# Water Sector Trust Fund

*Financing the Water Sector*

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# SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) # 406

## 20TH – 24TH MARCH 2023

## WATERFUND CHAIRMAN OFFICIALLY INTRODUCES THE NEW CEO

Mr. Bill Lay, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees (BoTs), Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund), officially introduced Mr. Willis Ombai, the new CEO, to the institution. Following an intensive 3-month recruitment period by the Board of Trustees, Mr. Ombai emerged as the most suitable candidate and was thus confirmed as the substantive CEO. He held the CEO's position in an acting capacity from February 2022, having joined WaterFund in September 2015, as the Chief Manager, Investments and Programmes.

During the meeting, the Chairman and the BoTs, congratulated the CEO on his appointment, and wished him well in his duties. The Board of Trustees symbolically handed him key regulatory instruments of the institution. This included the Constitution of Kenya, The Water Act 2016, WaterFund identity documents and the approved Human Resources instruments. In his speech, Mr. Ombai appreciated the Board of Trustees and management for their support, and pledged his commitment to high level institutional performance. He also emphasised on team spirit and unity of purpose in execution of the institution's mandate, noting the immense donor confidence WaterFund enjoys. He also pledged to keep up resource mobilisation for the sustainability of the institution.



*Mr. Bill Lay (standing), Chairperson, WaterFund Board of Trustees, giving his remarks during the meeting*



*Mr. Willis Ombai (centre), CEO, WaterFund giving his remarks during the meeting*



*From Left: Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO, Mr. Abdalla Hassan, Mr. Bill Lay and Dr. Mary Wambui, WaterFund BoT members, handing over the key regulatory instruments to the CEO*

## PRINCIPAL SECRETARY COMMISSIONS A WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT AT UHURU PARK

On 21st March, 2023, Dr. Kipronoh Ronoh, the Principal Secretary, State Department of Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation (MWSI) commissioned the first Waste Water Treatment Plant at Uhuru Park. This project has been financed by the Government of Estonia and Space drip to the tune of KShs. 30 Million and is set to benefit approximately 1,000 people.

The Waste Water Treatment Plant was conceptualized after a state visit to Kenya by the former President of Estonia, H.E. Kersti Kaljulaid, in September 2021; where he pledged to partner with Kenya in implementing an advanced Waste Water Treatment Technology, by piloting a Decentralized Waste Water Treatment and Reuse System. The system is designed to treat raw sewage water in Uhuru Park and convert it into clean water for irrigating the park's lawn, thereby reducing the need for portable water usage for the same purpose.

In this regard, in collaboration with WaterFund, Space drip partnered with Ruji Africa Limited to work on technology-related issues of the project. Speaking at the Commissioning, Dr. Kipronoh

Ronoh praised the technology terming it a great innovation that doesn't require large tracts of land to implement. He also assured those present that the Ministry will adopt the technology as one of its innovations due to the locally available materials. Present during the commissioning were: MWSI officials, Mr. Bill Lay, Chairperson, WaterFund, Mr. Abdalla Hassan, WaterFund BoT member, Delegation from the Republic of Estonia and representatives from Ruji Africa Limited.



*Dr. Kipronoh Ronoh, PS, State Department Water and Sanitation, MWSI, giving key-note speech at the commissioning*



*Dr. Kipronoh Ronoh (Left), PS, commissioning the Waste Water Treatment Plant at Uhuru Park*




*Representatives from Republic of Estonia, Ruji Africa and WaterFund pose for a photo at the commissioning.*

## WATERFUND PARTICIPATES IN THE 2023 WORLD WATER DAY IN SAMBURU COUNTY

The Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation (MWSI) in collaboration with water sector institutions joined the rest of the world in celebrating the 2023 World Water Day, that was held at Lodokejek primary in Samburu County. World Water Day (WWD) is an annual United Nations (UN) observance day held on March 22nd every year, since the year 1993; which advocates for promotion of responsible use of water and access to safe water for everyone. For this year, the 2023, the theme focused on "*Accelerating Change*".

The celebration of 2023 WWD kicked off with a site visit to Yamo Dam in Maralal, Samburu County, which is in its second phase of implementation, phase one being 100% complete. Speaking during the WWD celebrations, as the chief guest, Dr. Kipronoh Ronoh, Principal Secretary, MWSI, expressed his satisfaction with the progress of Yamo dam, noting that resource mobilization for the second phase was underway to cater for water treatment and sewerage. The project is set to benefit approximately 64,000 households in Samburu County. In his speech, the PS encouraged the leadership of Samburu to implement a cost-effective and decentralized waste water treatment and reuse system. This technology will allow water to be recycled and used for irrigation and other purposes, making it a more sustainable alternative to conventional treatment methods.

### *WaterFund's Participation in the Celebrations*

To commemorate the day, WaterFund had an exhibition where staff members sensitized the public on its mandate and highlighted the interventions WaterFund is undertaking in Samburu County; under its Ending Drought Emergencies: Climate Proofed Infrastructure (EDE-CPIRA) Programme which has been funded by The European Union. WaterFund has provided financial support to Samburu County towards the implementation of Garma-Mugur and Nkutek Elmuget Water Supply Projects targeting over 25,000 beneficiaries at a cumulative total cost of KSh. 127 Million.

During the event, WaterFund staff sensitized the public on its Customer Service Delivery Charter and its commitment to engaging with stakeholders, which can be measured in terms of service rendered, customer obligations, user charges and timelines. In addition, sensitization on HIV/AIDS, alcohol and drug abuse was undertaken to create awareness on prevention measures of HIV/AIDS and substance abuse within the population of the County.



*From left to right: Dr. Paul Ronoh, PS, MWSI, with Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO WaterFund, and Mr. Samuel Gitau, General Manager, Corporate Services, at WaterFund's exhibition*



*Water Sector Officials present during the 2023 World Water Day celebrations*



*Participants follow keenly the proceedings of the World Water Day*




*A community member from Samburu takes a keen interest in WaterFund's information materials*



*WaterFund staff having one on one interactions with the public at the exhibition stand*





*Sensitization of WaterFund's Customer Service Delivery Charter*



*WaterFund staff issuing condoms to the public after sensitizing them on the preventive measures of HIV/AIDS*




## BLAST FROM THE PAST: FEATURED IN SITREP #208- WATERFUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES INDUCTION BY MANAGEMENT

WaterFund's Situation Report No. 208 (SITREP #208) covered the period 23rd to 26th April, 2019. Among the highlights was that, Water Sector Trust Fund management held an induction meeting for the new Board of Trustees (BoT) that took place on 24th to 26th April, 2019 in Mombasa. The purpose of the induction meeting was to usher in the Board of Trustees into the Fund, give them an overview of each of the Fund's departments and to discuss their expected roles and responsibilities in order to support WaterFund's mission, vision and values towards the organisation.




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