

Governor Oparanya advises Water firms to use technology in production and supply of water



Mena Water CEO Mr Atif Gafar making presentation on modern water technology. BOTTOM LEFT: H.E Dr Wycliffe Oparanya following the presentation keenly

Governor H.E Dr Wycliffe Oparanya has urged the Department of Water in the County to embrace new technology in production and supply of water.

He said the new technology known as containerized water treatment process uses limited space and is able to supply clean and safe water to hundreds of residents.

“Containerized water treatment facilities use modern technology and it is the way to go to ensure we have enough water to supply to our people both in urban and rural areas,” said Dr Oparanya.

The Governor who was speaking during a presentation by Mena Water Organization team noted that vandalism of water infrastructure has contributed to the challenges facing the sector.

“Most water projects have failed due to vandalism of the infrastructure but we are committed to ensure security

of the equipment used in water supply,” he said.

He said the County Government has opted to solarization of major water projects to cut on costs and ensure people get clean and safe water.

The Governor said use of electricity has posed a lot of challenges as it is expensive to pump water.

“One of the major challenges we face as a country in production and supply of water is use of electricity which is very expensive. This has made it impossible to connect people especially the rural folk to quality pipe water,” said Dr Oparanya.

Mr Atif Gafar CEO Mena Water said containerized water treatment facilities have been adopted in various countries including Ethiopia and Sudan to cut costs of water production and supply.

Kakamega County Water and Sanitation Company (KACWASCO) acting CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono

appreciated the Governor for being at the forefront to ensure the Company adopts the new technology.

“We are excited with this new technology and once fully adopted it will increase water production and reduce on the costs. I thank the Governor for supporting this process,” said Ms Ashiono.

She said the Company will ensure use of a similar technology in sewer management.

KACWASCO Board of Directors chairman Prof Laban Ayiro said the Company is committed to ensuring that Dr Oparanya’s promise of clean and safe water to majority is achieved adding that they were willing to use technology that can cut down on costs and ensure effectiveness.

County Secretary Ambassador CPA James Ochami, CECMs led by Madam Rodah Masaviru (Water), Chief Officers led by Eng Philip Otenyo (Water), KACWASCO senior management staff among other officers were present.

Thank You For Your Sacrifices, CEO Tells Production Team



Water Production Team during training

Acting CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono has recognized and appreciated efforts by water production team in ensuring customers get clean and safe water.

While addressing the production team from Tindinyo, Nambacha and Kipkaren during their training in Kisumu, she noted that the team sacrifices to work 24 hours to ensure customers get quality water free from contamination and as per the schedule without delay.

“I thank you for your efforts that have seen KACWASCO improve on its operational efficiency and performance,” said Ms Ashiono who addressed the training through zoom.

The session for the production team marks the end of training for whole Company workforce as every staff has been trained in their respective field of work.

The CEO affirmed the willingness and readiness by the Management to facilitate and support all staff in their line of duty to enhance performance and

offer world class services.

She urged the staff to evaluate their own performance to be able to rate themselves and their contribution towards the overall performance of the Company.

“I urge every staff to do self-evaluation on his/her performance on a daily basis to check on work done and achievements made,” she said.

The staff thanked the CEO for her visionary leadership that has seen major turn-around of the Company in performance, operational efficiency and revenue collection promising to work extra hard to meet the Company’s targets.

Issa Kassim, Production Supervisor at Nambacha Water Treatment Plant and her Tindinyo counterpart Ms Judy Mwathi acknowledged the CEO for the support for smooth running of the facilities.

Mr Ezekiel Asera (ICT Manager) and Mr Stanley Wetende representing Human Resource Manager were present.

CEO promises reward for staff who will report illegal connections

The Company has promised incentives for staff who will report illegal connections.

Acting CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono said every staff who will report any case of illegal connections will get Ksh 1,000.

She noted that the move aims at reducing illegal connections which largely contributes towards the high rate on non-revenue water which stands at 44%.

“We have been giving Ksh 500 to staff who report such cases but in this month of July we have a special package to enable our staff do their best in dealing with this vice,” said Ms Ashiono.

The CEO also promised amnesty to all who will be found with illegal connections in their homesteads.



Ms Christabell Ashiono addressing KACWASCO Staff

Mr Bush Orondo, the Quality Assurance Manager said the move to offer incentives targets to deal with the high and increasing number of illegal connections noting that illegal connections continue to pose serious challenges to Water Service Providers (WSPs) across the country.

“Our target is to deal with illegal connections that continue to rob us revenue. Once we deal with illegal connections, we will be able to generate more revenue,” said Mr Orondo.

They were speaking during staff kamukunji meeting at the Company.

I Will Be KACWASCO's Ambassador At My New Workstation -Ms Wasaba

Joining KACWASCO as an ICT Assistant did not stop Ms Linet Wasaba from scaling the heights of her career.

Her skills coupled with the right attitude, desire for growth and passion for work have seen her rise through the ranks at the Company.

