

# Steam



Issue No. 18 | June - December 2026

## GEOHERMAL: GDC PUSHES KENYA TO **1GW** CLUB



# Why invest with us

1

## Proven Resources

100 planned production wells across three core fields for steam supply.

2

## De-risked Development

GDC funds early drilling and exploration to mitigate investor risk.

3

## Government-Backed Model

Stable, bankable PPP frameworks and government support measures anchored by 70:30 debt-to-equity and 25-year asset models.

4

## Ready Infrastructure

Industrial off-take via 5 pre-drilled wells delivering 480 t/hr brine flow.

5

## Flexible Entry

Investors can plug into the GDC framework at any point of geothermal development.

6

## Competitive Power Tariffs

Pre-risked steam frameworks drive down baseline electricity tariffs to just 7 US cents/kWh.

7

## Industrial Growth

Green manufacturing potential across 311.5 acres of planned Heat Parks.

8

## Clean Thermal Energy

Low-cost thermal cascading (200°C to 20°C) replaces fossil fuels for heavy industry.

9

## Investment Pipeline

Open, high-yield opportunities spanning agribusiness processing, manufacturing, and eco-tourism.

10

## Community Focused Investment

We work with communities to ensure inclusive participation, shared value, and ESG-aligned investment readiness.

11

## Regional Interconnection

Strategic positioning drives cross-border power trading within the East African Power Pool network.

12

## Institutional Support

National development alignment fast-tracks regulatory pathways, fiscal incentives, and long-term goodwill.

## Unlocking Kenya's Geothermal Potential





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Steam reports on geothermal development in Kenya. It gives readers perspective on the dynamics of geothermal energy and how GDC is developing the resource for national good.

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## Hail! GDC does it again

In March this year, Kenya quietly made history in renewable energy. While much of the world worried about fossil fuel flows from the Gulf, Kenya's geothermal power output crossed the 1GW mark - a Rubicon moment and a source of national pride.

This milestone was made possible through OrPower Twenty-Two, an Independent Power Producer, which added 35MW to the national grid from GDC's iconic Menengai geothermal field.

Kenya is also celebrating another major achievement: winning the bid to host the World Geothermal Congress, 2029. This honour is a global recognition of a country that has demonstrated resilience, conviction, commitment, and vision in its pursuit of geothermal energy.

Even more encouraging, Kenya continues to inspire the continent. Countries such as Uganda are looking to GDC and Kenya's geothermal journey as they seek to unlock their own resources. Uganda, as you will read, is moving full steam ahead, with at least four promising geothermal prospects already identified.

But success is nothing without leadership and integrity. So, where are the leaders? In Confucius' concept of the *Junzi*, the exemplary person, leadership derives its power from moral example. In this issue, we ask: does this timeless principle still hold? As a leader, are you driven by moral and ethical imperatives or is it personal pursuits?

These stories, and many more, await you in the pages ahead.

As always, grab a hot cuppa, sit back, relax, and enjoy your *Steam*.

*Cheers,  
Eric*



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## OUR STEAM STATUS

**1010 MW**

Kenya's Geothermal Installed capacity

**570 MW**

Geothermal Steam Availed by GDC

**390 MW**

GDC steam connected to the national grid

**7 US cts / kWh**

Competitive tariff





*By scaling geothermal resources within the Rift Valley, we are expanding baseload power that is reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible. This is how we are powering industry, attracting investment and proving that a low-carbon pathway can still deliver high and sustained economic growth.*



**Hon. James Opiyo Wandayi, EGH  
Cabinet Secretary  
Ministry of Energy & Petroleum.**



*With our geothermal installed capacity at 1010 MW, we continue to develop more of this natural resource as the foundation of Kenya's quest to attain 100 % green energy.*

**Mr. Alex Wachira, CBS.  
Principal Secretary, State Department for Energy,  
Ministry of Energy and Petroleum.**



Mr. Alex Wachira (2nd left) the Principal Secretary, State Department for Energy, joins a team of GDC leadership led by Chairman of the Board of Directors, Hon. Walter Nyambati (far left) to tour the H & Young exhibition booth at the GDC-Geothermal Conference, 2026 in Nairobi.



*Geothermal energy sits at the intersection of sustainability, energy security and economic transformation. It is green, affordable and reliable, yet only a few countries in the world have harnessed this resource to scale. At GDC, we remain committed to unlocking its full potential to drive economic growth, power industries, create jobs and accelerate national development.*

**Hon. Walter O. Nyambati**  
Chairman, GDC Board of Directors

## Board of Directors



**Family Photo...** Mr. Alex Wachira (2nd right seated) the Principal Secretary, State Department for Energy, joins a team of GDC leadership led by Chairman of the Board of Directors, Hon. Walter Nyambati (far right seated) for a group picture at the GDC-Geothermal Conference, 2026 in Nairobi.

# Steaming towards the next gigawatt

For decades, the steam rising from Kenya's geothermal fields symbolized promise, possibility and a future waiting to be unlocked.

Today, that promise has taken shape in one of our country's most defining energy milestones as Kenya officially joins the prestigious 1GW geothermal club.

Surpassing 1,000MW of installed geothermal power generation is a story of a country that made a deliberate decision to invest in clean energy, build strong institutions and trust in the immense potential lying beneath its earth.

GDC takes great pride in powering Kenya to the 1GW club through its resource exploration, drilling and de-risking of geothermal investments, with over 390 MW of geothermal power generated from steam developed by the Company in the Menengai and Olkaria fields now connected to the national grid.

Through strategic partnerships, strong policy support, deliberate investor onboarding frameworks, technical capabilities and intentionally structured plan, GDC has built one of the most successful geothermal development models that has helped the realization of this goal.

At the Menengai Geothermal Project, for instance, OrPower 22 and Sosian Menengai Geothermal Power Limited are already supplying a combined 70MW to the national grid. Globeleq Energy, on the other hand, is now at the tail end of testing processes, bringing Phase I of the project closer to its 105MW target.

Beyond electricity generation,

geothermal energy also holds immense promise in accelerating Kenya's industrialization agenda through direct utilization projects. At Menengai, GDC is already implementing five pilot projects focused on direct use applications including greenhouse farming, aquaculture, grain drying, laundry services and milk pasteurization.

These initiatives demonstrate the vast untapped potential of geothermal steam in supporting manufacturing, agro-processing, food security, job creation and value addition while lowering production costs for industries. It presents Kenya with a unique opportunity to build sustainable industries that run on geothermal energy.

Yet even as we celebrate joining the 1GW club, the journey towards the next gigawatt is already steaming ahead. Kenya is endowed with an estimated geothermal potential of over 10,000MW, enough to significantly transform its industrial capacity, energy security and climate resilience.

Realizing this vision will require sustained investment, advanced research, innovation and stronger collaboration between government, investors, development partners and research institutions. It will also demand continued expansion of critical infrastructure and policy frameworks that make geothermal investment attractive and bankable.

At GDC, we remain open to investment, partnerships and collaborations that will accelerate the realization of a Kenya that runs on geothermal. Even as we celebrate our membership in the 1GW club, our sights are already firmly set on the journey towards the 2GW milestone.



**Mr. Stephen Busieney**  
**Ag. Managing Director and C.E.O.**  
**Geothermal Development Company**



The Menengai 105 MW power plants at the Menengai Geothermal Project, Nakuru.

## New **strategy** charts Kenya's geothermal growth to 2036

Kenya is setting an ambitious course for geothermal energy with the draft National Geothermal Strategy 2026–2036, targeting 1,413.5 MW of installed capacity by 2035.

The strategy prioritizes expansion beyond existing fields like Menengai and Olkaria, aiming to develop one new greenfield site every two years. It also emphasizes diversified use of geothermal resources, including industrial processes, green manufacturing, and agriculture,

promoting co-location of industries near steam resources for maximum value creation.

To attract private investment, the draft proposes bankable power purchase agreements, cost-reflective tariffs, long-term industrial off-take, and incentives like tax exemptions and green financing mechanisms. Addressing barriers such as land acquisition, regulatory gaps, and limited local demand is also highlighted as critical for unlocking the sector's potential.

By combining ambitious targets with investor-

friendly reforms, Kenya is creating a more integrated geothermal ecosystem. The strategy signals a forward-looking vision that positions geothermal not only as a clean energy source but as a driver of industrial growth, job creation, and sustainable development.

Stakeholder input on the draft will shape the next phase of Kenya's geothermal journey, ensuring the sector continues to power economic transformation while meeting the nation's energy needs.



## Better Connections

Central Rift Manager and General Manager, Drilling and Infrastructure, Eng. Reuben Ngosi (centre), leads the Nakuru team in cutting a cake to mark the launch of the upgraded internal platform, ushering in a new era of communication at GDC.

The revamped platform enables seamless interaction and delivers a more dynamic, interactive and immersive user

experience. Built on a modern blog-style interface, it supports richer storytelling, real-time engagement and meaningful two-way communication.



# EPRA at GDC to train on drilling



This is how it is done... a section of staff from EPRA training at Menengai on drilling operations.

Staff from the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority have completed an intensive geothermal drilling training programme at GDC, enhancing their technical and regulatory capacity.

The four-day programme combined classroom instruction at the Polo Centre with hands-on training at the Menengai Geothermal Project. Participants engaged with modern drilling techniques, well control systems, and risk management processes using GDC's drilling simulator and live rig environment.

Dr. George Muia, General Manager for Business Development, emphasized the importance of equipping regulators with operational knowledge to strengthen oversight.

Participants praised the immersive approach, noting its relevance to real-world regulatory challenges. The training reflects GDC's broader commitment to capacity building, ensuring that institutions overseeing the sector are well-prepared to support safe, efficient, and sustainable geothermal development.

## Kabarak University gain insights at Menengai



Students from Kabarak University gained firsthand exposure to Kenya's renewable energy landscape during a visit to the Menengai Geothermal Project on March 14, 2026. The tour provided practical insight into geothermal development, from exploration and drilling to steam field management and power generation.

Guided by experts from the Geothermal Development Company (GDC), the students observed how

steam is harnessed to produce electricity.

The students also took part in environmental conservation, planting 1,000 indigenous trees.

"This has been one of the most educative tours we have had," said Dr. Ezra Ronoh, who led the team. "The students gained valuable insights into geothermal development and its role in promoting sustainable green energy," he noted.

## SEZA at Menengai, explore room for industrial park

A technical team from the Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA) visited the proposed Menengai Geothermal Resource Park SEZ to assess readiness for registration and alignment with regulatory standards.

The visit included a tour of GDC's Direct Use demonstration projects, showcasing how geothermal energy can support industrial and agricultural processes, as well as the Sosian Energy plant to evaluate supporting energy infrastructure.

SEZA commended GDC's proactive investor engagement strategy and its practical approach to demonstrating geothermal applications. The projects provide proof of concept for industries seeking sustainable, cost-effective energy solutions.

The Menengai SEZ is expected to attract green industrial investment by leveraging reliable geothermal heat and power. The visit marks a key step in positioning the park as a hub for sustainable manufacturing and value addition within Kenya's growing clean energy ecosystem.

# France taps on GDC to unlock EA's geothermal potential



Geothermal delegates from different African countries in Paris.

BY JOSEPH MAINA

A new regional partnership bringing together Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and France seeks to expand the geothermal capabilities of East Africa, beyond Kenya, with a strong emphasis on industrialization, climate resilience and sustainable economic transformation.

The Kenya-Tanzania-Uganda-France (KTUF) Geothermal Partnership, supported by Agence Française de Développement (afd) is implementing a two-year technical assistance programme running from May 2025 to May 2027. The initiative seeks to accelerate geothermal sector development across the region while strengthening collaboration among governments, energy institutions, investors and technical experts.

Unlike many conventional energy programmes focused solely on electricity generation, the KTUF initiative is placing significant attention on “direct-use” geothermal applications - the use of geothermal heat in industries such as agriculture, dairy processing, aquaculture, manufacturing, heating and cooling systems. These applications are

increasingly being viewed as critical to Africa's low-carbon industrial future.

East Africa sits on one of the world's richest geothermal belts along the Great Rift Valley, yet much of the resource remains underdeveloped. Kenya is currently Africa's leading geothermal producer, largely through projects managed by Geothermal Development Company (GDC) and Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen). Tanzania and Uganda are also seeking to unlock their geothermal potential as part of broader clean energy transitions.

GDC with its storied success in holistic geothermal development, will play a critical role in supporting other countries in the region through expertise and experiential tours.

At the core of the KTUF programme is a comprehensive geothermal market readiness assessment being undertaken by consulting firm MANERGY-Iroko Africa. The study evaluates policy and regulatory frameworks, financing mechanisms, stakeholder ecosystems, market conditions and investment opportunities across participating countries. The aim is to identify pathways for accelerated and

sustainable geothermal development.

One of the programme's most significant recent activities was a technical mission conducted in January 2026 in Menengai, Nakuru County, Kenya. The mission explored the viability of developing a geothermal industrial park centered on direct-use applications. GDC is Africa's leading light not only on geothermal power development but also in direct uses.

## Geothermal Heat

The delegation conducted field assessments with geothermal experts, engaged manufacturers and dairy processors, and held consultations with county leaders who expressed support for the project. The proposed industrial park is expected to leverage geothermal heat to lower industrial energy costs, reduce carbon emissions and attract green investment into manufacturing.

The initiative reflects a broader shift in how geothermal energy is being understood globally - not only as a source of electricity but also as a catalyst for industrial competitiveness and climate-smart development.

The KTUF partnership has also facilitated international dialogue on innovative financing and risk mitigation models. During meetings in Paris and Kampala, stakeholders discussed how mechanisms used in France - including geothermal risk insurance schemes and dedicated heat funds - could be adapted to African markets where high upfront drilling costs continue to deter investors.

As African countries seek cleaner development pathways amid growing energy demand and climate pressures, geothermal energy is increasingly emerging as a strategic resource. Through regional cooperation, technical exchange and targeted investment planning, the KTUF partnership aims to help East Africa transform its vast underground heat potential into long-term economic opportunity.

“  
The KTUF initiative is placing significant attention on direct use of geothermal application

# From Calgary to Nairobi: The journey to WGC 2029 begins



Principal Secretary for Energy, Mr. Alex Wachira (2nd Left), receives the World Geothermal Congress (WGC) hosting baton from the 2026 Congress hosts during a handover ceremony in Calgary, Canada, officially marking Kenya's assumption of hosting rights for the World Geothermal Congress 2029 in Nairobi. Looking on is KenGen's MD & CEO Eng. Peter Njenga.

## Fervo raises \$2.17 B in IPO

Geothermal energy developer Fervo Energy has raised approximately \$2.17B through its initial public offering (IPO), marking one of the largest clean-energy listings in recent years as investors seek solutions to rising electricity demand from artificial intelligence (AI) data centers.

The company priced 70 million Class A shares at \$27 each on May 12 before underwriters exercised their full option, increasing the offering to 80.5 million shares. Fervo now trades on Nasdaq under the ticker FRVO.

Shares rose 33.3 % on their first day of trading, valuing the Houston-based company at about \$10.2 billion. The stock gained further momentum in subsequent trading as investors bet on the

growing need for reliable, carbon-free electricity.

Fervo specializes in Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS), a technology that applies drilling and reservoir engineering techniques pioneered in the shale oil and gas industry to generate electricity from underground heat.

The company has already supplied geothermal power to Google's data center operations in Nevada and is developing the 500MW Cape Station project in Utah. The first phase is expected to begin delivering electricity by the end of 2026.



# GDC celebrates excellence



**Congratulations...** Ms. Irene Mboin, a GIS expert receives her certificate from Director Boniface Lila, at the Gala honouring top research papers during the GDC-Geothermal Conference in Nairobi.

BY EVANS MUTAI

The ballroom erupted in applause, cameras flashed across the hall and excitement filled the room as the 3rd GDC Geothermal Conference 2026 came to a close in Nairobi, capping three days of bold ideas, scientific breakthroughs and renewed momentum towards a Kenya that runs on geothermal energy.

In a celebratory finale, GDC honoured some of its brightest researchers, engineers and innovators whose groundbreaking work is expected to shape the future of geothermal development, artificial intelligence, sustainable agriculture, climate action and community relations.

From AI-powered geothermal exploration and drilling optimisation to community livelihoods restoration and carbon storage solutions, the award-winning presentations highlighted the expanding role of geothermal energy beyond electricity generation into environmental sustainability, food security, social inclusion and digital transformation.

Among the standout moments of the evening was the recognition of Ms. Laura Chepkonga, who emerged as the overall winner for the *Most Outstanding*

### *Innovative Idea.*

Her award-winning research focused on the use of thermophilic cyanobacteria from geothermal environments to support sustainable agriculture, one of the conference's most unique and widely discussed innovations.

The microorganisms thrive in extreme geothermal conditions and possess biological adaptations capable of improving plant health, boosting crop yields and reducing dependence on chemical fertilisers.

"It is truly an honour to stand here and receive this award. I am deeply grateful for this recognition, not just for myself, but for the work behind this project," said Laura after receiving the award.

In the *Project Update* category, Sharon Chebet from the Community Relations Department emerged winner for her paper on restoration of livelihoods in Paka, a project that explored how geothermal development can coexist with thriving host communities through inclusion, compensation and sustainable social investment.

Senior Driller Abraham Kahemba was named first runner-up in the same category for his practical and solution-driven paper on drilling PDC bits analysis for the Menengai Geothermal Project.

His research focused on improving drilling efficiency, reducing operational costs and enhancing geothermal well performance through improved drilling technologies, innovations considered critical in accelerating geothermal development timelines and boosting operational productivity.

### **AI in Geothermal**

The highly competitive *Case Study Research* category showcased the growing influence of digital transformation in geothermal operations, with George Igunza emerging winner for GEOROCK AI, an Artificial Intelligence-powered platform designed to revolutionise geothermal resource assessment and subsurface decision-making.

The innovation integrates machine learning and advanced geoscientific analytics to improve exploration accuracy, optimise reservoir management and strengthen data-driven decision-making within geothermal operations.

Delegates and experts described the presentation as one of the conference's most futuristic innovations with the potential to redefine geothermal exploration both locally and globally.

"I believe AI will become a major pillar in the future of geothermal operations globally," said Igunza.

Mr. Vincent Osango was named runner-up in the category following another strong presentation that equally drew praise from researchers, scientists and delegates attending the conference.

The conference also celebrated excellence in scientific poster presentations, recognising emerging ideas with strong potential to shape the future of sustainable geothermal development.

Mr. David Basweti emerged winner in the category for his innovative research on geoscientific basalt mapping for storage of carbon dioxide in the Paka Geothermal Field, a concept expected to significantly contribute towards carbon management, emissions reduction and environmental sustainability within geothermal operations.

Mr. Patrick Oyugi and Ms. Irene Mboin were named first and second runners-up respectively after presenting equally compelling and forward-looking research concepts during the conference.



Geothermal Resource Centre interns Lauryn Mayiani (R) and Isaac Wainaina (L) receive the *Best Emerging Innovator* award and the *Emerging Innovator Runner-Up* award, respectively, from Ag. GDC MD & CEO Mr. Stephen Busieny.

## Interns shine at GDC Geothermal Conference

BY EVANS MUTAI

In a conference largely dominated by seasoned scientists, engineers and energy experts, a group of young innovators from GDC's internship programme emerged among the standout presenters after unveiling practical, tech-driven solutions aimed at solving real industry challenges.

They impressed delegates, and proved that innovation has no age or experience limit.

Among the standout innovations was a Smart Data Monitoring System developed by Ms. Lauryn Mayiani and Mr. Isaac Wainaina for geothermal applications in greenhouse farming and aquaculture.

The innovation uses real-time temperature and humidity monitoring technology to help farmers and aquaculture operators optimise productivity, minimise losses and improve efficiency through smarter environmental management systems.

Many of the attendees lauded the innovation for its immediate practical application and potential contribution to climate-smart agriculture.

"You don't have to wait until you are fully experienced to make a difference. With the right mindset, guidance and determination, it is possible to turn ideas into real solutions even at an early stage," said Wainaina

To Ms. Mayiani, the opportunity strengthened her confidence and inspired her to continue pursuing innovation-driven solutions.

"The most defining moment for me was standing at the podium in front of many people who listened attentively to my presentation and gave positive feedback," she enthused, "That moment made me realise that my ideas and contributions are valuable and can create impact."

