

EPUKA UCHAFU

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

CAMPAIGN

AT ELDORET INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT & ITS ENVIRONS



A STEP TOWARD

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



EPUKA UCHAFU CAMPAIGN

Epuka Uchafu is a Swahili word which translates to avoid dirt or filth. It holds a significant importance with world environmental cleanliness day done on 26th September every year with the United Nations SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG 13 (Climate Action) World environmental day acts as a rallying bridge to highlight ongoing efforts, share success outcomes and mobilize additional resources for continuous environmental protection and management which is a great effort to be emulated by countries and communities, Port Health being a champion.

The State Department of Public Health and Professional Standards promotes environmental awareness, proper waste management, and collaboration for a healthier nation. In a letter dated August 29, 2024 (MOH/ENS/PORT/VOL.8), following the launch of the "Epuka Uchafu" Environmental Campaign on August 23, 2024, the Principal Secretary highlighted the campaign's focus. Port Health Control Services at Eldoret International Airport coordinated the initiative, emphasizing the importance of keeping surroundings clean, reducing pollution, combating climate change, and lowering disease risks, urging collective responsibility at ports of entry and exit.



On 26th September 2024, **Eldoret International Airport** marked an important milestone with the launch of the Epuka Uchafu Environmental Campaign. Spearheaded by Port Health Control Services at the airport, this initiative aligns with the global call for environmental action embodied in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and 13 (Climate Action). The Swahili phrase Epuka Uchafu, meaning "avoid dirt or filth," served as a powerful rallying call to improve environmental cleanliness and sustainability in and around the airport.

The Epuka Uchafu initiative was launched with clear, impactful goals, focusing on maintaining a clean and healthy environment around Eldoret International Airport, which serves as a key point of entry and exit in Kenya's transportation network

OBJECTIVES OF THE CAMPAIGN

- Raising awareness about the importance of cleanliness and proper waste management.
- Promoting public health by reducing disease risks linked to poor sanitation.
- Fostering a culture of environmental responsibility within the airport and surrounding communities.
- Contributing to the fight against climate change by promoting sustainable environmental practices.

The initiative sought to create long-lasting behavioral changes among all stakeholders, including airport personnel, passengers, and local businesses, encouraging them to adopt green practices to protect their environment.

Campaign Activities

The campaign officially began on 26th September, with several key activities that mobilized both the airport staff and the local community. Some of these activities included:

- 1. Stakeholder Engagement:** Letters were disseminated to the Kenya Airport Authority and the Uasin-Gishu County Health Department, inviting key representatives to join the campaign planning meetings. This engagement highlighted the collective responsibility of maintaining a clean airport environment.
- 2. Sensitization Sessions:** A briefing was held on 23rd September by Port Health Officers (PHOs) from Eldoret International Airport & 5 PHOs from Uasin Gishu County. These sessions targeted contracted cleaning services, business owners, and airport workers, discussing topics such as environmental hygiene, personal hygiene, disease risk reduction, and climate change adaptation.

3. Clean-up Exercise: A clean-up operation was conducted around the airport premises, focusing on clearing litter and unclogging drainage systems. Participants in the exercise included 13 Port Health staff members, 5 PHOs, 15 community health promoters, a village elder, and 63 representatives from various sectors. The clean-up spanned critical areas, such as walkways along the perimeter fence and the Kisumu-Eldoret highway.

Outcomes and Impact

The Epuka Uchafu Campaign was a significant success, achieving its primary goal of raising environmental awareness and fostering a cleaner environment.

The key outcomes were:

- **Increased Awareness:** The campaign effectively highlighted the importance of keeping Eldoret International Airport clean, prompting greater attention to waste management.
- **Community and Stakeholder Participation:** Active involvement from both local communities and airport stakeholders strengthened the initiative's message, reinforcing the slogan "**EPUKA UCHAFU - KEEP ELDORET INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CLEAN.**"
- **Visible Environmental Improvement:** A cleaner and more sanitary environment was immediately visible around the airport and its surrounding areas.



Challenges and Recommendations

Despite its success, the campaign faced some logistical challenges, particularly regarding funding for refreshments and provisions for the clean-up exercise. These limitations point to the need for additional financial support to sustain and expand future efforts.

In response, Port Health Control Services has recommended that future initiatives secure adequate funding to ensure the continuous success of the Epuka Uchafu campaign.

Conclusion

The Epuka Uchafu Environmental Campaign at Eldoret International Airport not only met its objectives but also instilled a sense of collective responsibility among participants. Moving forward, the campaign will continue its quarterly efforts, with the aim of making Eldoret International Airport a model of environmental sustainability and cleanliness.

With continued support from stakeholders and community members, the initiative promises to reduce the environmental footprint of one of Kenya's key transportation hubs, ensuring a healthier and more sustainable future for all.



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MINISTRY OF HEALTH

COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND PORT HEALTH OFFICERS UNITED TO KEEP ELDORET INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CLEAN

*"EPUKA UCHAFU - KEEP ELDORET INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT CLEAN: A Collective Responsibility".*

Protect the Environment, Secure a Healthier Future.

PORT HEALTH CONTROL SERVICES

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3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION

