

Kenya 'Epuka Uchafu' Campaign (EUC) at Points of Entry During the World Environmental Health Day 2024

Kenya commemorated The World Environmental Health Day on 26th September 2024 in All 26 gazetted Points of Entry and Exit. The environmental sanitation campaign dubbed '*Epuka Uchafu, Afya Mipakani*' started in earnest at all points of entry/exit (POE), including airports, seaports, and land crossings in the country. The event was organized to promote hygiene, maintain cleanliness, and raise awareness about the importance of environmental sanitation.

POE have adopted these campaigns in response to Kenya's growing waste management crisis and sanitation challenges, and after the national launch of '*Epuka uchafu, Afya Nyumbani*' campaign by Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni, on 23rd August 2024. This initiative represents a crucial step in Kenya's mission to enhance cleanliness and public health.

The central activity of the campaign was a mass garbage collection drive, aimed at reducing pollution, improving the aesthetics of entry points, and encouraging sustainable waste management practices among travelers, staff, and POE communities. Other activities carried out included slashing of bushes, dumping ground clearance, health education and hygiene promotion sessions with various stakeholders. The educational sessions attracted a large number of POE workers, with many expressing an interest in learning more about waste reduction. Participants took away knowledge on the importance of proper waste disposal, environmental and hand hygiene, reducing plastic consumption, and the environmental effects of their choices.

The immediate result of the EUC was a noticeable improvement in the cleanliness of the POE. This contributed to a more pleasant experience for travelers and staff, as well as enhanced hygiene standards in public spaces.

This event fostered a sense of community between the different stakeholders, including POE authorities, cleaning companies and other stakeholders. The success of the campaign highlighted the importance of continued collaboration to maintain environmental sanitation.

Reported by;



Benjamin Murkomen, HSC.

Ag. Head, Division of Port Health Services

Ministry of Health. PO BOX 30016-00100 Nairobi.

State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards

KENYA.