The two credited GDC's internship programme for



**You don't have to wait until you are fully experienced to make a difference.**

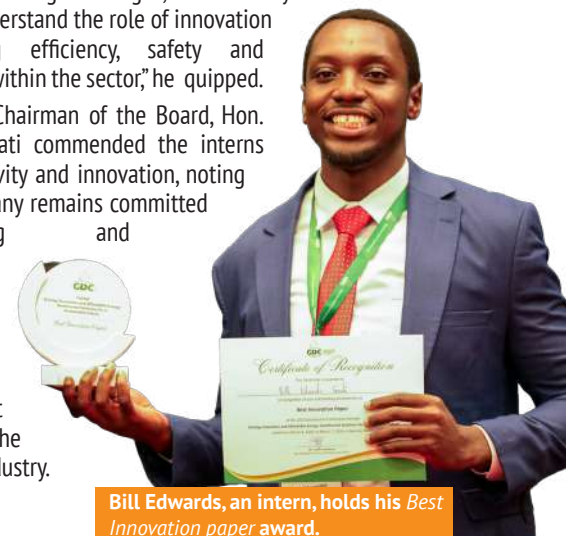
providing the mentorship, technical exposure and supportive environment that helped transform their concept into a workable innovation ready for industry presentation.

Mr. Bill Edwards, another intern, presented a rig-centric equipment maintenance information system designed to improve maintenance operations within geothermal drilling projects.

The system seeks to improve maintenance scheduling, minimise equipment downtime and enhance operational efficiency through smarter data management and predictive maintenance capabilities.

"This innovation seeks to build systems that can predict problems before they happen and improve operational reliability," Bill explained, crediting GDC's internship programme for the exposure to real geothermal drilling operations and practical engineering challenges, "It has really helped me understand the role of innovation in improving efficiency, safety and sustainability within the sector," he quipped.

The GDC Chairman of the Board, Hon. Walter Nyambati commended the interns for their creativity and innovation, noting that the Company remains committed to supporting and nurturing young talent into workable solutions that can benefit both GDC and the geothermal industry.



Bill Edwards, an intern, holds his *Best Innovation paper* award.



GDC MD & CEO Mr. Stephen Busieney (2nd Left) and Ascension Earth Resources Limited CEO Mr. Motoaki Sumi (Centre) display signed Collaborative Research Agreement. Looking on is the GDC's Board Chair Hon. Walter Nyambati (3rd Left) and General Manager, Business Development, Dr. George Muia (Left).

# Kenya bets big on geothermal future at GDC conference

BY EVANS MUTAI

Kenya's geothermal ambitions took centre stage in Nairobi as the third GDC - Geothermal Conference 2026 closed with a strong message: the country's vast geothermal resources must now move beyond electricity generation and become drivers of industrial growth, investment and climate resilience.

For three days, policymakers, financiers, geothermists, Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and development partners gathered at the Edge Convention Centre to debate the future of geothermal energy in Africa. While technical discussions around drilling and steam management remained central, the conversation increasingly shifted toward a larger economic question - how geothermal can transform industries, agriculture and livelihoods.

What emerged from the conference was a growing consensus that Kenya's geothermal sector is entering a new phase.

Delivering the conference resolutions, Dr. Robert Ogotu said Kenya already possesses the geothermal resources and technical expertise needed to lead Africa's clean energy transition. The challenge now, he noted, lies in turning technical success into commercially viable growth.

Delegates repeatedly stressed that geothermal projects must become more bankable if they are to attract long-term investment. Discussions focused heavily on improving feasibility studies, strengthening exploration data and

creating clearer policy frameworks that reduce investor risk.

Financing emerged as one of the conference's defining themes.

Panels bringing together commercial banks, development finance institutions and energy developers explored how blended finance, Public-Private Partnerships and risk-sharing models could unlock billions required to scale geothermal development.

Speaking during a session on investment and bankability, Co-operative Bank representative Mr. Mark Muchiri argued that investor confidence depends on policy certainty and stronger project preparation.

"Capital follows certainty. The more we strengthen project preparation, risk sharing and long-term policy stability, the more geothermal becomes attractive to commercial financing and private investment," he said.

Principal Secretary for Energy Mr. Alex Wachira noted that geothermal now contributes more than 40 % of Kenya's electricity mix, making it the country's largest single source of power and one of the foundations of industrial stability. Yet despite Kenya being ranked among the world's leading geothermal producers, only a fraction of the country's estimated potential has been exploited.

"With geothermal accounting for over 40 percent of our electricity mix and Kenya ranked among the top

“  
**The future of geothermal will depend not only on resource availability, but also on strong policy support, innovation, financing, partnerships, technology adoption and commercial execution**”



Kenya has already proven that geothermal can light homes and power economies. The next frontier is unlocking its full value through direct-use applications in industry, agriculture and manufacturing, positioning geothermal as a catalyst for investment, industrialisation and sustainable economic transformation.



**Dr. George Muia**  
GM- Business Development GDC



**This is how the rig works...** The PS State Department for Energy, Mr. Alex Wachira (C) is shown the operations of a rig at the GDC-Geothermal Conference 2026. Looking on is the GDC's General Manager, Business Development, Dr. George Muia (Right).

global producers, we have demonstrated leadership. But with only about 10 percent of our potential harnessed, the next phase must focus on innovation, technology and direct-use applications that transform industries and livelihoods," he reiterated.

Participants increasingly pointed to geothermal's potential beyond electricity generation, including industrial heating, greenhouse farming, food processing, aquaculture and manufacturing.

For GDC Acting Managing Director and CEO Mr. Stephen Busieney, this transition beyond the grid represents the industry's next frontier.

"Geothermal energy should move beyond the grid and into broader economic applications supporting industries, agriculture and communities," he said.

Menengai emerged as one of the conference's standout case studies. Delegates

cited the project as evidence that Kenya's de-risking model is beginning to produce commercially viable outcomes.

With 70MW already feeding into the national grid and an additional 35MW expected online soon, Menengai was repeatedly referenced as an example of how partnerships between government, investors and IPPs can accelerate clean energy delivery.

The conference also highlighted the growing role of technology in geothermal development. Artificial Intelligence-powered systems, smart monitoring technologies and carbon management innovations pointed to a sector increasingly shaped by data and automation.

At the same time, environmental sustainability and community inclusion featured prominently in discussions, with

participants calling for geothermal expansion that remains socially responsible and environmentally sustainable.

By the close of the conference, one message had become unmistakable: Kenya no longer sees geothermal simply as an energy source. Increasingly, it is being positioned as a platform for industrialisation, investment and long-term economic transformation.

**70MW**

**Total  
Contribution  
of Geothermal  
from  
Menengai**



Delegates follow proceedings during the 3rd GDC Geothermal Conference in Nairobi.



**Celebration time...** Hon. Opiyo Wandayi (c) Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, is joined by Mr. Alex Wachira, the PS State Department for Energy (l) and Mr. John Lekakeny Ololtuua, the then PS State Department of Tourism, in celebrating Kenya's win to host the WGC 2029.

# Kenya's time to star at global geothermal stage

BY ERIC WAMANJI

For decades, geothermal energy has been powering Kenya, quietly, steadily and almost invisibly. Now it is stepping into the global spotlight. The country will host the World Geothermal Congress (WGC) 2029. This marks a significant milestone for the geothermal sector, strategically demonstrating its rightful place not just in the national scheme of things, but also on the global stage. Kenya will be leading Africa in bringing the world to the continent.

But it was not a cakewalk. Kenya was competing against titans such as Germany and New Zealand. At home, there was Ethiopia which was giving the country a run for its money. But like a good marathoner, Kenya finished the

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**Kenya's victory to host WGC 2029 is a proud testament to our leadership in geothermal energy and Africa's rising global stature.**

race in style, clinching the honour.

And the win sparked a wave of excitement across the geothermal fraternity in Kenya.

The Government of Kenya is committed to providing all required support to make this a prestigious Congress. I look forward to participating in the handover ceremony during WGC 2026 in Calgary, Canada,” said Hon. Opiyo Wandayi, EGH, Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum.

The WGC will find Kenya as a member of the prestigious geothermal gigawatt club. GDC has made this milestone a reality through the Menengai 105 MW

project in Nakuru County. Kenya now has cemented its place on the map as a major geothermal player.

“Kenya has demonstrated that geothermal energy can power not just homes, but sustainable economic growth,” said Mr. Wandayi. “Hosting the World Geothermal Congress in Nairobi would be both a continental and global recognition of Africa's leadership in renewable energy.”

And there is more to energy here- it is also about Kenya's geothermal diplomacy as much as it is about geothermal tourism.

**Continued on page 17 »»**

Hosting the congress will bring sharp global focus to the country. It will provide a platform to cut deals, attract researchers, partners, and financiers, and strengthen Kenya's position as a strategic destination for MICE tourism. The more than 3,000 delegates expected to flock to Nairobi will also bring a considerable economic windfall. The hospitality and tourism sectors stand to benefit greatly.



Importantly, the congress will continue to elevate geothermal energy as a key diplomatic tool of soft power for Kenya. By showcasing its geothermal achievements to the world, the country will simultaneously be enhancing its global image.

"We have geothermal development models that are unique. GDC is credited, for instance, with championing steam sales. That way, it became reasonably easy to onboard private investors. Menengai therefore stands out as an icon of this innovative approach," explains Mr. Isaac Kimani, an expert on energy.

## Financing

GDC is also pursuing other financing mechanisms, such as onboarding strategic partners, a move that is set to scale up geothermal development. "As you can see, there is so much to appreciate in Kenya. The congress will also help spotlight these initiatives," adds Kimani.

The congress will mainly take place at the UN offices in Gigiri, while delegates will also have an opportunity to visit sites such as the Paka Geothermal Project in Baringo County and the Menengai Geothermal Project.

"It's an exciting moment for the country," notes Mr. Stephen Busieney, the GDC Ag. MD and CEO, who is also the Vice Chairperson of GAK. "As a company, we're fully invested in this congress. Internally, we have already set the ball in motion to prepare. 2029 might appear far away, but it really is not. That's why we want to be ready and ensure that delegates also find value for money and time."

And this news of hosting the congress created a buzz in the country and within geothermal circles. The tourism sector is already thinking about how to leverage the congress. Industry actors such as Mr. Eddy Njoroge consider the successful bid a recognition of Kenya's leadership in geothermal development. Mr. Njoroge previously served as MD and CEO of

KenGen and is currently the CEO of Ethiopia Electric.

The International Geothermal Association (IGA) hailed the country for its long-term vision on geothermal development.

"As an organization rooted in global collaboration, we are deeply proud that the World Geothermal Congress is heading to Africa for the first time. Kenya stands as a testament to what long-term vision can achieve, and WGC 2029 will showcase the power and possibility of Africa's geothermal future," commented Dr. Marit Brommer, Chief Executive Officer of IGA.

This hosting is a reward, and indeed an acknowledgement, of the commitment Kenya has made to geothermal energy. Kenya is the only country in Africa producing geothermal power at scale, currently standing at 1010 MW. But it is the deliberate government effort to



*Discover the Beauty  
and Power of Africa*

reposition the geothermal ecosystem that has made this milestone possible.

