



**MINISTRY OF WATER AND IRRIGATION  
P.O BOX 49720  
NAIROBI**

## **Statement for moving Vote 20 of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation for the 2007/2008 Financial Year in Parliament**

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**Mr. Speaker Sir,** I beg to move that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair to enable me initiate debate on Vote 20 of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

First and foremost, Mr. Speaker, I wish to point out that the Ministry is composed of five departments; four technical and one administrative, charged with the following broad functions:

1. Water and Sewerage Services;
2. Water Resources Management
3. Irrigation and Drainage

4. Land Reclamation and

5. Support Services.

In addition, there are 13 parastatals and one tribunal that are supported in the Ministry's budget namely:

1. The National Water Conservation and Pipeline Corporation (NWCPC);
2. National Irrigation Board (NIB);
3. Kenya Water Institute (KEWI);
4. Water Services Regulatory Board (WSRB);
5. Water Resources Management Authority (WRMA);
6. Water Services Trust Fund (WSTF); and
7. Seven Regional Water Services Boards (WSBs)
  - ❖ Athi
  - ❖ Coast
  - ❖ Lake Victoria North
  - ❖ Lake Victoria South
  - ❖ Northern
  - ❖ Tana and
  - ❖ Rift Valley

## 8. Water Appeals Board (WAB);

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** the water and Sewerage Services sector has fully undergone reforms aimed at improving service delivery. The effects of these reforms have begun to be felt by Kenyans. In the past three year since the reforms were rolled out, major achievements in the provision of water services have been realized and honourable members can bear me witness. These key institutions are now operational and capacity is being built to enable them undertake their responsibilities.

### **1. WATER AND SEWERAGE SERVICES**

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** as Honourable members are aware, access to adequate and reliable water supply is a key input to poverty reduction and an important element for social stability, economic growth and performance. The Water sector reforms started in the previous financial years will continue in 2007/08 as will be outlined in the estimates I will be presenting today.

In the past, however, the increasing demand created by high population growth coupled with inadequate investments in water supply management and development, led to serious deterioration of water supply infrastructure as well as depletion of the existing sources of renewable freshwater resources. Poor service delivery and poor water quality was common in most urban and rural schemes. In addition, encroachments of water catchments have destroyed sources of water resulting in severe hydrological variability as rivers become seasonal and sometimes dry completely.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** when the NARC Government came to power, certain pledges were made, as clearly spelt out in the NARC Manifesto and consequently expounded in the Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation (2003-2007). One pledge was to facilitate improvement of access to water for Kenyans.

Towards this end, my Ministry undertook to design a comprehensive sector development strategy with clear division of roles and functions as well as a well-defined partnership between the Government and

stakeholders. Improved water services delivery and sewerage are to be achieved within the framework of the Water Sector Reform initiatives stipulated in the Water Act 2002.

Consequently, Mr. Speaker Sir, my Ministry has implemented the Water Act 2002 in order to provide an enabling legal and institutional framework for undertaking the water sector reform initiatives. .

These reforms have resulted in separation of roles among the players in water and sewerage services provision and water resources management. The functions previously undertaken by the Ministry have been decentralized leaving the Ministry with the role of policy formulation and coordination.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** regarding management of urban water and sewerage services, the Ministry is implementing a policy focusing on commercialization through establishment of semi autonomous public water companies. The preferred water companies are those formed by local authorities infused with professional management and

expertise, most of which is locally available, to underscore efficiency in water services delivery.

The Ministry advocates that the water revenues collected from consumers be ploughed back and utilized exclusively for provision and improvement of water and sewerage services including extension of distribution systems and upgrading of water facilities.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** let me reiterate that the Government has no plans to privatize Water services in the country, which would involve disposal of public assets to the private investors.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** the NARC Government pledged to increase public investment in Water Resources Development. This was in recognition of the fact that the water supply and water resource situation had deteriorated considerably over one and half decades due to low investment. Funds were therefore required for the immediate rehabilitation of the dilapidated urban and rural water schemes in order to restore their levels of service delivery to their

original design capacities. However, funds were also required for putting up new facilities and medium extensions to meet the growing demand for water services.

**Mr. Speaker Sir**, according to the Ministry's Investment Programme needs (2003), it was estimated that an investment of Kshs. 300 Billion would be required in the next 10 years for achievement of target 10 of the Millennium Development Goal 7 of "*halving the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015*". This means an annual investment of Kshs. 30 billion between 2005 and 2015, reversing the decline in our water resource availability and improving Irrigation potential. In this regard, the limited funds available will be invested in the rehabilitation of existing water supplies that provide immediate benefits in terms of value for money.

