Water Sector Trust Fund

Financing the Water Sector

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STRENGTHENING WSPS FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE UNDER THE KWASH PROGRAMME

The Kenya Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Program (K-WASH), a government-led initiative funded by the World Bank, aims to expand sustainable access to improved water and sanitation services, eliminate open defecation, and strengthen the financial and operational performance of Water Service Providers (WSPs) across 19 Counties. Within this framework, Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund) is mandated to support the implementation of Result Area 3 (RA3): Strengthening the operational and financial performance of WSPs in the participating counties.

As part of the implementation of the K-WASH Programme, WSPs are expected to access commercial financing to support investment initiatives. To facilitate this, the Programme has developed a Lenders Toolkit that provides commercial banks with practical insights into Kenya's Water Sector, focusing on WSP operations, regulatory frameworks and lending procedures to facilitate investment. In support of the above, the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation (MWSI) in collaboration with WaterFund organized for a Lenders Toolkit Validation Workshop which brought together key stakeholders, including Government Agencies, World Bank, County Governments, nine WSPs and Commercial Banks.

During the workshop, Eng. Simon Korir, Director of Water Infrastructure at the State Department for Water and Sanitation, reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to achieving universal access to water and dignified sanitation services by 2030. He emphasized that this goal can only be realized through effective collaborations that align with the country's economic strategy, the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

In his remarks, Mr. Willis Ombai, Chief Executive Officer of WaterFund, underscored the institution's dedication to expanding access to safe and reliable water services in underserved regions of Kenya. He commended the commercial banks for their participation and urged Water Service Providers (WSPs) to expedite the completion of their funding requirements, including securing county endorsements, to ensure they fully benefit from the financing opportunities available.

Ms. Pascaline Wanjiku, Senior Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist at the World Bank, reiterated the readiness of partner banks to support the selected WSPs. She encouraged all stakeholders, including commercial banks, to undertake a short impact creditworthiness course as a means of strengthening their financial standing and enhancing access to sustainable financing.



Eng. Simon Korir, Director of Water Infrastructure Development, MWSI, making his remarks



Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO WaterFund, making his opening remarks



Ms. Aileen Castro, Water and Sanitation Specialist, World Bank



Ms. Pascaline Wanjiku, Senior Water Supply and Sanitation, Specialist World Bank



Ms. Veronica Wanyora, representing Council of Governors, giving her contributions during the workshop discussions



Workshop pariticipants posing for a group photo after the workshop

WATERFUND STAFF SENSITIZED ON MATRIX OF LAWFUL CONSEQUENCES FOR INFRACTIONS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

On 25th August, WaterFund convened a staff sensitization and dissemination session on the Matrix of Lawful Consequences for Infractions in the Public Service. The initiative stems from a circular issued by the Public Service, which seeks to decisively shift the entrenched culture of tolerance for inaction and inertia, factors that have long undermined the speed and quality of services delivered to citizens.

Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO WaterFund, opened the session by emphasizing the importance of accountability, discipline, and efficiency in driving a results-oriented culture within the institution, noting that adherence to these guidelines is key to strengthening public trust and improving service delivery. Mr. Paul Atwa, Manager, Human Resource and Administration, reiterated this call by highlighting the need for staff to internalize the provisions of the matrix and apply them in their day-to-day conduct as public servants. Collectively, their remarks set the tone for the session, underscoring the organization's commitment to fostering integrity and upholding the highest standards of professionalism in public service.

Presentations during the session addressed various categories of infractions across operational and governance areas. These included breaches under the: Public Finance Management Act; administrative lapses; audit queries; procurement-related issues; and performance-related shortcomings. The discussions also highlighted consequences for non-compliance and workplace misconduct, conflicts of interest, as well as the guiding principles of the Leadership and Integrity Act within the public service.

The sensitization session not only clarified the provisions of the Matrix of Lawful Consequences but also reinforced WaterFund's alignment with the principles of accountability, transparency, and integrity in the public service. By strengthening institutional discipline and governance, WaterFund continues to enhance its ability to deliver quality services efficiently and effectively.



Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO WaterFund making his opening remarks during the sensitization session



Mr. Paul Atwa, Manager, Human Resource and Administration making his remarks



WaterFund staff following keenly on the presentations

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