Policies such as the establishment of the Geothermal Development Company (GDC) as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) dramatically reinvigorated the sector. In 2009, when GDC was formed, Kenya was generating only 210 MW from geothermal energy. It was not long before the country leapt toward gigawatt status.

In addition, GDC successfully opened new geothermal fields outside Olkaria. These include Menengai, Paka, Silali, and Korosi, while activities at Suswa were beginning at the time of writing. The Menengai project itself is a masterstroke. It is the field that enriched the geothermal ecosystem with three Independent Power Producers (IPPs) under the Menengai 105 MW project.

The GAK which spearheaded the bidding

remains buoyant. "We're excited that we were granted the honour of hosting WGC -2029," says Zeyruq Ahmed, GAK CEO, *pictured*.

Bringing the private sector into the geothermal economy has not only enriched the ecosystem but also attracted critical external investment.

GDC is also leading in the direct use of geothermal energy. At Menengai, the company has diversified geothermal applications into heating greenhouses, milk pasteurisation, grain drying, and aqua-ponds.

Recently, GDC and Karsan Ramji, makers of Ndovu Cement, have sought to use geothermal heat to dry cement components and generate 4 MW of captive power. As our main story reveals, GDC is now expanding the geothermal frontier further into geothermal tourism.

## A global geothermal hub

By showcasing these breakthroughs, Kenya is steadily becoming a global geothermal hub, not just for Africa but for the world. WGC 2029 will not only be a moment of pride for the sector, but also for the country and the continent. Indeed, Africa is looking to Kenya in a big way for inspiration and technical expertise.

For instance, GDC has successfully established itself as a premier regional trainer, providing technical training to countries such as Uganda, Tanzania, and Djibouti, among others. GDC's uniqueness stems from its diversity, spanning the entire geothermal value chain.

It is IGA that summed it all nicely: "Kenya, as one of the world's leading geothermal nations and a recognized pioneer in large-scale geothermal power generation, offers a compelling setting for the congress. WGC 2029 will spotlight the innovation, ambition, and growth of geothermal development not only in Kenya but across the wider African region."

From Menengai to Paka, GDC has built a solid geothermal story ready for the world. And from here, the road to Nairobi WGC-2029 begins.

# Steam. Adventure. Wonder

■ **Selfie moments...** a group of tourist stakeholders including tourism students snap the moments away at the Menengai Geothermal Project during the World Tourism Day. GDC is working out modalities of developing geothermal tourism in the country.



**GDC is stretching the frontiers of Kenya's geothermal ecosystem. As ERIC WAMANJI writes, the Company is reimagining the steam world from power generation to leisure and recreation.**

The Menengai Caldera in Nakuru County is spectacular by every metric. The volcanic activity that later created the crater produced a dramatic landscape of hills, ridges, volcanic rocks, gorges, and caves. The vegetation is equally diverse: shrubs, thickets, and trees. Menengai has it all.

Now add geothermal development to the picture: huge green pipes interlacing this striking terrain, hauling superheated steam to power plants; geothermal wells occasionally discharging steam; and drilling rigs at work. The result is a perfect cocktail of a unique adventure offering.

And this is the treasure that the

Geothermal Development Company (GDC) is seeking to tap into- Geothermal tourism.

"There's great potential for tourism here," says Mr. Stephen Busieney, the Ag. Managing Director and CEO. "We'll turn Menengai into a paradise. As for now, we're engaging different stakeholders to onboard this into this exciting new frontier."

The company has identified a 20 km circuit, already paved road for biking, trekking and jogging. Eng. Joseph Mberia who oversees infrastructure works at GDC has assured of a fit accessibility for different users. Those who want a bit of endurance hiking will also find some steep ascents fascinating. For those who just love tranquility, GDC has a serene arboretum.

It is this dramatic character of Menengai that

gives it an edge as a prospective tourism site. GDC understands that as much. Now, GDC is reimagining Menengai not just as a source of Kenya's highly sought-after energy, but also as a centre for health and fitness, leisure, and recreation. Thus, the dawn of geothermal tourism is upon us.

GDC's plan for geothermal tourism is a masterstroke. This diversification is part of a broader philosophy of optimal and sustainable utilisation of geothermal resources. The bold gesture is innovative, as GDC continues to push the boundaries of what is possible.

"There is a need for adventure tourism. That is what we are proposing here in Menengai. The inquiries we receive for tours and excursions are an indication that there is a market," explains Mr. Busieney.

The Nakuru Tourism Association (NTA) finds this new concept fascinating. During the World Tourism Day a few moons ago, NTA members

**Menengai promises escape, serenity, adventure, adrenaline, health, and fitness- all the ingredients of a meaningful and exciting experience. It is a place of awe and wonder.**



Continued on page 19 »»

■ **Breathtaking....** Visitors admire the picturesque Menengai geothermal field from a vantage point.



thronged the Menengai caldera to have a first-hand experience of the site.

Mr David Maina, the Chairman of NTA, hailed GDC for its visionary steps towards a holistic utilisation of geothermal resources, especially in the tourism sector.

“We appreciate that GDC is even set to establish a resort spa in Menengai. That will be a game changer in many ways. Importantly, it will help make Menengai a key attraction hub in the region,” he observed.

## Rich history

The site also has a rich history. It once served as a hideout for Mau-Mau freedom fighters, and the caves - lava tubes – are still intact. In addition, local communities have developed a series of myths and legends around the caldera.

Like many volcanic sites around the world, Menengai carries intriguing stories. Its volcanic formations, together with the myths and legends surrounding them, offer a worthwhile diversion from the usual and the ordinary.

Its proximity to Nakuru CBD and accessibility adds to the mix, making Menengai irresistible.

But GDC’s geothermal tourism dream does not end with Menengai. Going forward, projects are being designed with tourism in mind. In this way, opportunities for tourism, employment, and commerce can all be expanded.

At the summit of the caldera, curio shop

dealers idly away this afternoon. Not so many visitors, says Samuel Karanja, a trader. But his eyes light up on the prospect of turning Menengai into a proper tourism hub.

“That’s what we want. It will open room for more visitors,” Karanja enthuses. “Visitors who come here always marvel at Menengai when they see steam billowing into the air. Most of them express a desire to go and see what is happening down there.”

Soon their wishes will be granted. GDC is on an aggressive pursuit of geothermal tourism in its quest to expand its business portfolio. The company is seeking to partner with like-minded stakeholders to develop a comprehensive and inclusive geothermal tourism package in its areas of operation.

The constellation of GDC’s geothermal

projects across the Rift Valley is exactly what the tourism sector needs.

“In future, geothermal tourism will become a key component of the tourism architecture in the country. That’s the future,” Mr. Maina says.

**B**eyond hiking and biking, GDC is set to establish a geothermal-heated spa and resort. Brine from geothermal processes can serve as a natural spa resource for leisure and recreation. GDC draws inspiration from Iceland, home to one of the world’s most famous geothermal spas, the Blue Lagoon.

Mr Busieney notes that once the project is up and running, the tourism side will create both direct and indirect jobs.

“We are all excited about this new possibility. Our goal is to give people an exciting experience. Let them have a feel of the magic that geothermal and its geological setting can offer,” he explains.

For people like Karanja, it could mean setting up another curio shop near the Menengai Geothermal Project. For community scouts like Peter Njoroge, it means getting busier.

“If well marketed, it means there will be a surge of visitors. That will require more scouts and tour guides. I’ll have to recruit and train more young people for that job. It’s quite exciting,” he enthuses.

To accelerate this dream, GDC has established a special internal team to explore the diverse tourism opportunities that Menengai can offer. The team, has designed a futuristic touristic site and experience like never been seen in Kenya’s geothermal context before. Indeed, Menengai is rising as the new must-visit destination. Add it to your bucket list.



**Hiking the hills...** visitors take a hike in Menengai Geothermal field



# GDC's quest for global environmental standardization

BY EVANS MUTAI

**G**DC is accelerating efforts to secure ISO 14001:2015 certification, the globally recognised standard for Environmental Management Systems (EMS), marking a deliberate shift towards structured, measurable and continually improving environmental governance.

Developed by the International Organization for Standardization, ISO 14001:2015 provides a framework for identifying environmental risks, managing impacts, complying with legal requirements and driving continuous improvement through documented procedures, measurable objectives, audits and independent verification.

For Manager, Safety, Health and

Environment, Mr. Gabriel Wetangula, the move reflects institutional maturity.

"As we scale up geothermal development, environmental stewardship cannot remain a parallel function. It must be embedded in how we plan, drill and deliver steam. ISO 14001:2015 formalises that responsibility at the highest level," he said.

The certification builds on GDC's ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System, achieved in 2021. While ISO 9001 strengthened operational efficiency and service delivery, ISO 14001 focuses on environmental risk management, covering areas such as drilling fluids, brine handling, waste management and land restoration within an auditable framework.

Operationally, the standard will drive standardized procedures, integrated systems and

continuous monitoring across departments. Environmental indicators, including emissions, waste reduction and resource use, will be tracked through measurable KPIs, while audits and management reviews will reinforce accountability and evidence-based decision-making.

Senior Environmental Scientist Ms. Frashiah Njoroge noted that ISO 14001:2015 places strong emphasis on risk-based thinking and lifecycle management.

"Every environmental control, whether in drilling operations or site rehabilitation, must be measurable, documented and continuously reviewed," she said.

Her colleague, Ms. Fridah Nkatha, added that GDC is strengthening audit systems, documentation controls and environmental performance indicators to ensure management remains proactive and evidence-based.

The certification will also strengthen Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems required in carbon markets, enhancing investor confidence and positioning GDC for future geothermal carbon initiatives.

"Geothermal energy is inherently clean, but the processes that deliver it must meet the highest environmental standards. ISO 14001:2015 demonstrates that our growth is disciplined, accountable and aligned with global best practice," said Wetangula.

## BEYOND COMPLIANCE

**ISO 14001:2015 goes beyond compliance by embedding environmental accountability into everyday decisions across GDC.**

**The standard promotes shared responsibility among engineers, operations teams and managers, while strengthening investor confidence through robust monitoring and verification systems.**

**Communities benefit from structured engagement, transparent reporting and improved land restoration, emissions control and waste management.**

**At its core, ISO 14001:2015 is evidence-driven, using audits and performance reviews to reduce risk and improve environmental performance.**

# GDC reshapes Africa's geothermal

BY JOSEPH MAINA

How does transformation happen? Gradual, but impactful. More often, transformation emerge through policy alignment, institutional cooperation, and long-term commitments that outlive political cycles. East Africa's geothermal journey is one such transformation- less visible than political summits, yet potentially far more enduring.

