

**SPEECH BY ENG. MALAQUEN MILGO, ATHI WATER SERVICES  
BOARD CEO, DURING THE NAIROBI WATER SUPPLY MASTER-PLAN  
STAKEHOLDER FORUM WORKSHOP, HELD ON TUESDAY AUGUST  
30, 2011**

- Eng. David Stower, PS in the Ministry of Water and Irrigation
- The World Bank and French Development Agency representatives
- Other donors present
- District Commissioners and other government representatives present
- Athi Water Services Board Chairman
- Chairmen of other water service Boards
- Chief Executive Officer-Athi Water Services Board
- Chief Executive Officers of other water services Boards
- Chairmen of Water services Providers
- Managing Directors Water Services providers,
- Local leaders,
- Friends and the Media,
- Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning!

It gives me great honour and pleasure to address you on this important day. Today marks a major landmark in our efforts to develop appropriate and much needed water infrastructure for expanding water supply for the city of Nairobi and satellite towns.

With the successful completion of the ongoing ***Feasibility Study and Master Plan for Developing New Water Sources for Nairobi and Satellite Towns***, which is being funded jointly by the Government of Kenya, through Athi Water Services Board, the World Bank and the French Development Agency (AFD) we hope to implement this plan by significantly expanding water supply for the benefit of the Nairobi metropolitan region.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

As a matter of fact, this plan coincides with the first anniversary of our country's new constitution. I refer to the supreme law of land because it has

enshrined accessibility to water and sanitation in the Bill of Right. This means that this constitutional requirement entitles everyone to sufficient, safe, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use.

It is for this reason that the Board is developing this master plan with the view of addressing short, medium and long term water needs of the residents of the City and Satellite towns. The proposed new water supply infrastructure for the city and Satellite towns will not only improve water supply for consumers and reduce burden on the consumers but also safeguard future needs of an ever growing population. The goal of the Masterplan is to meet the targets of Vision 2030 and beyond.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

The current gap between water supply and demand is large and growing. It is expected that the gap between the supply and demand for water in Nairobi and satellite towns will increase in proportion to the increase in population unless further sources of supply are identified and commissioned.

The Athi Water Services Board recognizes the prevailing water challenges in the city of Nairobi and surrounding urban center and is taking concerted action to address these challenges.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

Nairobi our Capital City and economic hub of Kenya is contributing over 50% of the GDP. It is also an important regional center for trade, commerce and integration.

The city offers employment, opportunities and is a lure of good life. This has continued to attract many people who have settled in the city notwithstanding water and other social amenities infrastructure capacity.

The real estate has also mushroomed to accommodate the rising population and growing opportunities. However, the population growth is not in tandem with the current water supply system.

As we speak now, the City has an estimated resident population of 3 million people and an estimated daytime population of around 5-6 million people. The City's population is projected to increase to 8 million by the year 2030.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

The Nairobi city is grappling with inadequate water resources, low pressures in the network, leakage in distribution reticulation, deteriorating status of pipes (corrosion and old age), lack of adequate coverage of consumers, leakage in housing connections and vandalism of controls at appurtenances (air valves, hydrants, sectional valves, zonal meters).

As a consequence, the government of Kenya through the Athi Water Services Board, the World Bank and French Development Agency (AFD) has commissioned a feasibility study and masterplan with a view of identifying and developing new water resources for Nairobi and selected satellite towns within a 70 km radius of the capital to improve their future water security. The study therefore, is concerned with the future augmentation of drinking water sources for Nairobi and its Satellite towns.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

I am pleased to note that the study has identified and is reviewing several possible scenarios for possible development. These include:

1. Northern Collector Phase I with different sub-alternatives (whole collector from Maragua R. to Thika Reservoir, from Irati R. to Thika Reservoir only);
2. Diversion from S. Mathioya to Maragua River to supplement Maragua Reservoir;
3. Northern Collector Phase II either connected to Northern Collector I to supplement the supply to Thika reservoir or to Maragua 4 Reservoir;
4. Ndarugu 1 Dam on Ndarugu River; and,
5. Diversion from Chania River to Komu River to supplement Ndarugu 1 Reservoir.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

It is my humble prayer to I call upon stakeholders, to interrogate the main findings and recommendations of the Water Source Options Review, a key

study for the Masterplan. We hope that this meeting will provide a platform for the stakeholders to understand the proposed development options that are being reviewed and considered for implementation under the Masterplan.

**Ladies and gentlemen**

We appreciate the leadership of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the support of our development partners-World Bank and French Development Agency (ADB) in the preparation of this Masterplan. We are confident that you will continue supporting us in this regard. We urge government agencies, civil societies and local communities to support the Board to finalize and implement this Master plan.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for accepting our invitation and wish you a productive workshop.

**Eng. MALAQUEN MILGO**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ATHI WATER SERVICES BOARD**