. He’s among the few KenGen university scholarship beneficiaries who performed the fire walking exercise during this year’s Annual Mentorship held at Starehe Boys’ Centre from 15 – 18 April.

Now in its fifth year, the Annual Mentorship is a flagship of the KenGen Foundation. The holistic mentoring enshrined in the vision of the program guides the KenGen Education Scholarships beneficiaries in discovering their potentials and talents, and project them onto a path that will lead them to become tomorrow’s transformational leaders.

In addition to personal mentoring, students are also exposed to peer mentoring and coaching opportunities during the 3-day session, which attracts leading professionals at the top of their fields to deliver a series of lectures and workshops. This creates a platform that allows the students and transformational leaders of tomorrow, to interact with and learn from the great leaders of today.

This year, the 181 university and secondary students under the KenGen Education Scholarships were counseled on their academic performance, and given career guidance through practical and motivational exercises within an environment that encourages, networking, and exchange of ideas and experiences. The mentees also benefitted from real life advices while building strong peer alliances and setting out their education and career strategies from the leadership coaches and other guest speakers.

During the duration of the mentorship program, the students participated in group lectures, interactive meetings, and team building exercises. They were also guided through in depth confidence training exercises such walking on fire. The lectures, materials, assessments, and executive guidance delivered through the program are of tremendous value to the future development of the students.

The evenings were filled with events such as dances, poems, stand-up comedy, and songs, guided by our partner Peak Performance. These kept the participants highly motivated and engaged, while showcasing their talents and presentation skills.

On the last day, various invited speakers shared their experiences including Wahu Kagwi Mathenge songwriter and singer, MTV and Kisima Award winner for best artist and entrepreneur.

Paul Kevin, a KenGen Education Scholarships Alumni gave a moving narration of his journey through the program until employment into the Company. He encouraged the participants to focus, work hard, and not give up despite the challenges. Other KenGen staff who addressed the students included Henry Ithiami, the Quality & Safety Manager, and James Obondo, KenGen’s Chief Administration Officer, Medicare.

Eight of the students have been sponsored by contributions from the KenGen Employee Giver Initiative, and four others from one of our project partners, Bamburi Cement Ltd.

The Annual Mentorship Program has built a reputation as a not-to-miss event that continues to groom future leaders and entrepreneurs in the various disciplines of study and careers.

Pictorial on the next page
The road leading to Mashamba Primary School, Embu County, can best be described as a cattle track. The surrounding environment appears barren, devoid of any vegetation. Under the scorching sun, sparsely scattered lone trees, stripped off their greenery, and covered with the area's red soil, paint a picture of desperation. Cattle and donkeys with empty containers on their backs lead their masters in search of water.

But Mashamba Primary School is different. The school’s compound is in stark contrast with the surrounding environment.

Boasting of a healthy 0.5 acre woodlot, the school was also the location of the launch of Phase IV of the Schools’ Green Initiative Challenge (GIC) on 28 February.

“IT IS WORTH TO NOTE THAT THIS UNIQUE PROGRAM ENCOURAGES ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND CONSERVATION AWARENESS AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN RIGHT FROM AN EARLY AGE TO ENCOURAGE AND SUSTAIN THEIR ENTHUSIASM IN Caring FOR THEIR ENVIRONMENT AS THEY GROW TO ADULTHOOD.”—Eng. Solomon Kariuki

100 new schools joined the tree planting competition, KenGen Foundation’s flagship environment project, during the colorful event that also saw winners of Phase II of the GIC awarded prizes after two years of intense tree growing, despite the harsh climatic conditions.

Speaking during the event, out going KenGen Foundation Managing Trustee Mike Njeru welcomed the new schools to the afforestation project, and lauded the winners of Phase II while encouraging them “to continue with the innovative measures you [sic] adopted over the last three years to maintain the beautiful woodlots that you now have”.

