

An inside view of the fully bricked kiln.

# PORTLAND NEWS DESK



Official Newsletter of the East African Portland Cement PLC

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## FROM THE EDITOR

It's now been a month since we launched this weekly publication aimed at updating Colleagues on what is going on in EAPC-PLC. It is worth noting that we have received support from every colleague called upon to contribute to this publication in one way or another. We have also received quite some good feedback from the readers.

This publication is meant to serve the interests of all 'Portlanders' and that is why we keep on encouraging you not to shy away should you have anything that you would like featured on Portland Newsdesk. Please, feel free to give your feedback and input by writing to [kelvin.gitonga@eapcc.co.ke](mailto:kelvin.gitonga@eapcc.co.ke) or calling extensions 5542 or 5142.



East African Portland Cement PLC

*— Holding Life Together —*

 Blue Triangle Cement     EAPC-PLC

## KILN SHELL REPLACEMENT PROGRESS

**THE KILN UPGRADE PROCESS WHICH BEGAN** in mid-July after the approval by the Board of Management is now coming to an end after the contractors officially handed over the project to the EAPC-PLC team. ~~The teams on site~~ commenced the process of laying refractory bricks that took approximately three days since the handing over. Another overhaul undertaken alongside the laying of refractory bricks is casting jobs at the flash furnace, riser duct cooler side casting, and calciner bottom at the pre-heater.

Technical Manager Theophilus Sitienei noted that the Kiln Shell Replacement Project has been seamless adding that the team had received maximum cooperation and support from everyone, from the Board of Directors, Management, and all EAPC-PLC employees. "With the completion of the bricklaying we should now wait for the firing of the kiln anytime from now", said Mr. Sitienei.

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# All Set for Kiln Restart

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Once the Kiln is fired, we expect constant and optimal running. This means that clinker production will increase significantly compared to our production before the Kiln Shell was replaced. According to the Manager – Sales and Distribution Mr. David Kilonzo, once we resume full operations all the way from Clinkering, we will be able to comfortably satisfy the needs of all our customers. He adds that together with his team, they have already approached and brought back all tier 1 and 2 customers who had to use other products as a result of inconsistency in the availability of Blue Triangle Cement.

“Blue Triangle Cement is a premium brand that is loved countrywide. We have received a lot of positive response from our customers after informing them that we are resuming full production”, says Mr. Kilonzo. He notes that the Commercial Team will soon be rolling out a robust Market Regeneration exercise aimed at achieving a 25% minimum market share in the short term. This will include recruiting good Trade Partners across the country who will work with the Area Sales Managers to ensure timely servicing of orders. He adds that the Company also aims at venturing into the export business. “According to me, with our

installed production capacity, the Kenyan market is not sufficient for us, that is why we are also turning our eyes to the East African market mainly Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda”, Mr. Kilonzo concludes.

- *By Yasmin Haroub - News desk Editor*

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**“WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE BRICKLAYING WE SHOULD WAIT FOR THE FIRING OF THE KILN ANYTIME FROM NOW.”**

- *Theophilus Sitienei - Technical Manager*  
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## EAPC-PLC Comes To The Aid Of Mutira Primary School, Helps Renovate Staff Houses

**THE COMPANY HAS ALWAYS VALUED** education as a way of preparing the young generations for the future. As a result, it has over time invested in ensuring that schools have the much-needed infrastructure to help them deliver on their mandate.

On Friday 2nd September 2022, through its Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative, the Company donated 200 bags of Cement to Mutira Primary School, a Public School in Kirinyaga County. The donation was made following a request from the school’s Board of

Management to the company for support in rehabilitating their staff houses that were in a very poor state. A team from the Commercial Department represented the company during the handover of the cement which took place at the school’s premises and was led by Sales and Distribution Manager Mr. David Kilonzo.

He was accompanied by the Area Sales Manager Mr. Peterson Gathungu and Ms. June Wangeci from the Marketing Section. They were received by a jovial community that included the school’s Board of Management, Teachers, Support

Staff, Parents, and Pupils. Speaking during the handover Ceremony, Mr. Kilonzo noted that Kirinyaga County is one of the areas where Blue Triangle Cement is widely used and as a responsible corporate, we need to give back to the community. He added that the company has the best interest of the future generation at heart and ensuring that their teachers are living in decent houses would contribute to their motivation and help them perform their duties diligently.

