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SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) #564
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MAUNA OBET WATER PROJECT DELIVERS LASTING IMPACT FOR OVER 5,000 RESIDENTS IN SIAYA COUNTY

In Mauna Obet, access to safe water is no longer uncertain, it is steadily becoming a reality, improving health, restoring dignity, and creating new opportunities for communities to thrive. The Mauna Obet Water Project, stands as a testament to the power of partnership and sustained investment in addressing water and sanitation challenges in underserved areas.

The project was funded by Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund), through KfW Development Bank contributing KSh. 16 million and SIBO Water and Sanitation Company Limited (SIBOWASCO), contributing KSh. 3 million. Notably, this is the first project under the Urban Projects Concept (UPC) 8th Call to be commissioned.

The project was officially commissioned on 17th April, 2026, during a ceremony presided over by H.E. James Orengo, Governor, County Government of Siaya, alongside Mr. Willis Ombai, Chief Executive Officer of WaterFund. In his keynote address, Governor Orengo commended the partnership, noting that the project has already delivered significant impact, with over 5,000 residents now benefiting from improved access to clean and reliable water. He further highlighted that this enhanced access is expected to improve public health outcomes, reduce reliance on unsafe water sources, and ease the burden of water collection, particularly for women and children.

Mr. Willis Ombai, underscored the importance of strengthening last-mile connectivity by the County Government to ensure that more residents can benefit from the investment. He reiterated that sustained collaboration between stakeholders will be critical in expanding coverage and maximizing the project's long-term impact.

The event was also attended by Mr. Daniel Mutua, Hon. Andrew Mbithe, and Mr. Joseph Ngacha, Members of the WaterFund Board of Trustees. In their remarks, the trustees reaffirmed WaterFund's mandate to serve marginalized and underserved communities, underscoring that access to clean and safe water is a fundamental human right. They noted that the project directly addresses long-standing service delivery gaps in Siaya County and will significantly improve water access for the beneficiary communities. The trustees further urged residents to take ownership of the infrastructure by safeguarding and maintaining it to ensure its sustainability and long-term impact.

Prior to the project, residents in Mauna Obet relied on shallow wells and water vendors, often facing long queues, high costs, and concerns over water quality. The scarcity of water meant households spent significant time in search of this essential resource, with no guarantee of access even after hours of waiting. The extension of water pipelines and installation of household connections has since transformed access, ensuring a more reliable and safe water supply.

The Mauna Obet Water Project, being implemented by SIBOWASCO, has recorded a significant progress in key infrastructure works. These include the construction of a 6.9 km pipeline extension, installation of 500 volumetric water meters, and erection of a 108 m³ elevated steel water tank. In addition, the project has delivered one water kiosk, one yard tap, and completed associated

civil works, including perimeter fencing, all of which enhance system functionality and service delivery.



H.E. James Orengo (left), Governor Siaya County and Mr. Willis Ombai (right), CEO, WaterFund unveiling the plaque during the commissioning



H.E. James Orengo, Governor, Siaya County, giving his keynote speech during the commissioning



Hon. Prof. Jacqueline Adhiambo Oduol, CECM, Water, Siaya County, addressing guests



Mr. Daniel Mutua, Member, WaterFund Board of Trustees addressing guests



Hon. Andrew Mbithi, Member, WaterFund Board of Trustees addressing guests



Eng. Joseph Ngacha (right), Member, WaterFund Board of Trustees



Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO, WaterFund, addressing the guests during the commissioning



Mr. Fred Josiah, Former Member, WaterFund Board of Trustees addressing guests



CPA Isaiah Adipo, Managing Director SIBOWASCO giving his remarks



WaterFund Board of Trustees and the CEO inspecting one of the water kiosks



A beneficiary fetching water at the water kiosk demonstrating impact of Mauna Obet Water Project



Community members keenly following the proceedings of the commissioning ceremony

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