



# Kakamega County Water And Sanitation Company



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## H.E FCPA Barasa Visits KACWASCO



### KACWASCO acting CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono briefing Governor H.E FCPA Fernandez Barasa at the Company's Boardroom

**T**he Governor H.E FCPA Fernandes Barasa visited KACWASCO for a familiarization tour.

The Governor promised to support the Company to effectively and efficiently deliver on its mandate of provision of clean and safe water and sanitation services. "Water is one of our priority areas and we are committed to ensuring more people access clean and safe water at their doorsteps," said H.E Barasa.

He noted that his administration will work with the Company on areas of improvement to enhance quality services.

CECM for Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change Dr Marriam Barasa said her department will involve all stakeholders in a bid to resolve challenges facing the sector.

KACWASCO acting Board Chairperson Ms Mary Kundu revealed plans by the Company to use technology to improve on services.

He used the occasion to flag off three newly acquired vehicles by the Company to improve on its operations.

Earlier, the Governor opened WASPA Bi-Monthly meeting at Golf Hotel.

The meeting brings together top management of Water Service Providers (WSPs) across the country and other stakeholders.

The Governor in his address said the Council of Governors will meet to deliberate on ways to engage the National Government with a view of reducing taxes imposed on WSPs.

"CoG will address the matter to ensure the taxes are reduced. Water is a Constitutional right that every Kenyan should enjoy," said H.E Barasa.

He noted that his government has increased budgetary allocation to water Department to increase water connectivity in the County.

"We will adopt solarization of our water schemes to reduce on the costs of water production," he said.

County Secretary Dr Boniface Okoth, Chief Officer for Water and Sanitation Ms Jessica Weku, WASPA team led by CEO Mr Anthony Ambugo, CEOs/MDs for various WSPs led by KACWASCO acting CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono among other dignitaries were present.

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



## WASPA, KACWASCO Plant Trees To Conserve Water Sources



**KACWASCO Ag. Chairperson Ms Mary Kundu planting a tree during the event**

**W**ASPA, KACWASCO and other stakeholders in the water sector planted trees at Musembe Dam containerized water treatment facility in a bid to conserve water sources from degradation.

Speaking during the exercise, WASPA CEO Mr Anthony Ambugo said as key players in the water sector, they are committed towards protecting and conserving water catchment areas and water sources.

He noted that the move is also part of the efforts by the Head of State H.E Dr William Ruto to have at least 5 billion trees planted in the next five years.

“We are heeding to the clarion call of our President to plant more trees to increase our forest cover. This will also help us conserve our environment and mitigate the effects of climate change,” said Mr Ambugo.

The CEO decried the increased taxes and levies on Water Service Providers (WSPs)

asking the Government to have the levies lowered to enable Kenyans access water at affordable rates.

He said plans are underway to engage relevant stakeholders with a view of having the taxes and levies dropped or harmonized for the benefit of water users.

KACWASCO acting CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono said 1,000 trees will be planted at the water facility in a bid to restore forest cover in the area.

“I call upon the community to take a leading role in this noble course of planting trees. As a Company, we have rolled out an intense programme on tree planting exercise at our water sources, water treatment facilities and schools,” she said.

Ms Mary Kundu, a member of KACWASCO Board of Directors asked Kenyans to restore the forest cover by planting more trees.

Her words were echoed by Chief Officer

for Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change Mr Justin Mutobera who said there is need to protect the environment.

He said they will create public awareness on the importance of conserving the environment and water sources.

His Water and Sanitation Services counterpart Ms Jessica Weku Wesonga said the County Government will roll out a programme to connect 8,000 to clean and safe water every year.

Earlier, the team paid a courtesy call on the Governor H.E FCPA Fernandes Barasa to discuss matters affecting the water sector.

The Governor promised to support the sector by initiating discussions with other relevant sectors to help in addressing challenges facing the sector.

The team later held a procession in Kakamega town to sensitize the public on matters related to the water sector.



## KACWASCO, Sirwa Water Project Group Meet To Discuss Water Connectivity



**KACWASCO top management led by Ag. CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono during the meeting**

**K**ACWASCO top management led by acting CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono held a meeting with Sirwa Community water project management to discuss ways of harmonizing services in order to ensure residents access clean and safe water.

Sirwa Water Project group is a community-based Organization established in 2015 aimed at setting up a water project to serve Sirwa Community residents.