The story dates to June 2013 during the first Tripartite Infrastructure Summit in Entebbe, Uganda, where the Presidents of Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and South Sudan agreed that geothermal energy would be central to regional integration, energy security, and skills development under the Northern Corridor Integration Projects (NCIP).

From that meeting emerged a pivotal decision: the designation of the Geothermal Development Company (GDC) as a Regional Geothermal Centre of Excellence. What initially appeared to be an administrative endorsement has evolved into something far more strategic- a regional platform for geothermal expertise and capacity building.

Anchored within NCIP's Human Resource Capacity Building cluster, GDC



has gradually expanded beyond its role as a national energy developer to become a regional knowledge hub. Accreditation by the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) and the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA) has strengthened its credibility, but its deeper significance lies in training geothermal professionals across East Africa.

Rather than building capacity in isolation, the NCIP framework promotes harmonised training programmes, technical standards, and cost structures. In effect, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and South Sudan are slowly constructing a shared geothermal skills ecosystem.

The benefits are becoming increasingly clear. GDC's training programmes now have a regional footprint, reinforcing Kenya's leadership in geothermal development. The proposed establishment of a Geothermal Centre

of Excellence in Kabarak, Nakuru, further demonstrates how regional commitments are translating into concrete plans. Efforts to harmonise training costs and reduce non-tuition barriers are also widening access to specialised skills across partner states.

Progress has been tangible. A monitoring and evaluation exercise conducted in December 2025 reported steady advances in programme alignment and regional coordination. Particularly significant has been the harmonisation of curricula and training costs, helping reduce disparities in access to geothermal education.

What is emerging is more than an energy initiative; it is a long-term regional capability project built on human capital-engineers, technicians, trainers, and specialists capable of sustaining Africa's geothermal future.

Ultimately, East Africa's geothermal future is largely pegged on the architectures that GDC has designed and is implementing with gusto.



**At its core, the Centre of Excellence is not just about infrastructure or certification. It represents a shift in how geothermal knowledge is produced and circulated.**

**Mr. Joseph Maina is an Officer Geothermal Resource Centre at GDC**

# Uganda's geothermal heats up



Uganda's Assistant Commissioner for Geothermal, Mr. Vincent Kato (right), and fellow delegates receive a briefing on steam control room operations from a Sosian engineer during their tour of the Menengai Geothermal Project.

## Kato the man



Mr. Kato himself embodies the intersection of science, leadership, and persistence. Trained in geology and chemistry at Makerere University, he began his career at the Geological Survey Department, rising to become Principal Geologist in charge of exploration. His transition into geothermal would mark a defining chapter - not just personally, but nationally.

He has trained in Iceland, New Zealand, and Japan - absorbing global best practices and adapting them to Uganda's context.

Under the Uganda Geothermal Development Project (2011-2019), Mr. Kato spearheaded the country's geothermal acceleration: building the department from scratch, organizing technical trainings, leading field excursions to Kenya, overseeing temperature gradient drilling, and developing Uganda's first conceptual geothermal models.

BY ERIC WAMANJI

Mr. Vincent Kato stands quietly beside a model of a drilling rig, studying it with near-religious attention. Every so often, he leans in to ask about drilling bits, penetration rates, and the mechanics that turn steam into electricity.

It is a cold Wednesday morning in Nairobi during the GDC Geothermal Conference 2026. Dressed in a sky-blue shirt and navy blazer, Kato hardly looks like a man carrying a national mandate. Yet on his shoulders rests Uganda's ambition to deliver its first 50 MW of geothermal power.

"The country is excited about geothermal energy," he says. "In our National Generation Expansion Strategy, we're targeting 50 MW by 2030. It's not going to be easy, but we're determined."

The country has already drilled temperature gradient wells - eight in Kibiro and twelve in Panyimur. The results, Kato says, have been encouraging, with promising underground temperatures recorded at both sites.

The next phase is full-scale exploration drilling.

Government backing has also strengthened. Uganda has committed funding under the Uganda Geothermal Resources Development Project Phase II, a five-year programme designed to prove the resource before

inviting Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to develop generation plants.

Crucially, Uganda is leaning heavily on regional partnerships.

"We're happy to have a MoU with Kenya's Geothermal Development Company (GDC)," Kato says. "It will help us fast-track the next phase, especially drilling."

Uganda has also anchored geothermal development within its legal framework. The Mines and Minerals Act 2022 formally recognizes geothermal resources, including direct-use applications - an area now attracting growing interest.

Tourism is among the sectors already being considered.

"We were truly inspired by Kenya's geothermal spa in Olkaria," Kato says. "We're bringing in consultants and we plan to establish three geothermal spas in Uganda."

But geothermal ambitions extend beyond tourism. Uganda is exploring the use of geothermal heat in fish drying, greenhouse farming, and even supporting

Continued on page 23 »»

the transportation of the country's waxy crude oil by helping maintain pipeline temperatures.

The broader goal is to embed geothermal energy into multiple sectors of the economy.

Capacity building has become central to that mission. "Recently, GDC came to Uganda to train our people on direct uses of geothermal energy," Kato says. "The programme, supported by IRENA, was a success and a real eye-opener."

Uganda is also working with the French Development Agency (AFD) to strengthen technical expertise in the sector.

Public enthusiasm, however, has at times outpaced implementation.

"Some communities became so eager they accused us of delaying the projects," Kato recalls with a smile. "But it shows people have embraced geothermal. They want to see work begin immediately."

Uganda is now building the human resource base required to sustain the industry. Some expertise has been drawn from the country's established oil sector, while partnerships with Kenya's GDC are helping train a new generation of geothermal specialists.

Today, Uganda has identified more than 30 geothermal prospects. For now, focus has narrowed to four high-potential sites - Kibiro, Panyimur, Buranga, and Katwe.

"I'm happy with what we've achieved so far," Kato says. "The trajectory is right."



**On his shoulders rests a national mandate: to deliver Uganda's first 50 MW of geothermal power.**

At the conference, Kato is accompanied by Mr. Brian Aijuka, an emerging geothermal expert who spends much of the sessions taking relentless notes.

"I know the task ahead is monumental," Aijuka says. "But I'm privileged to be part of what will onboard Uganda into the geothermal club."

Like Kato, he looks to Kenya for inspiration. "Kenya is our role model," he says. "The GDC conference exposed me to new people and new ideas. It was worth every minute."

The following day, delegates traveled to the Menengai Geothermal Project in Nakuru County, where Kato witnesses the newest geothermal power plant operated by Orpower 22 generating 35 MW into Kenya's national grid.

"We need a state-run company like GDC in Uganda," Kato says. "Government policy is critical if we're to attract talent and investment."

To him, Kenya's progress offers both proof and inspiration.

"I saw Menengai when work was just beginning," he recalls. "Now megawatts are hitting the grid. My dream is to see Uganda with many geothermal power plants too."

Back at the Nairobi conference, long after most delegates have entered the hall, Kato remains beside the drilling rig model still studying, still asking questions.

## ARGeo: Moroni calling

The President of the Africa Geothermal Association, Dr. Peter Omenda, has called on geothermal experts, researchers, policymakers, investors and industry enthusiasts to make plans to attend the 11th African Rift Geothermal Conference (ARGeo-C11) in the Comoros.

The conference will be held in Moroni from October 19 to 24, 2026, bringing together stakeholders from across Africa and beyond to discuss the future of geothermal development.

Speaking on the sidelines of the GDC Geothermal Conference 2026 in Nairobi, Dr. Omenda said the event builds on the momentum generated by previous ARGeo conferences and comes at a critical moment for the continent's geothermal sector.

"It will be an exciting conference that is building on previous engagements. It comes at a time when many countries along the East African Rift System are showing renewed interest in geothermal energy," he said.

The conference is expected to provide a platform for knowledge exchange, policy dialogue, investment promotion and the sharing of best practices to accelerate efforts to harness geothermal resources.



## GDC trains Uganda on geothermal direct use

A team of experts from the Geothermal Development Company (GDC) has trained Ugandan officials on the direct use of geothermal energy during a three-day course held in Kampala.

The training was conducted in partnership with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), which funded the programme.

The course covered the fundamentals of geothermal resources, direct-use applications, surface exploration, and drilling workflows.

Participants also explored geothermal direct-use technologies and reviewed case studies from Iceland and Kenya, with GDC's Menengai direct-use demonstration projects featuring prominently.

According to an IRENA report, the sessions examined the technical requirements of geothermal direct-use technologies, including applications in agro-processing, greenhouse farming, aquaculture, industrial heating, and cold-

chain solutions.

The training further explored the development of geothermal-powered industrial parks and financing models for direct-use projects.

Mr. Vincent Kato expressed optimism that the programme would accelerate Uganda's entry into the geothermal direct-use sector.

"The training offered insights that will trigger Uganda into the direct-use space," he said.

Eng. Arcadius Angalwa and Mr. Bernard Rotich were the GDC trainers.

## SERVING WITH GRACE

BY ERIC WAMANJI



Grace Chao leans over trays of freshly baked golden-brown buns, inspecting them carefully. Satisfied, she moves on to the snacks, checks the tea urns, inspects the cutlery, then pauses briefly to exchange a few quiet words with her staff.

"I have to ensure everything is in order," she says softly before disappearing into the kitchen.

We are at the Menengai Base Camp, home to drilling staff working at the geothermal rigs. It is Grace's duty to ensure meals are served on time, prepared to high standards, and delivered in a clean and welcoming environment. Yet her responsibilities stretch far beyond Menengai. She also coordinates catering operations at the Paka Camp within the Baringo-Silali Geothermal Project, where GDC operates.

On this chilly April morning, however, Grace is preparing for a different kind of guest. A delegation of dignitaries visiting the project has stopped by for a mid-morning tea break.

"Apart from staff, we also host many visitors at our mess," she explains. "We have served ambassadors, Cabinet Secretaries, Members of Parliament, CEOs -name them."

Soft-spoken and modest, Grace could easily pass unnoticed among the staff. Standing at about five feet, the light-skinned hospitality officer carries herself quietly, almost shyly. Yet behind that calm demeanor lies a woman whose work directly supports one of Kenya's most critical geothermal operations.

In a drilling environment where teams work long hours under intense conditions, food and hospitality become more than routine

services - they become a source of morale, comfort, and care.

"My work is about caring for people," she says gently. "Over the years, I have come to see every meal served as an opportunity to make someone's day a little better."

