Water Sector Trust Fund

Financing the Water Sector

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SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) # 403
27TH FEBRUARY- 3RD MARCH 2023

H.E. DR. WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO PRESIDES OVER THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2023

On 2nd March, 2023, H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, C.G.H., the President of the Republic of Kenya, joined by H.E. Rigathi Gachagua, Deputy President and Dr. Dorcas Rigathi, Second Lady, presided over the International Women's Day (IWD) celebration 2023 which took place at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre. This year's theme was" *DigitALL*: *Innovation Technology for Gender Equality*". IWD is a global day marked by celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equity.

During the event, H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, C.G.H., spearheaded the launch of the following initiatives: Women Enterprise Fund, an online platform that seeks to eliminate bureaucracies and intermediaries that bar women from accessing loans; removal of the 45-day waiting period to ensure instant cash disbursement upon loan request and increased funds from KShs. 4.5 Billion to KShs. 13.5 Billion annually to increase the number of women groups benefitting from the fund. In addition, during his speech, the president reiterated on his commitment to championing the actualization of the two-third affirmative bill that will ensure more women take up leadership roles. Further, to empower women who are the backbone of the economy in the country.

Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund) joined the rest of the world in commemorating this event through attending and sensitizing the public on gender mainstreaming policies in our country, and the importance of practicing gender equity. Also present during the IWD celebration were: Hon. Esther Passaris, Nairobi Women Representative, Hon. Aisha Jumwa, Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action, Hon. Alice Ng'ang'a, Chairperson, Parliamentary Committee, Social Protection, Hon. Anne Waiguru, Governor, Kirinyaga County, and, H.E. Johnson Sakaja, Nairobi Governor among other high-level dignitaries.



H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, C.G.H., the President of Republic of Kenya, giving his key-note speech during the event



H.E. Rigathi Gachagua (left), Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, during the IWD celebration



WaterFund Gender Committee members pose for a picture at the KICC grounds during the IWD celebration

WATER SECTOR TRUST FUND HOLDS ITS QUARTERLY STAFF MEETING

On 3rd March, WaterFund held its quarterly staff meeting to discuss pertinent staff matters including cross cutting issues from management committees. The meeting created a platform for staff to have an interactive session and also take part in various sensitization sessions. These included: Presentation on implementation of NSSF new rates; Presentation on the WaterFund's pension scheme, and awareness on Gender-Based Violence; Mental health; and Road safety.



Mr. Willis Ombai, Ag. CEO WaterFund addressing staff members during the quarterly meeting



Ms. Naomi Gichana, Legal Officer, Retirement Benefit Authority, makes a presentation on WaterFund's pension scheme



Staff listening in on matters presented at the meeting

WATERFUND HOLDS A CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH 4LIFE SOLUTIONS

On 1st March 2023, WaterFund held a meeting with representatives from 4Life Solutions to deliberate on possible areas of collaboration. 4Life Solutions is an organization seeking to solve the problem of access to safe drinking water, using Sodis technology. This technology purifies microbial-contaminated water for drinking using SaWa (Safe Water) bags; a well-proven Danish invention, that is an affordable solar-based, safe drinking water solution, for people in low-income communities. During the meeting, deliberations were held on possible avenues of collaboration in order to accelerate the distribution of the SaWa bags. This potential partnership will aim to: reach more people with safe drinking water; incorporate the Sodis technology in the existing WaterFund programmes; partner in future carbon trading projects; and development of joint proposals with WaterFund in the core aspects of innovation research, underwater resources, and climate change investments.



Mr. Elly Ochere, Ag. Manager, Research, Planning and Management, giving his remarks during the meeting



(Left) Mr. Steve Otieno, Regional Manager and Development and (right) Mr. Per Gjode, Regional Director (right), 4Life solutions



Participants keenly following the proceedings of the meeting

BLAST FROM THE PAST: FEATURED IN SITREP #205- EVALUATION OF WATERFUND'S PERFORMANCE CONTRACT BY THE MINISTRY OF WATER, SANITATION AND IRRIGATION

WaterFund's Situation Report No. 205 (SITREP #205) covered the period **1st to 5th April, 2019.** Among the highlights was that, during the week, meetings took place as follows: Quarter performance review between WaterFund and the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation for Performance Contract.

For this issue and all previous SITREPs, please visit: https://waterfund.go.ke/sitreps