



# Kakamega County Water And Sanitation Company



NEWSLETTER VOL. 004

APRIL 2022

## Governor Oparanya Launches Ksh 17.2m Waste Water Treatment Facility In Mumias

**G**overnor Dr FCPA Wycliffe Oparanya has launched the Ksh 17.2 million Decentralized Waste Water Treatment Facility in Mumias town.

The amount was used for construction of the facility and 200 Safi-san toilets in low income areas within Mumias town.

He said the facility will help in handling waste water which has been a challenge to the town.

“I thank Water Sector Trust Fund for funding this project that will address the challenge of waste water in Mumias,” said Dr Oparanya.

He said the facility will serve at least 2,300 households in Mumias.

He noted that it is expensive to construct a sewerage system and the waste water treatment facility will offer an alternative.

“It will cost us at least Ksh 2 billion to construct the sewerage system in Mumias. However, with such facilities we have an alternative. We need

three more in Mumias to solve the issue of waste water management,” he said.

Mr Willis Ombayi, CEO Water Sector Trust Fund said his organization is committed to working with the devolved units to enhance water supply services and improving on sanitation.

He said apart from the Ksh 17.2 million facility, they have also given the County Ksh 65.2 million to cushion it from the effects of Covid-19.

“Recently we signed a partnership with KACWASCO to fund Malava water project at a cost of Ksh 19.8 million. We are grateful for the support and cooperation we get from the County,” said Mr Ombayi.

CECM for Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change Madam Rhodah Masaviru said the facility



**H.E Governor Dr Wycliffe Oparanya Unveils a plaque at the Decentralized Waste Water Treatment Facility in Mumias.**

is the first of its kind in the County.

“I thank the development partners for financing this projects that will offer solutions to many challenges posed by waste water,” said Madam Masaviru.

Ms Mary Kundu, Director at KACWASCO said the facility will solve issues of pollution of rivers which poses health

risks.

“Institutions within this area should take advantage of this facility to dispose their waste water so that we have a clean and healthy environment,” said Ms Kundu.

County Assembly Environment Committee chairman Hon Swaka Limeria asked development partners to consider rolling out similar projects in other urban Centers within the County.

Butere MP Tindi Mwale, County Secretary and Head of Public Service Amb. CPA James Ochami, CECM for Roads Mr Kulati Wangia, Chief Officers, CEOs led by Madam Christabel Ashiono (KACWASCO), MCAs, board members of KACWASCO and KACRUWASCO among other officials were present.



**Governor Dr Wycliffe Oparanya inspects the Decentralized Waste Water Treatment Facility in Mumias town.**

## Company invests in smart meters to save on revenue loss



### smart meter in use at Church House in kakamega town

The Company is implementing smart enabled water meters to save it from losing revenue due to consumers tampering with water meters.

According to the Company Technical Manager Mr Celcus Shilehwa, the Company is procuring standardized meters class C that are automated to deal with meter reading inaccuracies.

“We are introducing new meters to face out the old ones that their accuracy is low. Some of the meters are easy to tamper with so we are procuring new ones that can detect any fault to ensure we have accurate reading,” he said.

He said the old meters are prone to tampering by consumers and under registering of actual readings.

Mr Shilehwa said the Company is also adopting new technology which include mobile meter reading through an ERP system.

“The ERP system has integrated billing, finance, procurement and technical departments. Meter reading data is send directly to the billing module which is more accurate,” he said.

He noted that the system is able to detect any abnormalities in meter reading saying that this helps the Company to reduce on revenue loss.

# KACWASCO gets Ksh 19.8m funding for Malava water project

The Company and Water Sector Trust Fund have signed a partnership pact that will see WSTF fund Malava water project at a tune of Ksh 19.8 million.

WSTF CEO Mr Willis Ombayi said his organization is committed to supporting provision of clean and safe water to people in various counties.

“We also target to improve on sanitation to ensure we have proper disposal of waste material to avoid health risks to our people,” said Ombayi.

He noted that WSTF also supported the County with Ksh Ksh 65.2 million to cushion the water company from effects of Covid-19. “We also funded the Decentralized Waste Water Treatment Facility in Mumias at a cost of Ksh 17.2 million and we are committed to enhancing these partnerships to better the lives of our people,” he said.

Governor Dr Wycliffe

Oparanya appreciated WSTF for the funding noting that it will help in supplying water to residents of Malava as a way of achieving his Amatsi Khumukuru programme.