And over the years, Grace and her team have served tens of thousands of meals to the men and women at GDC working day and night to deliver geothermal energy to the nation.

The drilling rig operates around the clock. Shifts are timed with precision, and meals must follow that rhythm. On a typical day, the catering unit serves about 180 people. It prepares six meals at intervals stretching all the way to midnight.

Operating a catering unit in a geothermal field is far more than managing a hotel kitchen - it is sustaining a complex operational ecosystem. Besides the drilling crew, the catering team also serves scientists in laboratories, stores and supplies personnel, and teams working on infrastructure such as roads and water lines.

Here, precision, discipline, and quick decision-making are indispensable. Without them, the rhythm of geothermal operations would break down. One can hardly speak of steam and megawatts without speaking of the well-being of the crews behind them - supported by a robust catering unit.

Like the Apollo missions that depended on thousands of unseen hands behind the scenes, Grace understands that she too plays a role in Kenya's green energy journey.

Indeed, catering is far more than preparing meals. It is part of the machinery that keeps the drilling juggernaut operational.

"When I saw the first well discharge steam at Menengai, and when the first power plant came online with electricity, I shed a tear of joy. I knew I was part of that success," she says.

For Grace, the value chain is long and complex - planning menus, coordinating supplies, supervising staff, maintaining hygiene standards, and ensuring quality meals are delivered on time.



■ Ms. Grace Chao with a section of her catering team

“There is no catering without a team,” she says with conviction. “Every success belongs to the team. We consult each other constantly because that’s how we deliver the best service.”

Grace joined GDC in July 2010 as a Hospitality Officer and steadily rose through the ranks to become Senior Hospitality Officer in charge of Catering Operations.

Through the years, she has learned that hospitality is not simply about food, but about creating an atmosphere where people feel valued.

Still, the work is not always easy. There are moments when massive delegations arrive, requiring her team to deliver under pressure and within tight timelines. Yet she has consistently risen to the occasion.

Behind her resilience is a strong support system. Grace credits her family for encouraging her to remain innovative, composed, and solution oriented. She also speaks warmly of her former supervisor, Eng. Stephen Kangogo, the Acting Manager for Drilling Operations.

“He was quite supportive,” she says. “He listened and helped us find solutions. We felt fully supported with him around, and that gave us confidence in our work.”

To Eng. Kangogo, Grace is simply incredible.

“She understands her assignment very well,” he says. “Even if you ambush her, she will always have a solution. To me, that level

of attitude and commitment is quite something. GDC knows it can always bank on Grace.”

At press time, Grace had just received a new boss - Eng. Phyllis Mathenge.

“I know Phyllis. She is equally engaging, and I’m looking forward to gaining insights from her,” Grace says.

For Grace, hospitality was never accidental. Growing up in the hilly landscapes of Taita, she always felt drawn toward compassion and service. Like many young girls, she loved cooking from an early age. In school, Home Science quickly became her favourite subject - a passion she pursued through high school before enrolling in hospitality college to study Hotel Management.

When the opportunity to serve GDC arose, she took it. However, she had not expected to work in far-flung, remote semi-arid areas like the Paka Geothermal Field. Still, she embraced the challenge. She blossomed.

And she draws a lot of inspirations from food shows. Her favourite chef being Gordon Ramsay. Admired for his passion, discipline, high standards and dedication to excellence in the culinary industry.

“My favourite channels/programs are Hell’s Kitchen, Master Chef, and Kitchen Nightmares. I enjoy watching them because they are educational, entertaining, and they showcase creativity, teamwork, leadership, and problem solving in food and beverage operations,” she explains.

And yes, Grace proudly admits she is a foodie too. “I love meat, especially goat meat,”

she laughs. “I grew up in a culture where goat meat was part of celebrations and family gatherings, so it carries many memories for me.”

Besides her carnivorous sensibilities, she also enjoys colourful, richly flavoured meals and confesses to having a special weakness for chapati.

“Soft chapati with many layers... eeei!” she says with a bright smile.

Away from the geothermal fields, Grace treasures time with her family. Some of her happiest moments involve cooking with her children during school holidays or after work.

“Those moments are very special because we laugh, bond, and create memories together,” she recounts.

The family also enjoys watching football together - and divided loyalties between teams make match days lively and full of playful arguments. Grace supports Manchester United. One son cheers for Liverpool FC while the other supports Real Madrid CF. What a mix!

Back at the Menengai camp, the visiting delegation has now finished its tea break.

Beyond the buns, there were fish fingers, fresh juice, apples, oranges, and an assortment of snacks carefully prepared by Grace and her team.

As the guests rise to leave, one member of the delegation remarks cheerfully: “That was more than just tea. Let’s appreciate the catering team.”

Grace and her staff are called forward. The room erupts into applause as compliments pour in from the visitors. Grace receives every word of praise with characteristic humility and calm.

After all, for her, this is simply another day of serving people with grace.



Ms. Chao sampling buns at the Menengai staff mess.

“What makes me happiest is seeing people gather, share conversations, and feel comfortable through the service we provide - Chao

# THE TEAM CHASER



■ Mr. John Mwiti at work in Menengai, Nakuru

BY CHRISTOPHER NGOLO

As the world scrambles for oil, gas, and rare minerals, John Mwiti spends his days chasing steam.

Not the kind that disappears from a boiling kettle, but the powerful white plumes roaring out of the earth along Kenya's Great Rift Valley. Steam, hot enough to light cities, dry grains, hatch chicks, warm greenhouses, and perhaps reshape livelihoods across rural Kenya.

Where many see heat and barren volcanic land, Mwiti sees possibility.

"A sight of hot water or anything above 35 degrees Celsius thrills my heart," he says with a grin that carries the excitement of a child discovering fire for the first time.

For the Senior Technician in Geothermal Resource Management at the Geothermal Development Company (GDC), geothermal

energy is more than electricity generation. It is a tool for transforming communities.

Born in 1986 in Kionyo village, Imenti South, Meru County, Mwiti grew up in a Kenya where electricity was unreliable and, in many rural homes, entirely out of reach. Like many children of his generation, he understood the value of power not as a convenience, but as a distant luxury.

Years later, he would come to realize that beneath Kenya's volcanic landscape lay an immense and largely untapped source of energy quietly simmering beneath the earth's crust. The first time he witnessed a geyser erupt, he did not recoil from the violent hiss of steam and boiling water. He stepped closer.

He stretched out his hand toward the mist.

And something changed.

That encounter became the beginning of an obsession that would define his career.

Long before geothermal became his profession, Mwiti was already drawn to community transformation. In Meru, he organized tree-planting drives and worked with vulnerable children while nurturing ideas about how energy could power industries and create opportunities in rural Kenya.

By 2023, he had spent more than a decade working in geothermal fields – profiling wells, monitoring steam systems, and maintaining geothermal infrastructure. He understood geothermal reservoirs almost instinctively, the way a shepherd understands his flock.

But one article in GDC's internal communication changed everything.

To many employees, it was a routine corporate piece. To Mwiti, it was an invitation.

One question immediately consumed him: "How can this steam leave the power plant and



Mr. Mwiti admiring fumaroles at Manengai

enter the community?”

That question would send him across the Rift Valley – from Eburru to Ol Rongai, from Menengai to Paka – evangelizing what the geothermal sector calls “direct use”: harnessing geothermal heat for agriculture, food processing, aquaculture, tourism, and industrial applications without first converting it into electricity.

Armed not with large budgets or blueprints, but conviction and relentless curiosity, Mwiti began engaging universities, farmers, researchers, and communities.

In Ol Rongai, geothermal steam is now being explored for incubating and brooding chicks through community initiatives he helped champion.

At Mount Kenya University, research is underway on cricket farming using geothermal heat as part of efforts to reduce the cost of animal feed production.

Near Menengai geothermal field, Kabarak University students and lecturers are collaborating with GDC and surrounding communities to explore geothermal-powered poultry farming.

At the Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology, naturally heated wells reaching temperatures of 60 degrees Celsius are being considered for

commercialization following support secured through the Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility (GRMF), for which he played a key role in securing.

For Mwiti, these are not isolated experiments. They are pieces of a larger dream.

At the second and third GDC Geothermal Conferences, he presented winning papers focused on geothermal innovation and direct-use applications. At the 2026 conference held in Nairobi, his research examined the possibility of utilizing geothermal heat available within Nakuru for direct industrial and community applications.

His inspiration stretches thousands of kilometres beyond Kenya.

Through GDC exposure programmes, Mwiti studied Iceland’s geothermal success story – a country where geothermal heat warms homes, supports agriculture, and powers industries year-round.

“One farmer changed the Iceland story,” he says. “Today, hotels are heated using steam. It can be done in Kenya too. It can be done in Nakuru.”

He points to Kenya’s own examples – the geysers of Lake Bogoria and the geothermal spa experiences in Olkaria – as proof that geothermal direct use can support tourism, agribusiness,

manufacturing, and employment creation.

Yet away from geothermal wells and community projects, Mwiti remains grounded.

He sings in a choir he once chaired, helping the group rise to national recognition and earn space in Presidential Music Festival programmes.

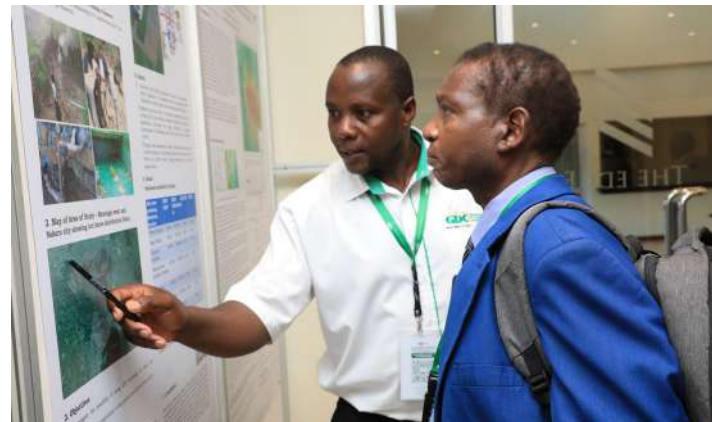
Colleagues describe him as relentless, curious, and impossible to ignore once he begins speaking about steam.

To some, his ideas sound overly ambitious.

To him, they are inevitable.

“For me, it is geothermal, water, and how we can use the expertise we have at GDC and beyond to change the Kenyan story,” he says. “It’s our resource. We must develop it.”

And so, while others chase gold beneath the earth, John Mwiti continues chasing geysers - convinced that Kenya’s hottest resource is not hidden underground, but inside the minds bold enough to imagine a different future.