Thua Primary School led the pack of 120 school involved in Phase II of the competition to emerge the winner with a score of 84%, while the host, Mashamba Primary School, followed with a score of 77%. Tulimyumbu Primary School, from Machakos County clinched the third position with a mean score of 75%. The KenGen Foundation, in partnership with the champion of dry land forestry Better Globe Forestry, and leader of habitat restoration Bamburi Cement Ltd., implements the tree planting competition within targeted schools at the semi-arid counties of Embu, Kitui, and Machakos.

Designed as a challenge due to the harsh climatic conditions, schools are awarded point for the seedlings survival rates at the end of a two-year period. Other factors include innovations such as individual tree adoptions by students and teachers; mulching; fencing; and drip irrigation among others.

Present at the event was KenGen’s Operation's Director Eng. Solomon Kariuki who reiterated the Company’s continued investment “in long-term sustainable environmental conservation programs with GIC targeting schools and their surrounding communities”.

“It is worth to note that this unique program encourages environmental consciousness and conservation awareness among school children right from an early age to encourage and sustain their enthusiasm in caring
for their environment as they grow to adulthood”, he added.

Since inception in 2015 with an initial 81 schools from Embu and Machakos, the GIC has grown to involve more than 300 schools inclusive of Kitui County. The afforestation project targets the greening of over 500 acres of semi-arid land as a way of mitigating climate change and providing wood fuel and alternative income opportunities for the local communities.

Susan Maingi, Bamburi Cement Ltd. Director, Corporate Affairs, Communications & Sustainable Development said “Bamburi is proud to be playing its role in environmental conservation and restoration, and mitigating the impacts of climate change through the GIC partnership”.

“As we launch Phase IV today, we remain committed to working with the communities through such collaborations with like-minded organizations, to jointly reverse the climate change effects in arid and semi-arid Areas in Kenya”, she added.

Jan Vandenabeele, Executive Director Better Globe Forestry said: “We wish to encourage all those involved in the GIC to adapt their individual successes at their homesteads, as environmental conservation requires our collective efforts. We are proud of the winners and welcome the new schools into this noble initiative”.

The Schools Green Initiative Challenge incorporates three of the 17 recently unveiled UN Sustainable Development Goals namely Quality Education, Climate Change, Clean Water & Sanitation. Best performing schools stand a chance of winning education trips, scholarships, water tanks, infrastructure development, cash prizes among others.

Speaking during the event, KenGen's Director Dr. Musa Arusei noted that it was “commendable that thousands of school going children are learning valuable skills of planting and nurturing trees, which they will spread to their homes and communities”.

“It is with this in mind that the company continues to invest in long-term social investment programs such as the GIC, which is dedicated to environmental conservation by promoting a tree planting culture with particular emphasis to the school children, who are indeed the best transformational agents for a better environment”, he added.

Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta recognized KenGen as the Best Corporate category during the inaugural Tree Growing and Forest Conservation Awards 2017, with the GIC project contributing enormously to this award.

The GIC is set to expand to other counties where KenGen has operations, with tree planting activities planned for Western Hydros, Olkaria, Mombasa and Turkana Counties. Pictorial on the next page
Residents of Kiharu and Maragua constituencies, Murang’a County have a reason to celebrate following the commissioning of KenGen’s community projects on Tuesday, March 20, at Kiambaa Primary School.

Mirira Primary School and Kiambaa Primary School are the beneficiaries of upgraded classrooms, landscaping, new desks, and a refurbished water tank; while the residents of Mirira now have a brand new footpath courtesy of a grant from the Community Development Carbon Fund (CDCF).

Speaking during the event, the guest of honor Mr. Joshua Choge, KenGen’s Chairman, praised the Company’s efforts in implementing Corporate Social Investment projects with the direct neighbours living near the Upper Tana Power station. Mr. Choge pledged that KenGen, through the KenGen Foundation, will always strive to do more in improving the livelihoods of communities living near the Company’s installations.