I therefore, intend to spend KShs. 831,700,000 in the current financial year on rehabilitation of rural water supplies under the Development Vote. In addition, KShs. 3,990,378,555 which includes

KShs. 239,100,000 from GOK will be utilized for the rehabilitation and development of our urban water supplies.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** as we embark on these major activities of rehabilitating water and sewerage infrastructure, my Ministry recognizes the need to provide the people of Kenya with adequate and good quality water at all times. This will be achieved through ensuring adequate water treatment, proper utility maintenance and improved management of water supply and sewerage services. My Ministry, therefore, intends to spend KShs. 517,100,000 under the Recurrent Vote to meet the cost of electricity, water treatment chemicals and rehabilitation of civil works in water systems countrywide. During the same period, Appropriations in Aid of KShs. 929,140,000 will be collected from sale of water and sewerage services through the Water Services Boards.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** the mandate for Waste Water Treatment and Disposal is domiciled in my Ministry. In order to discharge this mandate, my Ministry intends to spend KShs. 122,000,000 from



(GoK) under the Development Vote for rehabilitation and development of wastewater treatment and drainage works with an additional Kshs. 290,000,000 from our development partners. May I add, Mr. Speaker Sir, that this falls short of our expected requirement of about Kshs. 1.38 billion for sewerage services which has remained a huge problem throughout the Country.

As the honourable members know, growth of towns and urbanization in general is beginning to affect fresh water sources through pollution and thus my Ministry will continue to fund sewerage schemes to manage waste water from the towns.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** the Government handed over the management of its water facilities to the seven regional Water Services Boards in July, 2005 following a national-wide consultation process. Since then the Water Services Boards are responsible for the efficient and economical provision of water and sewerage services within their areas of jurisdiction.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** to enable the Boards achieve their mandates, my Ministry has allocated KShs. 4,427,481,381 in gross expenditure under the Development Vote and Kshs. 170,000,000 under the Recurrent Vote.

### **REGIONAL WATER SERVICES BOARDS**

In order to increase water coverage in the Country, my Ministry has allocated Kshs. 831,700,000.00 in the Development Vote as Gok to the seven regional water service boards.

The allocation will target rural areas in districts under their jurisdiction for economic development and poverty reduction.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** the Water Services Trust Fund was established to supplement the efforts of the Water Services Boards in provision of water and sewerage services particularly to areas with inadequate coverage. To enable the Trust Fund achieve its mandate of financing the provision of water services to underserved areas, my Ministry intends to incur a gross expenditure of KShs. 80,000,000 in the Development Vote and KShs. 15,000,000 in Recurrent Vote.

## **WATER SERVICES REGULATORY BOARD**

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** the Water Services Regulatory Board was established under Water Act 2002 to regulate water and sewerage services provision including issuing of licenses, setting service standards and guidelines for tariffs and prices. The Board is also responsible for technical and economic supervision of the Water Service Boards. Towards this end, my Ministry has allocated a gross total of Kshs. 15,000,000 in the Recurrent Vote for these activities.

## **2. WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** the depletion of our sources of renewable freshwater through destruction of our major sources and pollution, among other factors, have resulted in Kenya being classified as a chronically water scarce country by international standards. This calls for an integrated approach to the management of water resources in order to reverse the trend. In this connection, the Ministry has established the Water Resources Management Authority and Water Catchment Area Advisory Committees to manage the

water resources as provided for in the Water Act 2002. The overall objectives is to decentralize and involve stakeholders in decision making in water resources management for sustainability.

### **WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** the Water Resources Management Authority was also established under the Act to be responsible for regulation of water resources issues such as water allocation, source protection and conservation, water quality management and pollution control and transboundary waters. Towards this end, my Ministry has allocated a total of Kshs. 5,000,000 in the Development Vote as GOK.

### **3. IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE**

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** the Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation (ERS) has identified irrigation as a key sub-sector to reviving the economy and ensuring food security. This is due to the fact that 80% of our country's landmass is arid or semi-arid, thus creating a lot of population pressure on the high potential areas.

Out of an irrigation potential of 539,000 hectares, only 110,000 hectares has been developed representing only 20% of the total potential.

The potential can be increased to 1.3 million hectares through water harvesting and storage. At this juncture, it is important to inform Honourable members that small-holder irrigation is managed directly by the Ministry while large-scale irrigation is managed by the National Irrigation Board. May I also inform this House that my Ministry has already finalized the National Irrigation and Drainage Policy that will promote private Sector participation and improve management of small holder Irrigation schemes.

**Mr. Speaker Sir**, regarding the Water Sector Vision for 2030, my Ministry has proposed that we embrace a Vision of "***Ensure water and sanitation availability and access to all***". To realize this noble task, critical focus will be required across one of the four key areas in the sector, i.e. *Irrigation and Drainage*, where as a country we need to expand the area under Irrigation and Drainage while improving the technology to ensure both efficiency and effectiveness in Water use.

As a contribution to Vision 2030, my Ministry's goal is therefore to,

1. Increase the area under Irrigation from current 110,000 ha to 210,000 ha by 2012,

2. Increase the area under Drainage from current 30,000 ha to 90,000 ha by 2012,
3. Rehabilitate existing infrastructures, protection of Water catchment and expanding our Water Reservoirs, including promotion of Rainwater harvesting,
4. To empower our farming communities to participate in the development and management of their schemes and
5. Increase regular monitoring of the Water Resources from currently about 35 % to 70 % in order to increase Water Use Efficiency and identify areas that need attention before serious deterioration.