Ms Wasaba leaves KACWASCO as the Human Resource Manager having worked tirelessly to rise to the rank terming it both career, personal and Company growth which provided her the opportunity to gain enough skills and experiences in her life.

She has been appointed as the Manager, Human Resource and Development at Lake Victoria North Water Works Development Agency (LVNWWDA).

"I joined KACWASCO in 2006 as an ICT officer doing billing. In 2018 during restructuring I started doing billing and customer care services," said Ms Wasaba.

In 2010, she was encouraged by the then CEO Eng. Peter Njaggah to further her studies to enable her qualify for more opportunities at the Company.

"In 2010, I enrolled for my degree at MMUST. The same year the Executive Secretary for the CEO went for maternity leave and I was deployed to hold the position briefly," she said.

She added; "The then HR was sacked and the Customer Service Manager was deployed to act in that office. I was also seconded there to serve as HR officer."

The Customer Service Manager served for six months and left leaving Ms Wasaba to act as the HR Manager and officer until a new HR Manager was recruited.

Luckily, in 2016 when Kakamega

-Busia Water Supply Company was split, Ms Wasaba got the opportunity to sail through to the helm of the HR office at KACWASCO.

"In 2018, I did the interview and I was confirmed as the HR Manager. I have served the position to this time I am leaving the Company for other duties," said Ms Wasaba.

For Ms Wasaba who is always smiling, hiring of competent staff for the Company is one of her achievements saying the workforce at KACWASCO has the required skills, knowledge and competencies to deliver on their roles and duties.

She encouraged the employees to work with passion and commitment for their personal and Company growth.

She said she managed to work under five different CEOs attributing it to her cordial working relationship with them.

"My word to staff is that I value attitude compared to skills because if one has the right attitude then he/she will put the skills in right use," she said.

To her successor, she gives her secret for work; "Keep the employees motivated, understand them, be patient with them and provide an avenue for them to share their views and listen to them. This is the best medicine to keep off industrial unrest at the Company."

And as she leaves KACWASCO, Ms Wasaba heaps praises of the acting CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono for her coaching and mentorship approach to staff and work.

"Ms Ashiono has been very supportive. She is a coach and mentor to me. She always wants the best out of me and all staff," she added.



Ms Wasaba stepping out of her HR office at KACWASCO

Ms Wasaba noted that KACWASCO sharpened her skills and provided her a conducive environment for growth promising to be the Company's ambassador at her new workstation.

"I will use the skills, experiences and knowledge gained at KACWASCO to better the society. I am leaving KACWASCO a better place than I found it," she said.

She said she managed staff who were supportive of her roles making her work easier appreciating her Deputy Mr Stanley Wetende for his humility and excellent teamwork.

WASREB CEO Visits KACWASCO



Acting CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono (C), WASREB Ag. CEO Mr Joseph Keter (R) and representative of LVNWWDA Eng. Dickson Opiyo (L) during a meeting at her office

Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB) acting CEO Mr Joseph Keter visited KACWASCO for a familiarization meeting and supporting the water firm on capacity building.

He noted that his organization will use KACWASCO as a pilot Company on how to regulate rural schemes in water supply.

“KACWASCO is playing a critical role in ensuring people get clean and safe water. Our visit aims at supporting the Company in capacity building to ensure it performs its operations efficiently,” said Mr Keter.

While addressing KACWASCO key management team, he urged them to have targets that will help them get enough resources to run operations and for implementation of projects.

KACWASCO acting CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono while appreciating the team for the visit noted that the Company will use the opportunity to create a cordial working relationship with the regulator to enhance its operations.

“I thank WASREB for issuing us with a license. We are looking forward for

a cordial working relationship that will help us increase our efficiency, comply with the regulations and also improve on our services,” said Ms Ashiono.

She asked WASREB and Lake Victoria North Water Works Development Agency (LVNWWDA) to support KACWASCO in infrastructural development and in reducing non-revenue water from the current 43% to the required standard of 25%.

Eng. Dickson Opiyo representing CEO LVNWWDA said his Agency is ready to support KACWASCO in water infrastructure to ensure it meets its obligations.

The WASREB team later held a consultative meeting with the Governor H.E Dr FCPA Wycliffe Oparanya, County Secretary and Head of Public Service Ambassador CPA James Ochami and CECM for Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change Madam Rodah Masaviru.

Mr Keter lauded the Governor for his keenness and support towards ensuring majority of the County residents get clean and safe water.

“I thank the Governor for ensuring Kakamega is the first County to embrace legislation and policy towards water service provision,” said Mr Keter.

He noted that it was a noble idea and initiative for the County to establish a rural water company to supply water to the rural folks stressing on the importance of supporting the Company achieve its mandate.

WASREB pledged to support the two WSPs in the County towards improving performance both in capacity building and funding opportunities.

“I appreciate the efforts of KACWASCO acting CEO to forge a good working relation with WASREB and LVNWWDA as this will go a long in helping KACWASCO achieve its operational and infrastructural development plans, comply with our regulations and improve on its performance,” he said.



WASREB Ag. CEO Mr Joseph Keter Addressing KACWASCO senior officers



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