The World Bank CDCF Community Projects grant came as a result of carbon credits earned from the redevelopment of Tana Hydropower Station under the Clean Development Mechanism project.

The World Bank CDCF Community Projects grant came as a result of carbon credits earned from the redevelopment of Tana Hydropower Station under the Clean Development Mechanism project. It is through the plant’s recent redevelopment that additional renewable energy is annually generated, which resulted in the reduced use of fossil fuels, and consequently reduction of greenhouse gases [GHG] emissions.

The interventions at the two schools were necessitated by the poor infrastructures and sanitation facilities at the institutions leading to unfavorable learning environment, and consequently, poor examinations performances.

Kiambaa Primary School, with a total of 9 classrooms, had un-plastered walls and floors, and lacked window shutters, exposing the approximately 260 pupils to cold, rain and wind. Its blackboards were worn out, and the desks were broken and unevenly finished, leading to injuries from splinters and falls. In addition, the lack of verandah corridor outside each block, left pupils exposed during the rainy seasons.

The renovation of Mirira Primary School includes the cementing of all classrooms floors to curb the jigger menace, and the refurbishment of their water tank and rainwater collection gutters to ensure the sustainable availability of water through the year. The establishment of a woodlot will boost the school feeding program with cheap alternative source of wood fuel.

Redevelopment of KenGen’s Tana Power Station was registered as a Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project in October 2011 with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). KenGen signed the Emission Reductions Purchase Agreement (ERPA) with International Bank for Reconstruction and Development as Trustee of the Community Development Carbon Fund (CDCF). In the agreement, KenGen was to spend approximately 10% of the funds received from sale of Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) to a Community Benefit Project.

The Honorable MP for Maragua Ms. Mary Waithera was delighted with KenGen’s support towards her constituency, and praised the Company’s CSR objective of being a responsible corporate citizen.
The CDCF pioneers projects that benefit local communities in some of the poorest areas of the world. The Fund is a public-private initiative designed in cooperation with the International Emissions Trading Association and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change emanating from projects that generate emission reductions under the CDM process.

Together with the KenGen Foundation, the Company’s main driver of sustainable community projects, KenGen also constructed the Mirira Dam Footpath using the CDCF funds, benefitting community members from the six villages of Kamingi, Kairo, Gakindu, Matithi, Kayuyu and Kiangojo, by connecting them to the market in Makutano Town. The footpath also directly benefits the staff and students of Mirira Secondary Day School, and has significantly improved neighbourliness between the communities living across both sides of Mirira River.
Team Building Retreat Cooks New Roadmap for Megawatt Cafe

The constant cawing of the resident peacock at Fish Eagle Inn, Naivasha, punctuated with the beautiful sounds of other water birds from the nearby lake, briefly interrupted the first strategy meeting of the Megawatt Cafe staff on the morning of 10 February. The team was on their first team building session since opening doors of the Cafe to the public one year ago.

During the early morning session, the 10-member team, led by Jovita Ateya, the restaurant manager deliberated on the challenges and achievements of the cafe since inception. The team charted a road map with new objectives for improved service delivery and customer satisfaction, before heading out for a much anticipated boat ride.

Donning orange life jackets and settling into two boats, the team headed out into the lake, excited, and on the look out for the odd and the beautiful.

A lone pelican floated elegantly on the first turn, promising more to come. Local fishermen faded away at the lake’s banks, as the teams headed out further into the calm reflective waters.

Cormorants waded closely to one of the boats, their brown heads contrasting with the white underbellies, before diving into the brown waters for fish much to the amazement of the team. Other water birds kept the team excited, just before we came upon a group of hippos.

At first glance, we thought that it was floating vegetation, but when the boat’s captain informed us that they were indeed hippos, we suddenly noticed the subtle movements.