Mr. Mwiti explains a point to Mr. John Lagat (in blue), the GDC’s Regional Manager, North Rift, at the GDC Geothermal Conference.



Mr. Mwiti admiring strawberries at a green house.

# How energy fodged civilization

GUEST WRITER

BY BENARD LIMO

Around 12,000 years ago, humanity reached a pivotal turning point in its history with the dawn of the Agricultural Revolution. Until then, communities had largely depended on hunting and gathering, a lifestyle that could support only small populations. The transition to agriculture fundamentally transformed how humans interacted with nature and harnessed energy.

Humans began domesticating plants and animals, cultivating crops such as barley, lentils, and grapes. Agriculture created a more reliable food supply than hunting and gathering, providing consistent calories that fueled population growth. Villages expanded into towns, societies became more complex, and food surpluses enabled the rise of artisans, traders, and leaders, laying the foundations of civilization.

## Energy revolution

At the heart of this transformation was energy. Agriculture allowed humans to capture the sun's energy through crops while relying on animal power, watermills, and later windmills. These innovations laid the groundwork for technological advancement and economic development.

Centuries later, energy remains central to human progress. Reliable and affordable energy powers transportation, communication, and healthcare. Steam engines, automobiles, and aircraft revolutionized mobility, shrinking travel times from months to hours and accelerating trade and globalization. Similarly, communication technologies - from the printing press to the internet - have spread knowledge on an unprecedented scale, connecting billions of people worldwide.

Energy has also transformed healthcare. Modern hospitals, diagnostic tools such as MRI and CT scanners, life-saving equipment, and pharmaceutical production all depend on reliable energy systems. These advances have increased life expectancy, reduced infant mortality, and improved overall human well-being.

Historical data from organizations such as



**Energy remains central to human progress. Reliable and affordable energy powers transportation, communication, and healthcare.**

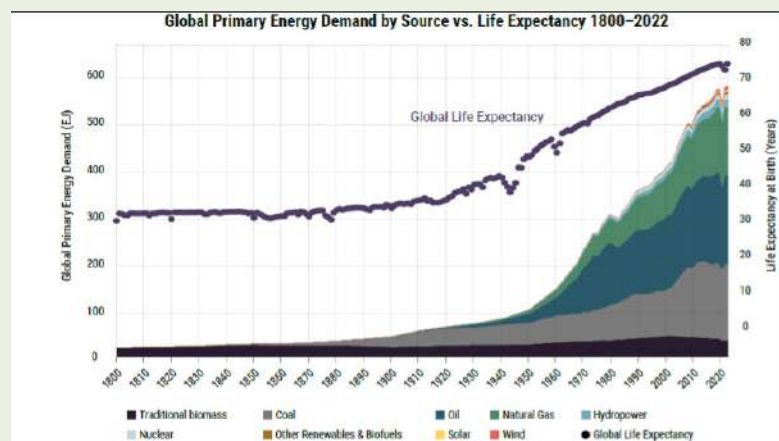
the Energy Institute, the International Energy Agency (IEA), and Our World in Data show a strong relationship between energy access and improved quality of life. Societies with greater access to energy generally experience better health outcomes and higher levels of economic development.

Kenya offers a compelling example of this relationship. Economic growth has driven electricity demand to a peak of 2,316.2 MW, with projections from the Least Cost Power Development Plan (2024–2043) indicating demand could reach 8,152 MW by 2043.

To meet this demand sustainably, Kenya has prioritized renewable energy, particularly geothermal power. Blessed with abundant resources along the Great Rift Valley, the country has emerged as a continental leader in clean energy. Reliable and resilient, geothermal energy will remain a critical pillar of Kenya's future energy security.

From the Agricultural Revolution to the renewable energy era, history offers a clear lesson: energy is the foundation of civilization and human progress.

**Mr. Limo is the Chief Superintending Geologist State Department for Energy, Ministry of Energy & Petroleum**



**Figure 1:** Energy Institute - Statistical Review of World Energy (2023), IEA, OWID, Gapminder, Bijou Insights and Liberty Energy

# Leadership beyond words

BY DR. ROBERT OGUTU

Leadership has become a buzzword words in business and public life. Yet despite the endless conversations about it, genuine leadership remains in short supply. Across organisations and institutions, we continue to witness a crisis of credibility, where leaders preach values they fail to practice.

Why does this happen? Many people aspire to leadership positions but overlook the discipline that true leadership demands. Effective leadership is not defined by titles, speeches, or authority. It is defined by consistency in values, behaviour, and character, both in professional and public life.

## Influence

At its core, leadership is about influence. Leaders are responsible not only for setting direction and making decisions but also for shaping organisational culture. Culture is built less through policies and more through everyday actions that signal what is truly valued. When leaders demonstrate true integrity, accountability, and respect, they establish a standard for others to follow. When these values are absent from their conduct, credibility suffers. Once credibility is lost, influence begins to erode.

Changing culture requires more than verbal commitment. It demands alignment between what leaders say and what they do. Employees and stakeholders pay close attention to how leaders behave, not only during official engagements but also in ordinary interactions.

These observations shape perceptions of authenticity and trustworthiness.

Consider the workplace. A leader who advocates teamwork and respect should extend the same courtesy to every employee, regardless of rank. Such consistency reinforces a culture of dignity and mutual respect because employees see the leader living the values they promote.



The opposite is equally true. A leader may frequently speak about accountability and punctuality yet consistently arrive late for meetings, miss deadlines, or avoid responsibility when mistakes occur. In reality, employees often recognise these contradictions. Over time, trust diminishes and the leader's message loses its power.

The same principle applies outside the workplace. A leader who promotes integrity and respect should demonstrate those values in public settings. Whether interacting with service workers, security personnel, or members of the public, respectful conduct strengthens credibility because it reflects alignment between words and actions.

Conversely, leaders who preach professionalism and ethical conduct but display abusive, reckless, or disrespectful behaviour in public quickly undermine their own authority. Such actions raise questions about the sincerity of the values they claim

to uphold.

Leadership does not require perfection, nor does it deny leaders a private life. What it demands is consistency in core values and public conduct. Leaders who understand this are better positioned to inspire trust, earn respect, and drive lasting change.

Ultimately, leadership by example is not situational; it is continuous. The most effective leaders understand that their influence extends beyond titles and workplaces, and they embrace the responsibility that comes with it. So, in leadership, stop telling us stories. Rise to the occasion, above board, let's see your actions.



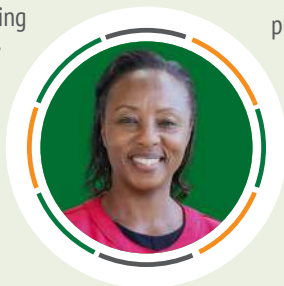
Others may advocate integrity while engaging in unethical practices through proxies, believing this shields them from scrutiny.

Dr. Ogutu is the Ag. Manager, Geothermal Resource Centre at GDC

# Building a healthier, happier workforce

**MRS. IRENE ONYAMBU**

In geothermal development, everything operates under pressure. Drilling schedules are tight, field operations span remote and demanding terrain, and the responsibility of delivering reliable clean energy never relents. In such an environment, one critical factor can easily be overlooked: the wellbeing of the people behind the work.



At the Geothermal Development Company (GDC), we endeavour to look at things differently.

A deliberate and structured staff wellness programme is taking root across the company- bit by bit. It reflects a growing recognition that organisational success is measured not only in megawatts generated and wells drilled, but also in the health, resilience and motivation of the workforce driving the mission.

## Healthy Employees

Guided by the reality that healthy employees build strong institutions, GDC is repositioning employee wellness from a support function to a strategic pillar of performance.

Football and volleyball tournaments, and fitness activities are helping to cultivate a culture of care, teamwork and connection.

The goal extends beyond physical fitness. It is about building a workforce that is engaged, connected and better

equipped to manage the pressures of a demanding industry.

Modern workplace wellness has evolved far beyond routine medical check-ups. Today, it encompasses physical, mental, emotional and social wellbeing. GDC's approach reflects this broader understanding, recognising that employee wellbeing and productivity are inseparable.

Indeed, as an organisation, we have established what we call "Performance Day" where all staff meet for sporting and bonding. Besides, on the mental aspect, every year GDC holds a scholarly symposium where different experts present conference papers.

Ultimately, the wellness programme, under the Staff Welfare portfolio, intentionally creates opportunities for employees to step away from operational pressures and interact in more informal settings. Whether on the football pitch, during group exercises or through wellness engagements, these moments foster stronger relationships, improve communication and break down organisational barriers.

This is particularly important in geothermal operations, where employees often work in remote locations and high-intensity environments. Isolation, fatigue and stress are real challenges. Structured wellness interventions provide not only physical relief but also emotional



■ Time to play... A section of GDC staff enjoying a game of football

support and a sense of community.

The benefits are practical as well as personal. Healthier employees mean fewer sick days, lower burnout rates, stronger morale and improved concentration. Over time, these outcomes contribute to higher productivity and reduced healthcare costs, making wellness a sound business investment.



**Across the company, wellness is increasingly becoming part of everyday work life through sports, recreation and health-awareness initiatives.**

In places like Paka, Baringo-Sitali area, our employees even get time to play with the host community. This is critical as it builds trust, understanding and goodwill.

Ultimately, the programme is about culture. It reflects a commitment to creating a workplace where employees feel valued beyond their output and where wellbeing is recognised as an essential ingredient of performance.

Our message and commitment is clear: people remain at the heart of GDC's success. And as organisations worldwide increasingly acknowledge, institutions perform best when their people are at their best.

**Mrs. Irene Onyambu is the General Manager, Corporate Services at GDC**

# Risk governance key to geothermal success

BY GODFREY SHITSAMA

Geothermal energy is a strategic pillar of Kenya's energy future. Yet only a fraction of the country's vast geothermal potential has been harnessed, reflecting persistent structural, operational and financial constraints. As recognised in the National Geothermal Strategy 2026–2036, challenges such as non-cost-reflective tariffs, operational complexity, lengthy approval processes and overreliance on public financing continue to impede sector growth.

These realities underscore a critical point: geothermal development is not merely a technical undertaking but a complex, high-risk enterprise that requires robust governance and integrated risk management systems.

At the core of Kenya's geothermal risk landscape lies resource uncertainty. Exploratory drilling remains inherently speculative, with the possibility of dry wells despite encouraging geological indicators. Institutions such as the Geothermal Development Company (GDC) have played a pivotal role in mitigating this risk by absorbing early-stage exploration costs and generating reliable resource data for investors.