The school’s Principal Mrs. Nancy Ngari thanked the company for coming in aid of the school noting that the donation would really cut down the cost of the rehabilitation. She added that organizations like East African Portland Cement Plc that respond to such requests from humble institutions like her school really contribute a lot to nation building and this kind gesture would not be forgotten.

“I want to assure you that all construction projects in this school and those of my own will always be done using Blue Triangle Cement” concluded Mrs. Ngari.

- *By Kelvin Gitonga - Corporate Communications Officer*



Manager - Sales and Distribution Mr. David Kilonzo (2nd Right) hands over a bag of Blue Triangle Cement to Mutira Primary School Principal Mrs. Nancy Ngari.

# Pictorial



A Pupil from Mutira Primary School welcomes the EAPC-PLC team to the institution.



The team from EAPC-PLC brought with them not only cement but other goodies as well.



Mt. Kenya South Area Sales Manager Mr. Peterson Gathungu speaks during the Cement Handover function.



Manager - Sales and Distribution Mr. David Kilonzo (in blue jacket) gives his remarks.



Construction workers embark on the rehabilitation works after receiving the cement.



Mutira Primary School Board of Management, teachers, parents, pupils, and the team from EAPC-PLC pose for a group photo after the function.



Final works ongoing in the grate cooler.



We would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to Mr. Gilbert Mlambo – Mechanical Supervisor, Cement Mill 5 who is turning a year older today, 9<sup>th</sup> September. May God grant you a long and happy life.

## QUICK FIRE QUESTIONS

### Your favorite book and why?

The Bible has so many lessons. I take it as the acronym for **B**asic **I**nstructions **B**efore **L**eaving **E**arth.

### Three words to describe yourself

Meticulous, Honest, and Straightforward.

### What are you passionate about, outside of work?

(Smiling)....Farming, I love farming.

### Favorite meal?

Anything as long as it is properly cooked.... No Chinese Cuisine though.

### What kind of music did you grow up with?

I grew up listening to Gospel and those patriotic songs that were always being played by KBC Radio. However, these days I am purely a Gospel fan.

### The hashtag that describes you best?

None.

### Any hidden talents?

Mhhh.... Art, more specifically painting.

### Your biggest phobia?

Hopelessness. Lack of hope means that one does not progress, they just remain stagnant and desperate.

### A gadget that has changed your life?

The Computer. This is one gadget that has changed not only my life but the whole world. From communication, to research just to name a few.

### WhatsApp or texts?

Definitely WhatsApp. The ability to send multimedia messages is just exciting.

# Robinson Mukuba: Electrical Engineer, Clinkering Plant.

The WhatsApp Group thing is also pretty impressive.

### Favorite series/movie of all time?

TinTin!

### Do you have a motto?

Yes. Give your best in whatever you do.... am definitely talking about positive deeds (Chuckles).

### What was your nickname when you were younger?

I really do not remember having a nickname.

### What would your autobiography be called?

Pursuit for Excellence

### If you were the MD, name one thing you would make compulsory in the office and one thing you would ban in the office.

I wouldn't call it making it compulsory, but I would encourage the use of emails for communication by availing enough gadgets and software to all. I am really not sure what I would ban.

### You've just been elected Kenya's President today, what is one of the things you would focus on in your first

### 100 days in office?

I would review the agricultural policies. With agriculture being the backbone of our economy, it is really disappointing that we have to import things like wheat yet we have enough land to satisfy our market, probably even export.

### You're on death row, what would your last meal be?

(Laughing).....Mükimo

### Cats or dogs?

Definitely Dogs. They are an excellent company....they elate wellbeing.

### Where do you want to go more than any other place in the world?

Egypt. I would like to see all those pyramids of Giza, they are an architectural marvel.

### What is one personality trait you simply have no time for?

Dishonesty.

### Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram?

None really, I am subscribed to Facebook but I don't use it.

### Do you believe in organizing life or letting things just happen?

Organizing without a doubt. I think over and over and run a SWOT analysis of anything I do.

### Love or money?

Money, Let me quote Ecclesiastes, *Money is the answer to everything.*

### Describe what would bring you the ultimate happiness in life:

Living harmoniously with others.

### Parting shot?

This was a really nice session and I really enjoyed it. It has helped me brainstorm more about life.

- By Kelvin Gitonga - Corporate Communications Officer



Mr. Robinson Mukuba at the main power sub-station.