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SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) # 343
6TH – 10TH DECEMBER 2021

CABINET SECRETARY SIGNS WATERFUND'S FY2021/2022 PERFORMANCE CONTRACT

Sicily Kariuki (Mrs.) E.G.H., Cabinet Seretary, Ministry of Water Sanitation and Irrigation (MWSI) presided over the signing of performace contracts for the FY 2021/2022 for all water sector institutions. The event took place at Athi Water Works Developent Agency head office.

During the signing, Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund) led by Amb. Dr. Mary M. Khimulu, MBS, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, pledged to execute its manadate to assist in financing the development and management of water and sanitation services in the marginalized and underserved areas. Witnessing the signing was independent Trustee Dr. Dominic Biwott.

Present during the event were Ministry officials including Mr. Joseph Irungu, C.B.S, Principal Secretary and Eng. SAO Alima, Water Secretary. They were joined by other senior officials from the water sector.



Amb. Dr. Mary M. Khimulu, MBS, (left), Sicily Kariuki (Mrs.), E.G.H, (centre), Mr. Joseph Irungu,C.B.S., (3rd left) and Dr. Dominic Biwott (right) WaterFund Board of Trustee, during the signing of WaterFund's PC FY 2021/2022

ROYAL DANISH AMBASSADOR COMMISSIONS KIZINGITINI WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT IN LAMU COUNTY

On 8th December 2021, Mr. Ole Thonke, Royal Danish Ambassador to Kenya, as the chief guest, officially commissioned Kizingitini Water and Sanitation Project in Lamu County. The Ambassador was accompanied by Dr. Andrew Tuimuiri, Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS), MWSI, H.E Fahim Yasin, Governor, Lamu County and Mr. Ismail Shaiye, Chief Executive Officer, WaterFund.

Lamu County is one of the beneficiary counties under the Green Growth and Employment Programme (GGEP). Major components of the Kizingitini project include laying of a 21.1km pipeline, 50,000-litre elevated steel tank, 4 no. 4-door sanitation block and handwashing facility, rehabilitation of existing 30,000-litre sump tank, construction of a perimeter fence for the water station and supply and installation of solar generator.

Kizingitini Water and Sanitation project has been funded by WaterFund with financial support from Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) to the tune of KSh. 40.5 million. As a result of this project, a total number of approximately 4,657 people from Kizingitini location, Faza ward will have improved access to water and sanitation.

In attendance during the commissioning were representatives from the County Government of Lamu and WaterFund team.







(Left picture) Dr. Andrew Tuimur, CAS, MWSI and Mr. Ole Thonke, Royal Danish Ambassador to Kenya during the commissioning. (Middle and right pictures) The delegation poses for group pictures

STAFF AND GUEST COLUMN

PROCUREMENT LAW AND WATER PROVISION IN THE VILLAGE

By Robert Adala

A well-worded memorandum justifying and requesting for approval of the field activity is drafted by programme team leader. This document then goes through one or two rungs up the hierarchy ladder for concurrence and finally to the Chief Executive Officer for final approval.

The CEO's signature carries with it a lot of hope – akin to a guaranteed pay cheque – that not only sets the journey to the field rolling, grants some facilitation for the project officers, but also approval of the activity itself. The sturdy brown off-road vehicle leaves Nairobi early in the morning and officers are upbeat ready to discharge their duties in the village away from the city. Today, the plan is to bring lofty, seemingly abstract procurement laws down to earth.

Three hours later, the vehicle negotiates a corner at the gate of the humble Kalundu Chief's camp in Kitui Central Subcounty, Kitui County, where the Water Resources Users' Association (WRUA) is hosted. The Procurement Committee members of the association who had waited for some time come out to welcome us, all looking expectant with smiles on their faces. A makeshift meeting room is set up under the tree since all of us cannot fit into the one-roomed office.

The session begins. The main objective is to clarify to our good friends how to buy things in an unusual but legal way. Avoiding use of the full name which goes by the tongue twister crafted by our learned friends, *The Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act*, we start by breaking down to them this monster. And that they have to know and use this thing in getting contractors for the projects and to avoid many questions from Nairobi.

The participants have watched on television often and recall that when you do not follow the law, one might be summoned to visit detectives at the Department of Criminal Investigations headquarters along Kiambu Road. They also tell us that some people from Nairobi (to mean from the WaterFund office) ask for many things. Some they know by name and others by physical appearance only. Of course, they understand that that is in the line of duty.

In this new column, the editors welcome article submissions from staff and other stakeholders on work-related or relevant topical issues

Still, they seem perplexed and would like to understand the connection between this law and getting water into their village sand dam – water comes from the air above and this law is on paper. They also mention that such big construction projects are done by a rich person with some good money and big earth moving machines.

The participants tell us that they know some local people who can do good work. Can't they simply tell them to provide the price for the work and after a short time the dam will be ready? Not exactly, we persuade them, but the process according to the law is going to essentially accomplish that. This law will help them get a good person or company who can construct the dam.

One of the participants then asks if this procurement law is also written in the Kikamba language, much like the way *Mbivilia Ũvoo Mũseo* is written in the local dialect for ease of reading and understanding. We smile and politely shake our heads, but clarify that both the Water Resources Authority (WRA) and WaterFund will support them in meeting all requirements of the law.

The mentoring session concludes, an action plan is developed and at the end of the day we are all in agreement. The bottom-line is that we must get water to the underserved communities by embracing best practices. ■

Mr. Robert Adala is a Programme Procurement Specialist at WaterFund, under the Rural Investments section. He has a keen interest in writing on topical experiences.