



Kakamega County Water And Sanitation Company



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KACWASCO Revives Shichirai Water Borehole To Increase Water Supply



Kakamega Area Manager Mr Idd Osundwa at Shichirai water borehole

The Company has revived its Shichirai borehole to increase water supply and connectivity.

Already the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) team drawn from Kakamega Area have embarked on the process of rehabilitating and replacing the old water lines to start water supply to customers.

According to the Area Manager Mr Idd Osundwa the borehole which was initially being operated using a diesel generator has not been in use since 2010.

“It was found to be uneconomical to continue using generator to pump water from the borehole to serve the small number of customers who were relying on this water. We opted to use water from our Milimani storage tanks,” said Mr Osundwa.

Mr Osundwa noted that over time population in the area has tripled

and with more development activities coming up such as incoming Shichirai Market and bus park necessitating the need to revamp the borehole and the old line to meet the ever-growing demand for water.

Basing on the water supply schedule Shichirai relies on the 50 Cubic meters tank receiving water twice a week.

He said the borehole is still in good condition and with power supply it is able to pump up to 5,000 liters of water per hour translating to 60,000 liters in 12 hours enough to serve the area ending water rationing.

“I am confident that once the rehabilitation works are done and the borehole is operational, Shichirai will be assured of daily water supply. Hours of supply and customer satisfaction levels are likely to increase,” he said.

The O&M team is finalizing digging of trenches before laying two-inch HDPE pipes to replace the old ones

connecting the borehole to the storage tank.

Ahead of anticipated increase in volume and hours of supply in the area, the Area Manager is planning to conduct sensitization meetings with residents and the local leadership to inform them on the same.

From about 300 active accounts, he anticipates to attract 500 more accounts from new applicants and activation of accounts on dry lines.

“We are projecting increase in revenue collection and customer confidence in our service. We are appealing to those with dormant accounts to consider visiting our offices to clear their balances ahead of connection and re-connections exercise,” he said.

Due to high cost of electricity, Mr Osundwa said moving forward they would consider solarizing the borehole operations and only use electricity on need basis.

Maji Safi, Maisha Bora - Quality Water, Healthy Livelihood

CEO Warns Private Plumbers Against Illegal Activities



Ag. CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono (C), Mr Bush Orondo (L) and Ms Mary Mariga at the Company's headquarters in Kakamega

Acting CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono has warned private plumbers against interfering and vandalizing water infrastructure. She noted that the plumbers are engaged in illegal activities that deny genuine customers enough water supply.

“Some people are sabotaging our efforts of ensuring our customers get water as planned. Most of the suspects are private plumbers because they have technical knowledge that enable them interfere with our pipeline,” said Ms Ashiono.

She added; “I give a stern warning to those planning to interrupt our services that we have launched a crackdown and those who will be found culpable of such illegal activities will face dire consequences.”

The CEO said the Company will soon roll out a programme to register private plumbers for them to engage in legal business.

She attributed the high rate of illegal

connections and theft of water to the plumbers noting that the Company will not spare them to if they continue with the vice.

Mr Bush Orondo, the Company's Quality Assurance Manager said some people close valves on the main water distribution line.

He said two suspects have been arrested and will be arraigned in court. “Following complaints from our customers, we have arrested two suspects who close the water valves to block water flow in Kakamega town. They will be dealt with according to the law,” said Mr Orondo.

Ms Mary Mariga, the Customer Service Manager urged customers to report cases of suspicious works on the water line to the Company for action.

“I urge our customers to be on the watch and report any people who intend to disrupt water supply and those who interfere with our water line,” said Ms Mariga.

KACWASCO To Plant Trees At Its Nambacha Water Treatment Facility

The Company has started plans to plant trees at its Nambacha Water Treatment Plant to conserve the environment.

According to acting CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono, the Company has a duty to protect its water catchment areas and sources.

She said if they leave the catchment areas degrade then the Company will lack enough water to supply to its customers.

“We have a duty to conserve the environment especially our water catchment areas to protect them from degradation which might cause drying up of water sources leading to drought and thus denying us enough water for our customers. We are committed to conserving the environment to support global efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change,” said Ms Ashiono.

She added: “During the exercise we expect to plant at least 500 tree seedlings as a way of protecting our water catchment area and conserve the environment.”

Shikundi: The Senior Driver Steering 'Heavy' Vehicles

Mr Bernard Shama Shikundi looks cheerful as he narrates his story following his promotion to the position of a senior driver at the Company in July due to his exemplary work dating back to 2006, when he joined KACWASCO.

