



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **WATER STAKEHOLDERS MEET TO DISCUSS THE WATER SITUATION IN THE CITY AND ITS ENVIRONS**

Initiative demands the representation of all groups and partners

NAIROBI, KENYA, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 — Following vision 2030, water stakeholders gather for the 6<sup>th</sup> Athi Water Services Board Stakeholders Forum. The forum brings together key stakeholders in water services provision in Nairobi city and the country in general to deliberate and provide insights on issues relating to water business and come up with effective water strategies that can be used to increase customer satisfaction.

Speaking ahead of the function, the Minister for Water and Irrigation, Hon Charity Ngilu, stated that her Ministry has continued to receive crucial support and goodwill from partners such as World Bank, French Development Agency - AFD, Swedish Development Agency – SIDA, African Development Bank, KFW, JICA among others. She also pledged the Ministry's continued collaboration with the Development Partners in efforts to serve the citizens better.

“My Ministry will remain steadfast in ensuring that sustainable water services are available through out the city and its environs. This will be undertaken through the implementation of sound water resources development plans, improvement of existing infrastructure and customer service. In this regard, I expect that Athi Water Services Board and all the Water Service Providers under it's mandate to institute strategies to provide customers with outstanding performance and services. This should include re-engineering working relationships and partnerships with stakeholders, government agencies, and other stakeholders in order to continue providing secure and cost effective services.” She further stated.

The stakeholder's forum presents an important opportunity for key players in the water sector to carryout comprehensive discussions on how to improve the water industry inline with the water ACT of 2002 and Vision 2030. Through this forum, government officials, development partners and the public will be able to get informative insight on the new trends in water management, find firsthand practical solutions to problems, get future plans for infrastructure development, and

Athi Water Services Board will be able to gather feedback and present on the complete and ongoing water and sewer projects.

Speaking during the forum, CEO of Athi Water Services Board stated that there was need to focus on the great strides that have been gained in the water industry. She further added that several infrastructure development projects have been initiated to increase the supply of water to Nairobi, Kiambu, Limuru, Gatundu and Thika. “Ngethu and Sasumua Water Production Plants have been undergoing improvement works to ensure that these production plants are restored to their design capacities of 430,000m<sup>3</sup> and 60,000m<sup>3</sup> per day respectively.” She added.

Rehabilitation of Sasumua Dam which was damaged in 2003 that reduced its storage capacity from 16 million cubic metres to 2.8 million cubic metres has been ongoing and by November this year will be reinstated to its capacity. The Athi Water Services Board in partnership with Water Service Providers and the Ministry of Water and Irrigation has also been upgrading various water supply projects such as Karimenu, Ndarugu, Thiririka, Komothai, Kiambu urban and Karuri water supply projects. On completion, these projects are expected to supply water to communities currently drawing water along the Sasumua – Nairobi and Ngethu – Nairobi water supply lines. This will go a long way in boosting the water supply in Nairobi

Athi Water Services Board is currently implementing different projects to meet the demand for water services such as: rehabilitation of water infrastructure that will lead to secure water sources for our jurisdiction and increase water production, rehabilitation of existing water production and transmission facilities, rehabilitating and expanding Ruai Treatment Works to increase waste water collection, transmission and treatment, preparing a water service master plan for Nairobi and improving water and sewerage distribution networks through extensions and rehabilitation.

All these activities are aimed at effective provision of water and sewerage services to meet the expectations of our customers. We are confident that the fast pace of infrastructure development will realize amazing strides in our quest to offer sustainable services to the people of Nairobi and its environs; we acknowledge that the success has only been achievable through the dedication and commitment of our stakeholders and development partners; we can only assure them of our commitment to ensuring that Athi Water Services Board will maintain a strong sense of stewardship, as these projects roll out, and ultimately benefit the wider population.

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