The CEO thanked the organizations' management for their willingness to work with KACWASCO.

She said KACWASCO had done a pipeline extension of over 3Km from the Yala storage tank towards Sirwa aimed to achieve more customers on board in a bid to ensure customers get clean and safe water. Over 100 customers were targeted for new connections, already half of the number have been connected.

“As a Company we are mandated to provide clean and safe water to residents

and since most of the water in Kakamega comes from Tindinyo, it is important we also give back to Tindinyo area, this is an important initiative which will help us connect more residents to clean and safe water,” she said.

She advised the management of the Organization to make sure their group is active and share their information with

Tindinyo Scheme manager, come up with a work plan constituting of Community sensitization and survey in order to have a proper road map for the cooperation.

“KACWASCO is ready to work with community groups not only in increasing water connection but also environmental conservation since the groups will help us reach more people at the grassroots,” she added.

Sirwa Community water Chairperson Mr Evase Benson thanked KACWASCO top management for agreeing to work with them in ensuring Sirwa residents' access to clean and safe water.

“We were in the inception stage of establishing Sirwa water project but faced challenges and couldn't connect residents to water but we are excited of the pipeline extension as our people will now get water, a dream we desired 8 years ago,” he said.

Eng. Celsus Shilehwa (Technical Manager), Ms Mary Mariga (Customer Service Manager) and Ms Celestine Shollei (Tindinyo Scheme Manager) were also present.

## KACWASCO Extends Pipeline In Tindinyo To Serve Over 100 New Customers

**T**he Company is extending its water pipeline in Tindinyo to connect more people to clean and safe water.

Scheme Manager Ms Celestine Shollei noted that her team embarked on the initiative to extend the line from Sirwa Posta to Kapkatoi Primary School.

“We are targeting at least 100 new connections. This will increase our area of coverage to serve more people and also increase revenue collection,” said Ms Shollei.

She noted that she projects that the connections might increase due to the high demand for clean and safe water in the area.



## MCA's Promise To Support Kacwasco To Enhance Water Services

Members of Kakamega County Assembly (MCAs) have promised to support Kakamega County Water and Sanitation Company (KACWASCO) to meet its mandate of supplying clean and safe water and provision of sanitation services.

Speaking during a consultative meeting between the Company's Management and the Assembly's Finance Committee and Environment, Water and Climate Change Committee members, the MCAs who were taken through the tariff development process and the Company's reviewed tariff structure, said they will support the Company in creating awareness in the public about the tariff.

They said lack of information about the reviewed tariff had raised public outcry but they having understood the process and structure, they will be at the forefront to sensitize the public on the tariff.

They noted that they will mobilize resources by pushing for additional budgetary allocation for the Company to improve on water and sewerage service provision in the County.

Hon Boniface Osanga (Chairman, Finance Committee) and his Environment Committee counterpart Hon Boaz Omukunda said they will also help in sensitizing the public on the importance of using clean and safe water.

"I urge the Company to work with us as a team as we target to ensure residents get quality services. We have listened carefully what the Company has presented to us and we want to assure everybody that we will work together to help address the challenges facing the Company," said Hon Omukunda.

He noted that they will call for a consultative meeting with stakeholders in the water sector to discuss ways of improving services in a bid to achieve the 'Amatsi Mumuliango' programme being spearheaded by the Governor H.E FCPA Fernandes Barasa.

Hon Osanga affirmed that as MCAs they will focus their energies in helping the Company mobilize funds to run to enhance their operations.

"Our main focus is to ensure our people get clean water. We will do our best to ensure the Company gets required sup-

port to enhance its operations and run effectively," said Hon Osanga.

The MCAs were also taken through the Company's financial reports and the Company management agreed to be submitting financial reports to the Finance Committee as required by law to enable proper oversight by the County Assembly.

The Company's acting CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono urged the MCAs to be at the forefront to support the Company meet its mandate.

She told the legislators that the major limitation of the Company in fulfillment of her mandate is lack of funds.

She cited the revival of the Company's old treatment plants as being limited by lack of funds. The revival will boost water supply to a very large extent.

"As a Company we are ready to work with all stakeholders so that we meet our mandate of supplying clean and safe water to our people. We appeal for support to enhance our operations," said Ms Ashiono.



**KACWASCO Ag. CEO Ms Christabell Ashiono addressing MCAs during the meeting**



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