



NEWSLETTER VOL. 018

# Kakamega County Water And Sanitation Company



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## GOVERNOR OPARANYA COMMISSIONS SH 108M LUMINO DAM WATER PROJECT



**H.E Governor Dr Wycliffe Oparanya opening water tap during the Commissioning of Lumino Dam Water Project**

**G**overnor H.E Dr FCPA Wycliffe Oparanya commissioned Sh108 million Lumino Dam Water project in Likuyani Sub County.

Dr Oparanya said the project that will provide a lasting solution to perennial water shortage problem encountered by residents has a capacity of producing 1.5 million litres per day.

“The water project I have commissioned has a capacity of 1,500 cubic meters equivalent to 1.5 million litres of water per day which is far beyond the current demand of 850 cubic meters per day,” he explained.

He added that the project will serve 30,000 persons, translating to 5,000 households, for the next 20 years.

The Governor noted that Sh7 million has been set aside to facilitate connection of residents to piped clean and safe water from the project.

“We have already connected 28 households to water including a 100-year old Mama Elizabeth Mbaisi who will enjoy supply of water from the project free of charge,” he added.

He said the ever growing County population exerts more pressure and demand for water in rural and urban areas adding that plans are underway to set up a water project in each of the 12 sub counties to satisfy the demand.

The Governor noted that the County has already connected Ivugwi Secondary and Ivugwi Primary schools to water adding that Lumino and Lusweti Secondary, Lumino and Lusweti Primary schools and Lumino Dispensary will also be connected to water.

He asked County Administrators to work hand in hand with officers from the Department of Water to ensure smooth implementation of water connection exercise to residents.

“My target is to ensure that 11,000 households are connected to water before I leave office,” he said.

Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change CECM Madam Rhodah Masaviru said she was impressed with the progress the Department is making in achieving Governor’s dream of ensuring that majority of residents are connected to piped water.

She thanked the Governor for his support towards implementation of water projects and Department’s staff for their commitment.

CECMs, MCAs, Chief Officers led by Engineer Philip Otenyo (Water), CEOs of County Corporations led by Ms Christabell Ashiono (KACWASCO), Chief of Staff Mr Isaac Omungo and Directors were present.

***Maji Safi Maisha Bora - Quality Water Healthy Livelihood***

## KACWASCO To Embrace Technology In Production And Supply Of Water

The Company is now targeting new technology in production and supply of water to its consumers.

The acting CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono said the Company is considering its plan B of water production and management of the sewerage system.

She noted containerized water treatment facilities which uses modern technology and uses small space will be considered- in implementing new water projects.

“We want to embrace modern tech-

nology that is cheaper to increase water production and supply. We are in discussion with Mena Water Company on how best we can do it,” said Ms Ashiono.

The CEO noted that the Company is considering to revive its old water treatment plants at Savona and Shitoli by incorporating the new technology.

She said once the two plants are revived, there will be enough water supply in Kakamega town ending shortage of water and rationing programme.

“Once we revive the two water treatment facilities then water rationing will be a thing of the past for us,” she said.

The old water treatment plant at Savona and Shitoli each has a capacity of producing 6,000 cubic meters (six million litres) of water per day.

Coupled with smart meters and technology in billing, Ms Ashiono said the Company will be able to enhance its operational performance and improve on its revenue collection.

## KACWASCO Embarks On Improving Sewer Line In Kakamega Town

The Company Waste Water team has embarked on ambitious programme to maintain the sewer line in Kakamega town in an effort aimed at enhancing sanitation.

Mr Amos Wanjala, the Company's Waste Water Supervisor said his team is focusing on rehabilitation of the line to unclog blocked line, extension of the line to areas which they had not connected and expansion of the line by laying a 12-inch pipeline to replace the old 8-inch line.

He said that apart from unclogging they have also upgraded the pipeline at Otiende Estate from an 8-inch pipe to a 12-inch pipe to reduce cases of blockage as the line serves the whole town.

“The sewer line had accumulated silt which blocked passage of waste water from town discharging it into the nearby farms and river posing serious health and environmental risks,” said Mr Wanjala.

He said they are also doing extension of the sewer line in Amalemba to serve at least 100 households.



**KACWASCO Waste water management team unclogging the sewer line**

He added; “Apart from this, we also do normal maintenance of the sewer lines by unblocking them, reconstruction of existing manholes and construction of new manholes.”

He acknowledged that their work has been made easier with the availability of materials like required pipes at the Company.

He however noted that they face some

challenges caused by surface runoffs which are connected to the Company's sewer line that makes it to block within a short period.

“Due to population growth within Kakamega town most people have connected surface runoff to our sewer lines thus affecting it when it rains making it to block and this exposes residents to health hazards especially when they start licking,” he said

The Company acting CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono said the Company is committed to fixing the sewerage system in the entire Kakamega town to protect the public and the environment and improve on sanitation.

“As a Company, we are determined to ensure a healthy and clean environment. We are patrolling our sewer line within the town to fix any cases of leakages that might pose risks to the public.”

The CEO asked the public to support and work closely with the Company by reporting bursts and leakages on water and sewer lines to help the Company address such cases on time.

## Eng. Otenyo: Development Of Water Infrastructure Is Our Priority



### Chief Officer for water Eng. Philip Otenyo in his office

He is a member of the Company's Board of Directors (BOD) by virtue of being the Chief Officer for Water.