Nevertheless, significant technical risks remain. Drilling in high-pressure, high-temperature environments presents operational challenges, while

hard rock formations can complicate well development. Long-term risks such as reservoir decline, well degradation and the accumulation of non-condensable gases may also reduce system efficiency over time.

Environmental and social risks are equally important. Geothermal development can affect ecosystems, water resources and vegetation if not properly managed. Projects also require land acquisition and, in some instances, community resettlement. These processes often create expectations around compensation, employment, infrastructure development and benefit sharing. When poorly managed, community trust can erode, threatening project continuity and the social licence to operate.

## Financial Governance

Financial and governance risks further compound these challenges. Geothermal projects demand substantial upfront investment, with drilling costs stagger at about US\$ 6.7 million per well. This capital intensity exposes developers to financing constraints, currency fluctuations and market uncertainties. Complex contractual arrangements, including power purchase agreements,

also require strong oversight to ensure transparency, predictability and investor confidence.

Addressing this multifaceted risk environment demands an integrated internal control framework built around four pillars: technical, environmental and social, financial, and governance controls. Technical controls should prioritise asset integrity through predictive maintenance and real-time monitoring. Environmental and social controls must emphasise emissions monitoring, water management, brand and stakeholder management and structured benefit-sharing mechanisms. Financial controls should strengthen budgeting, auditing and contract management, while governance controls must promote transparency, accountability and effective decision-making.

Ultimately, unlocking Kenya's geothermal potential will depend not only on resource availability or technological capability, but also on the strength of its risk governance systems. Without effective governance, the sector risks being constrained not by geology, but by its ability to manage risk.

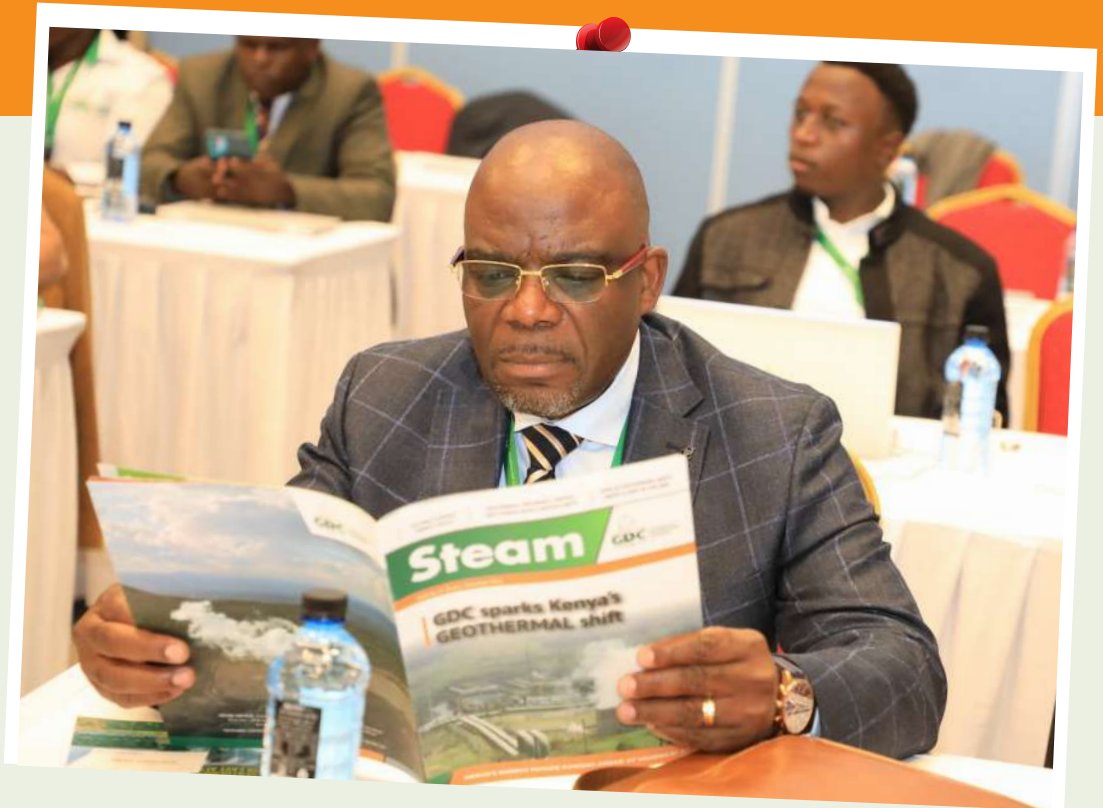


**Addressing this multifaceted risk environment demands an integrated internal control framework**

**Mr. Shitsama is the General Manager, Audit and Risk at GDC**



**A moment with STEAM:** Holintec SARL CEO Dr. Michael Mukengele explores the stories, innovations, and opportunities shaping the future of geothermal energy.



GDC staff and Kabarak University students pose for a photo at Mlima Punda, Menengai Geothermal project.



**Heat in action...** Resource Utilisation Technician, Mr. Justus Nyongesa, explains a point to GRO-GTP SDG Short Course VIII participants during a tour of the Geothermal Heated Greenhouse in Menengai.



Principal Geoscientist, Peter Mbia (*in blue*), walks the new management team through the Suswa Geothermal Project during their induction tour.



2026 GDC Geothermal Conference delegates pose for a photo at the Sosian Powerplant during a tour of the Menengai Geothermal Project.



Senior Geothermal Resource Assessment Technician, Mr. David Basweti (*centre*), leads Short Course VIII participants through a hands-on fieldwork session in Baringo using the Gravimeter.



Resource Utilisation Scientist, Laura Chepkong'a receives the Best Innovation Award from the GDC Board Chairman, Hon Walter Nyambati, at the 2026 GDC Geothermal Conference.



Senior Drilling Engineer, Eng. Wellington Kivure (*standing*), takes visitors through the drilling simulator located at the Menengai Geothermal Project.



**Sourcing for heat....** Senior Geoscientist, Mr. Lawrence Ranka (*left*) guides a GRO-GTP Short Course participant on collecting temperature readings.

## B2B: Where reputation capital is profits

BY VICTORIA MWAISAKENYI

In Business- to- Business (B2B) relationships, reputation often arrives before the proposal. Long before presentations are made or technical details unpacked, quieter questions shape decisions: Can they be trusted? Will their work withstand scrutiny? Will this decision hold up over time?

In public-sector engagements, these questions carry even greater weight. When governments procure services or engage external consultancies, they are not simply acquiring expertise, they are managing risk. In this context, reputation capital becomes indispensable.

For the Geothermal Development Company (GDC), which provides consultancy services to governments, parastatals and regional partners, reputation is neither abstract nor cosmetic. Reputation is rooted in operational discipline. In environments defined by strict procurement rules, routine audits, and personal accountability, credibility is inseparable from compliance, transparency, and professionalism.



“  
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is rooted in  
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discipline.”

Public officers operate under constant scrutiny. Every decision must be defensible - to auditors, oversight bodies, and the public. A credible partner is therefore one who understands and appreciates these dynamics and works within them seamlessly. In such spaces, informality rarely builds confidence; structure, predictability, and respect for process do.

GDC's reputation is shaped across the full consultancy lifecycle - from transparent bidding and well-structured contracts to traceable financial systems, disciplined reporting, and adherence to agreed scopes of work. These are not mere compliance exercises; they are risk-management tools that provide assurance to decision-makers.

Trust, in this setting, is practical. Trust is reflected in complete documentation, clear and recorded communication, and formal change management as projects evolve. It is reinforced through patience with public-sector timelines and a consistent refusal to bypass due process.

Yet reputation capital extends beyond systems and procedures. It is also built in moments - when risks are flagged

early, when challenges are owned, and when solutions are delivered without compromising rules. These interactions often define long-term credibility more than technical delivery alone.

As digital systems and audit frameworks grow more robust, the threshold for trust continues to rise. Reputation is no longer shaped by perception alone, but by verifiable records - clean audit trails, consistent governance, and ethical conduct.

For GDC, consultancy is not just about geothermal expertise. It is about being a partner that institutions can engage with confidence - delivering value while safeguarding both organisational integrity and public trust.

In B2B, particularly where public resources are involved, reputation capital is built consciously and sustained through consistency. It remains, quietly, one of the most valuable assets any organisation can hold.

**Ms. Victoria Mwaisakenyi is a Senior Officer, Geothermal Resource Centre at GDC**

## Be digital sharp

BY DUNCAN WACHIRA

Social media has become one of the most influential public spaces of our time. Platforms like LinkedIn, X, Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp shape conversations about leadership, innovation, and development. What is shared online can reach well beyond its original audience and often remains visible long after it is posted. In this setting, everyday digital behaviour carries a significance that extends beyond the personal.

Digital platforms have changed how influence works, shifting it from institutions to individuals. Clay Shirky, in *Here Comes Everybody: The Power of Organising Without Organisations*, points out that these tools allow people to connect, share information, and act together with unprecedented reach. A

single post, comment, or image can spark discussion, shape opinions, and invite scrutiny on a scale that would have seemed unimaginable just a decade ago.

Online identities often extend beyond the personal. Many users highlight their professional affiliations, workplaces, or industry roles on their profiles. As Victoria Turk explains in *Digital Etiquette*, traditional principles of courtesy and respect are equally important online. Tone, clarity, and thoughtfulness affect how content is perceived. Even well-meaning posts can be misunderstood if not considered in context and audience. Simple actions like reviewing a post before sharing it or pausing before replying can greatly improve positive online engagement.

For us as employees of GDC, this responsibility is even more important. Employees are often viewed as extensions of the brand. What they share online can influence public perception, trust, and credibility. In this context, mindful engagement is not just personal; it reflects



the values and professionalism associated with the organisation.

Respect and accuracy are vital parts of good social media etiquette. Impulsive reactions, inflammatory language, and cyberbullying rarely foster understanding and can cause lasting harm. Likewise, sharing unverified information can mislead audiences and damage trust. Taking a moment to check sources, consider context, and think about potential outcomes builds credibility and encourages thoughtful dialogue.

Each post, comment, or share contributes to a digital footprint that reflects personal character and often professional connections. By engaging online with awareness, respect, and consideration, individuals help create a space that supports meaningful conversation, trust, and responsible interaction in our increasingly connected world.

**Mr. Duncan Wachira is an Officer, Corporate Communication at GDC**

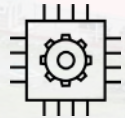
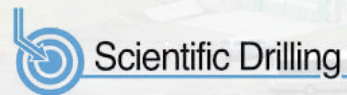


# 2026 Geothermal Conference

# Asante



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