Water Sector Trust Fund

Financing the Water Sector

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11TH – 15TH AUGUST 2025

WATERFUND AT THE 2ND BIENNIAL DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2025 IN HOMA BAY COUNTY

Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund) participated in the 2nd Biennial Devolution Conference held on 11th to 15th August 2025 at Homa Bay High School in Homa Bay County. The theme for this year was *'For the People, For Prosperity: Devolution as a Catalyst for Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice.'* The Conference offered an exceptional opportunity for delegates to network with key stakeholders; exchange best practices; and contribute to policy recommendations that will shape the next phase of Devolution and enhance transformational service delivery in the Counties.

H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, C.G.H., President of the Republic of Kenya, officially opened the Conference on 13th August 2025, as the Chief Guest. In his remarks, the President underscored the transformative role of devolution, noting that it has promoted equity through fair distribution of resources and helped address historical inequalities. He reiterated the government's firm commitment to strengthening devolution for enhanced service delivery, stressing a zero-tolerance approach to corruption, which he termed an obstacle to both development and democracy. He further urged leaders to prioritize the interests of Kenyan citizens above personal gain and to dedicate themselves to serving the people.

The President also called for stronger collaboration, encouraging national and county governments to work together with transparency and accountability to reinforce and advance devolution

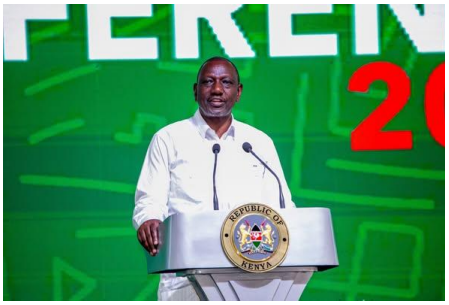
Showcasing WaterFund's Impact: Contributions to 12 years of Devolution

As a strong advocate for the devolution process, WaterFund partnered with the Council of Governors by taking part in the 2nd Biennial Devolution Conference. During the event, WaterFund reiterated its commitment to advancing equitable access to safe water and dignified sanitation services. The delegation was led by Dr. Erick K. Rutto, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees (BoTs), accompanied by Hon. Marselino Arbelle, Mr. Andrew Mbithi, Mr. Barako Qatamur, and Ms. Josephine Eragae, BoT's representatives; who actively engaged with members of the public and County leadership. These interactions underscored WaterFund's steadfast dedication to fulfilling its mandate.

Throughout the conference, WaterFund engaged with various stakeholders and delegates and showcased its success stories, innovations and contributions towards the 12 years of Devolution. Notably, WaterFund's stand attracted the presence of H.E. James Orengo, Governor of Siaya County, who was accompanied by Mrs. Betty Orengo, First Lady of Siaya County, and Prof. Jacqueline Oduol the County Executive Committee Member for Water, Environment, and Natural Resources, Siaya County. Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO, WaterFund, held a constructive discussion with the Governor on the status of projects funded by WaterFund in Siaya County under the Urban Project Concept (UPC), which seeks to address water and sanitation needs in low-income urban settlements. He reaffirmed the Governor of WaterFund's continued support in Siaya County with a goal of ensuring equitable access to clean water and improved sanitation services.

The engagement underscored WaterFund's commitment to strengthening partnerships with county governments to accelerate devolution gains and deliver sustainable water solutions for

communities across Kenya.



H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, C.G.H., President of the Republic of Kenya, giving his key note speech at the opening ceremony



H.E. Prof. Kithure Kindiki, Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, addressing the delegates at the closing plenary



RT. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga, former Prime Minister of Kenya, giving his remarks on day 2 of the devolution conference



H.E. FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi, EGH Chairperson, Council of Governors (CoG) giving his welcoming remarks at the conference



H.E. James Orengo (second right), Governor of Siaya County and Mr. Willis Ombai (far right), CEO WaterFund at WaterFund's exhibition stand



Dr. Erick K. Rutto (right), Chairman WaterFund Board of Trustees at WaterFund's exhibition stand



Mr. Andrew Mbithi (second right), and Hon. Marselino M. Arbelle (far right), Members of WaterFund Board of Trustees at WaterFund's exhibition stand



WaterFund staff engaging with the public at the exhibition stand during the devolution conference









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