Eng. Philip Otenyo said his role as a member of the BOD is to represent the interests of the County Government and his Department of Water in particular.

He noted that his priority as a member is to ensure KACWASCO has the required infrastructure for supply of water and provision of sanitation services.

"KACWASCO is fully owned by the County Government and we have a great role to ensure it performs its duties effectively to deliver on its mandate," said Eng. Otenyo.

He said construction of the five-mil-

lion capacity water tank at Lirhanda is one of the projects that will quench thirst from Kakamega town dwellers.

To connect water from the tank to Kakamega town, he noted that they have allocated Ksh 100 million in this financial year budget to lay the pipeline from tank to Milimani tanks in Kakamega town.

Eng. Otenyo said to win the fight against Non-Revenue Water (NRW), the Company has to invest in proper infrastructure.

"Our resolve is to reduce the high rate of NRW. We have set aside funds to enable the Company buy new pipes to rehabilitate the old ones that are prone to bursts and leakages," he said.

On sanitation, Eng. Otenyo said his Department is considering establish

has done a lot that other MDs have to learn from her.

"For the short time you have been at the helm of KACWASCO, we have seen tremendous growth of the Company. As ELDOWAS we will be coming to Kakamega for benchmarking," said Biwott.

Decentralized Water Treatment facilities in major town to improve on sanitation services.

"We have recommended some partners to offer financial support to the Company to establish these facilities in towns within the County," he said.

For him, containerized water treatment is the way to go to ensure rural folks get piped clean and safe water at their doorsteps.

He said they have constructed two containerized water treatment plants at Musembe in Lugari and Lumino in Likuyani with two more to be constructed at Butwehe in Ikolomani and Nandamanywa in Shinyalu.

"We want to construct such facilities in all the 12 sub counties to enable the Company supply water to all the citizenry as per the Governor's promise of Amatsi Khumukuru," he said.

And to address water shortage and rationing in Kakamega town, the Chief Officer revealed plans to revive the old water treatment plants in Kakamega town and Shitoli to enhance the supply of water.

"Apart from providing the financial muscle to the Company and supporting its projects, we also have a duty to check on the financial performance of the Company that is why we have Chief Officer for Finance as a member of the Board," Eng. Otenyo said.

### In Brief...

ELDOWAS Managing Director Mr Peter Biwott has praised KACWASCO acting CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono for her commitment to ensure operational efficiency and enhanced service delivery.

He noted that Ms Ashiono who is the only lady among all WSPs CEOs/MDs



ELDOWAS Managing Director Mr Peter Biwott (L) and Ms Christabell Ashiono (R)

## Butere Scheme: What We Do Right To Surpass Our Revenue Target



**Butere Scheme Manager Mr Alfred Juma (R) during a meeting at KACWASCO Boardroom**

**B**utere Scheme has continued to record improved revenue collection surpassing its daily and monthly targets.

She Scheme's revenue collection has improved from Ksh 200,000 to over Ksh 500,000.

The Scheme Manager Mr Alfred Juma attributes this improvement to individual and collective responsibility by staff and support from the Company's Management.

"I was posted here when billing and revenue collection was low. I was not demoralized, rather, I took it as a challenge to put measures to improve performance," said Juma.

He noted that part of the efforts to enhance performance was rehabilitating water infrastructure to ensure more people are connected to water supply and also enhancing supply of water to the existing customers.

"Most of our boreholes were dysfunctional. The few functional boreholes could not sustain or meet the demand by our customers. Some lines had become old and dilapidated affecting

distribution. Others had been vandalized," he explained.

He said that through the support from the Management, they acquired and installed new pumps to boost distribution of water.

Mr Juma said that he has heavily invested in empowering his staff to enable them carry out their day-to-day duties efficiently and effectively.

"I work closely with my staff to ensure we deliver on our mandate. I have embraced an open-door policy to give them a platform to share their views that can improve our performance," he said.

He noted that he has gone an extra mile to engage former employees and casual laborers to comb the area to identify dry lines and dormant accounts for negotiations to bring back customers and repair dilapidated lines.

He said that all these efforts have brought more customers on board leading to high billing figure and subsequently high revenue collection.

"I have stood with the Company through intense lobbying to retain or get customers," he said.

He thanked the Company's Management for being supportive and collaborative by giving them the required resources upon request to ensure customers get water without delays or interruptions.

The Company acting CEO Christabell Ashiono on her part acknowledged and appreciated Butere Scheme for its sterling performance in revenue collection.

## Joy As Residents Of Likuyani Get Clean And Safe Water

**R**esidents of Likuyani ward in Likuyani Sub County can now enjoy clean and safe water following the commissioning of Lumino Dam Water Project.

Speaking during the commissioning of the project, Governor Wycliffe Oparanya revealed that at least 5,000 households will benefit from the project among them a 100-year-old Mama Elizabeth Mbaisi.



**H.E Governor Dr Wycliffe Oparanya (L) opening water tap with one of the beneficiary of the water project**

Beneficiaries of the project were unable to hide their joy saying that the project will end their long suffering in search of clean water.

"I have been using water from the borehole which is unsafe because we do not treat it and this pose health risks to us. I am happy that I have been connected to clean and safe water. I thank the Governor for this project," said Sarah Nyongesa, one of the beneficiaries.

Already 28 households and institutions have been connected and Ksh 7 million has been allocated by the County Government to connect more people.



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