Shikundi said he is grateful for his new position, his duties being to ensure that all vehicles are assessed before and after service and handle any related concerns before they are presented to the Transport Manager.

“I feel humbled being in this position because it shows that the dedication, I have always put towards my job has been recognized. It is a good move because I have enough experience in driving and I promise to execute my duties efficiently. I will always value and respect everybody and attend to them without favoritism,” said Mr Shikundi as he smiled.

Mr Shikundi started his journey at KACWASCO as a driver based at Mumias Area with his duties involving transporting Area Manager, operation and maintenance team and chemicals.

He added that he could at times engage himself in fixing pipes and meter reading whenever the vehicle broke down, which gave him an opportunity to gain experience in plumbing, saying he always fixes pipes by himself whenever a need arises.

He said after three years as a driver at Mumias, he was later transferred back to the headquarters.

“I was moved to Kakamega in 2009. Kakamega Area is a busy working environment due to the high population. I also had to gain more experience since Kakamega was a big town



Mr Benard Shikundi

and required a lot of keenness when driving,” he narrated.

Mr Shikundi, who currently drives the new water bowser that was recently presented to the Company by the County Government of Kakamega under Governor H.E FCPA Fernandes Barasa, said in 2014 he was then assigned to drive the old water bowser before being tasked to drive the exhauster.

“Driving a water bowser is very challenging. It requires the driver to be very careful because with just a small mistake, you end up causing an accident. Personally, I am happy because driving has made me traverse many places in Kakamega County,” he said.

He added: “Driving the exhauster has been a challenge too, as it is considered a dirty job and you may end up being mocked by others. It only requires sacrifice and commitment to do the job.”

Mr Shikundi, who is an ardent Chelsea Football Club supporter and KACWASCO FC assistant coach, noted that he is among the best footballers at the Company having partic-

ipated three times in WASCO games since its inception in 2014.

“I love football. I am proud to have had the opportunity to go for trials at Shah Agency FC in Naivasha in 2003, where unfortunately, I wasn't selected. Through WASCO games I have had the chance to travel to places I never imagined,” he noted.

Mr Shikundi noted that apart from his normal chores at the Company, he also ventures in maize and sugarcane farming back at home, which supports him in sustaining his family.

He acknowledged acting CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono and other top managers for their unwavering support.

“I want to appreciate our CEO for being understanding, hardworking and supportive. She is the reason as to why all of us are up to the task,” he acknowledged.

He called upon his colleagues to be committed to their work, take good care of the Company vehicles and always adhere to traffic rules.

KACWASCO Commits To Support Conservation Of River Yala



Yala Water Fund Programme officials pose for a group photo at KACWASCO

The Company has committed to support programmes targeting to conserve water catchment areas to protect water sources from degradation and destruction.

Acting CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono pledged that KACWASCO will take the central part in the Yala Water Fund Programme that will conserve water catchment areas in the region.

“KACWASCO stands high chances of benefiting from this Programme because if we allow our water sources to dry up then we will not have water for our customers,” said Ms Ashiono.

River Yala is the main source of water for the Company as it gets its water from Tindinyo in Nandi County.

The CEO said the Company will provide an office space for the Programme to enhance its operations and coordination.

Ms Stella Wanjala, the Lead person for the Programme said the Programme targets to conserve the environment as part of the efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The Programme has attracted other partners including the County Government of Kakamega, WWANC, Nature Conservancy, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST), WARA, Lake Victoria North Water Works Development Agency among others.

CEO To Enumerators: Give Us Credible Information From The Survey

Acting CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono has asked enumerators who are conducting Customer Identification Survey (CIS) to provide credible information to the Company.

She said information from the survey will help the Company to improve and enhance service delivery.

Speaking during the training session for enumerators who will conduct the Survey in Mumias, Shitoli and Shinyalu areas, the CEO warned them against forging information saying such vices will be punished.

“This Survey is key for the Company to enable us establish and understand our customers. We don’t expect cooked figures and misinformation because this will be dealt with accord-

ingly,” said Ms Ashiono.

She urged the enumerators to also report cases of illegal connections saying they will be rewarded Ksh 1,000 for every illegal connection they unearth.

The CEO also asked them to report incidences of pipe bursts and water leakages.

She said the exercise has strict timelines and targets which each enumerator should observe.

“Ensure you meet your targets and on time,” she said.

Commercial and Finance Manager CPA Edwin Bukweye noted that the exercise will be done in the shortest time possible to enable the Company implement the findings.

The Company has also conducted a similar exercise in Kakamega area and is expected to roll it out in its Schemes.



Ag. CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono addressing CIS enumerators



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