“They usually keep away from the boats”, the captain assured us after a brief, but tense silence. “Unless it’s a mother with a new born calf, or a bull that has been chased from the pod”, he added. Seems like everyone was thinking that one of the hippos could sink the boat!

With the sun now directly overhead, the team go back for a well-deserved lunch before heading out to KenGen’s Olkaria Geothermal Spa.

Located at Hell’s Gate National Park, the spa is a favorite for Naivasha visitors. The scenery is breathtaking, with the rolling hills and billowing steam capturing our immediate attention due to their magnificence.

Stepping into the 40° waters of the largest natural spa in Africa, the Megawatt Cafe team couldn’t contain their thrill. First timers were initially hesitant, as if afraid of getting scalded, but the squeals from the rest promptly drew them in to join the fun!

Later in the evening we have dinner under a clear starry night at Fish Eagle Inn. Tantalizing nyamachoma and other roasted delicacies appease our appetites, as we chat and bond around a crackling bonfire.

The next day, the team divides into two groups with the facilitator taking the lead in guiding us through various physical activities. Team “Jeshi” starts off strong, but team “Jaguar” gets back on track by taking the lead and emerging winners after the “Octopus” challenge.

We leave for Nairobi, tired but united. The drive back is silent, the team reminiscing on the fond memories of yesterday, staring teary eyed at photos shared amongst us through the phones. After Naivasha, the team is set to enhance Megawatt Cafe’s culinary experience…

Megawatt Cafe team at the shores of Lake Naivasha during the team building.
Turkwell Staff Embrace Giver Initiative

The KenGen Foundation team had a unique chance to visit Turkwel Power Station for the Employee Giver Initiative recruitment exercise from 13 – 15 February.

The event saw 30 staff members from the station subscribe to the initiative, raising the total number of Turkwell Givers to 41. This means 63% of the employees at the station are now committed to the company’s CSI activities. The area Givers also unanimously elected Bilha Chebii, Rose Amolo and Ezekiel Ngetich as the area Champions during the drive.

Western Hydros area champions Hellen Onchari and Peter Ngachuro joined the Foundation team during the recruitment drive and played a huge role in sensitising and mobilizing the area staff.

Bilha, Turkwel’s Human Resource Officer and Rose Amolo, the station’s resident cook have been active Givers since signing in 2015, while Ezekiel, who works as Turkwel Power Station’s Nursing Officer joined the initiative during the recruitment exercise.

Speaking during the event, Turkwel Station Chief Engineer Andrew Chika lauded the new Givers for joining the initiative and urged them to mobilise each other in order to raise the percentage of subscribers.

Turkwel Power Station is Kenya’s third largest with an installed capacity of 106 megawatt. The dam is the country’s largest, and is located in one of the toughest terrains in Northern Kenya, where rainfall is sparse and inter-community conflicts are sporadic.

The Employee Giver Initiative is a unique program for KenGen staff to be directly involved in the company's CSI activities. Subscribers contribute through monetary donations, their time, and skills towards the Foundation’s three pillars of sustainability namely Education, Environment, Water and Sanitation.

The Foundation, together with Turkwel Givers, has several community driven environmental activities planned for the area.
New Givers!

Andrew Chika
Daniel K. Limo
David Kimaiyo
David Lokiru
Elphas Serem
Everlyne Adhiambo
Ezekiel Y. Komen
Festus Muli
George N. Njoroge
Haron Rotich
Henry L. Kodwaran
Jackson Oteba

Jane Maritim
Joel Mwangi
John Chege
John Khaemba
John Okumu Osoro
Joseph Losili
Joseph W. Wamalwa
Ken Korir
Lucas Rotich
Martin Juma
Martin K. Kihiko

Maurice Kimoso
Nicholus N. Were
Paul Odhiambo Owino
Peter Muia
Robert B. Onsongo
Stephen Obiero
Teresa Jepngetich
Thomas O. Okwach
Vincent Ojwang
Wilson Chebet
Wilson Pamba
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