“I am aware KACWASCO and WSTF signed a funding pact last Wednesday to complete water project in Malava Sub County. This is a great milestone towards achieving our target of every homestead having clean and safe water by 2030,” said Dr Oparanya.

The Company acting CEO Madam Christabel Ashiono who represented the Company during the signing ceremony thanked WSTF for their support saying her Company is committed to working with WSTF to enhance water supply and sanitation services.

“As a Company we are grateful for this support. I want to assure WSTF that the money will be used prudently for the benefit of our people,” she said.



CEO Madam Christabel Ashiono during the signing of the partnership pact with WSTF

# Illegal Water Connections Robbing The Company Revenue



Some of illegal water connections in Kakamega town

Illegal water connections by consumers remain a major challenge to the Company leading to water and revenue loss.

Mr Celcus Shilehwa, the Company Technical Manager said illegal connections, self-reconnections, water theft, vandalism of water infrastructure and destruction of pipes by contractors are the main causes of loss of water and revenue.

“At least 44 per cent of water is lost every month to non-revenue water activities. This is a big loss but

as a Company we have put in place measures to address these challenges to ensure we reduce water loss and increase revenue collection,” said Mr Shilehwa.

He decried the rampant cases of illegal connections in Kakamega town saying some consumers have underground water tanks that make it impossible for the Company to detect.

He noted that road contractors have also made the Company face a lot of challenges as the contractors destroy water pipes and fail to inform the Company.

“Contractors do not inform us in advance on their plans to construct the roads so that we can also plan in advance to close the water line to avoid water loss. If they inform us in advance we can as well plan how to keep our pipes safe not to be destroyed and vandalized,” he said.

He added: “As a Company we have enhanced crack-down through the enforcement and security section to arrest the suspects especially those engaging in illegal connections, water theft and vandalism. If we get them we surcharge them for the damages and water lost. We are also sensitizing our customers not to tamper with our meters.”

**WATER LOSS CLASSIFICATION**

PHYSICAL	COMMERCIAL
Pipe bursts	Illegal connection
Vandalism	Metering inaccuracies
Leakages	Data handling errors
Tank overflows	Authorized unbilled consumption.

**REPORT ANY CASE OF WATER LOSS IN YOUR AREA**

# CEO Interacts With Lubao FM Listeners



CEO Madam Christabel Ashiono at Lubao FM

The acting CEO Madam Christabel Ashiono interacted with radio listeners sharing the Company efforts and progress made to ensure every homestead gets clean and safe water.

Speaking during a live radio interview at Lubao FM, the CEO said the Company is committed to supplying water to its jurisdiction of over 30,000 consumers.

“As a Company we are licensed and regulated by WASREB and we have our area of jurisdiction which we are licensed to supply water,” said Madam Ashiono.

She noted that the Company is licensed to supply water in Kakamega town, Mumias, Shinyalu and Shitoli areas.

“We also supply water under Lumakanda, Malava, Butere and Murhanda schemes. Other areas are covered by the rural water company,” she said.

She used the opportunity to highlight some of the key projects the Company has done and the ongoing projects including construction of the five million liter capacity storage tank, Lwakhupa water project in Navakhola, Musembe Water Project in Lugari among others.

“We are focusing on containerized water treatment plant like the one at Musembe to be rolled in all sub counties. Very soon we will be launching construction of three such projects in three sub counties,” she said.

The CEO also had the privilege of responding to inquiries and questions raised by the listeners from across the County

## Accessibility Of Services Made Easier And Cheaper



## The Love For My Work Drives Me To Work During Odd Hours

After every two minutes, Carl Rudolf is on phone call responding to inquiries being made water consumers in Kakamega town.

Rudolf who is the acting Distribution Supervisor for Kakamega area said he starts his day at 5.30am by visiting consumers who have challenges to get water.

“I am supposed to

report to work at 8am but due to the nature of my work I start my daily duties at 5.30am. During this time I visit consumers to address various issues affecting water supply,” said Rudolf.

He said most clients call him when they do not have water which might have been caused by blocked water line and a lot of air in the line.

“Most of the time I get my tasks on the Company’s phone app.

I ensure I attend to them on time to ensure our consumers are satisfied. I get many calls from consumers; some I attend to them personally and others I refer to artisans within that zone,” he said.

He noted that one of the challenges he faces is transportation from one point to the other which has



Carl Rudolf at the Milimani main water reservoir

forced him to use his personal motorbike to easy mobility while on duty.