In order to undertake the above goals, I estimate that the sector will require approximately KShs. 20 Billion per year for the next five years.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** as a start of the Government's contribution to improved agricultural production in the country this year, I propose to spend KShs. 474,353,854 under Development Vote on the rehabilitation and development of small-holder irrigation infrastructure, and support to small holder irrigation schemes country wide. This is an increase of 7% on what was allocated last year.

#### **4. LAND RECLAMATION**

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** in an effort to address the development constraints in ASAL areas, the Ministry has embarked on an intensive Integrated ASAL development programme to facilitate sustainable economic and social development of the communities.

This is to be achieved through developing infrastructure facilities, reclamation of degraded lands and strengthening the integrated research in ASAL development. I propose to spend Kshs. 56,350,000 under the Development Vote towards the cause of integrated ASALs development and Turkana rehabilitation project.

#### **6. THE KENYA WATER INSTITUTE**

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** the Water Sector absorbs a substantial number of the country's labour force particularly those in the middle and lower cadre after training at the Kenya Water Institute.

For the last 34 years, this Institute has been contributing enormously to the national economy through human resources development for the Water Sector.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** as Honourable Members are aware, KEWI is now a Semi Autonomous Government Agency established through the Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) Act 2001. The objectives of the Institute are:

- To provide, directly or in collaboration with other institutions of higher learning, services in human resource development, consultancy and research in the water sector on commercial basis.
- To provide training programmes, seminars and workshops and produce publications aimed at maintaining standards in the water and sanitation sector;
- To provide a forum for effective collaboration between the public and private sectors and other interested parties for the development of the water and sanitation sector and
- To conduct examinations and award diplomas, certificates and other awards to successful candidates.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** to enable the Institute train manpower for the Water Sector, my Ministry has allocated KShs. 40,000,000 for rehabilitation of the delapidated buildings under the Development



Vote Expenditure and KShs. 140,000,000 under the Recurrent Vote.

## **6. NATIONAL WATER CONSERVATION AND PIPELINE CORPORATION**

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** the National Water Conservation and Pipeline Corporation (NWCPC) is a very crucial parastatal under the Ministry.

The mandate of the parastatal was changed from being a water services provider to being the government contractor in the water and sanitation sector particularly for ASAL water development. During the previous financial year, the corporation managed to drill 227 boreholes and developed 308 pans and dams countrywide most of which are in ASAL.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** in line with Government policy of accelerating economic development of ASAL areas, my Ministry places great emphasis on developing sources of water supply for domestic and livestock consumption in line with government's Economic Recovery Programme for North Eastern Province Isiolo, Marsabit and Moyale

Districts, launched by His Excellency the President in 2004. This will be achieved through increasing the water conservation and storage capacity of ASAL areas through rehabilitation and development of dams and water pans.

In this regard, I intend to spend Kshs. 272,000,000 to facilitate the National Water Conservation and Pipeline Corporation to undertake its mandate in the Recurrent Vote. Kshs 793,000,000 will also be spent on the rehabilitation and development of 189 dams and pans mainly in ASAL districts and a few in other districts. Regional groundwater assessment programmes have been initiated in ASAL to identify areas of good groundwater potential for exploitation. Currently, only 170 million cubic meters of groundwater is abstracted per year out of the estimated annual groundwater potential of 619 million cubic metres. This represents a mere 27% rate of abstraction. Towards this end, the Ministry intends to spend KShs. 735,000,000 under Development Vote for investigation and development of groundwater resources through drilling of 180 boreholes mainly in the ASAL areas and a few in other Districts.

As Honorable Members may be aware, the floods of the Nyando and Nzoia Rivers have in the past caused such devastation and displacement of local communities in an otherwise agriculturally productive area to the extent that they are put under food relief programmes. This devastation has been recurring every year and will continue to do so until a long term measure is put in place. In this regard, the Government is determined to find a lasting solution to the problem that will involve construction of flood control dykes, balancing reservoirs, which will be used for irrigation and rehabilitation of affected catchments areas. The sites being investigated include: Webuye falls in Bungoma/Lugari Districts, Kipkaren bridge in Uasin Gishu District and Rambula in Siaya District.

The Government has already obtained funds for studies and design of flood control structures (dams) in the areas named above within Nzoia basin. Design works and site investigations at the named sites, will be carried out within two years. Construction will begin when funds become available. In the mean time, the Ministry has allocated

KShs. 205,000,000 under Development Vote for the rehabilitation and construction of flood control dykes on Nyando and Nzoia Rivers, Garissa Town flood control works, and maintenance of Canals in Yatta, Njoro Kubwa and Grogan in Taveta.

In its efforts to mitigate the effects of floods, the Ministry has developed a Strategy for Integrated Flood Management for Lake Victoria Basin in Kenya. The strategy is expected to serve as a basis for developing the National Strategy and Policy for Integrated Flood Management in Kenya.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** to enable this corporation undertake these critical assignments, I am proposing an allocation of KShs. 1,733,500,000 in Gross expenditure under the Development Vote for this purpose.

## **7. NATIONAL IRRIGATION BOARD**

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** as Honourable Members are aware, the National Irrigation Board (NIB) was established by the Irrigation Act in 1966 for the sole purpose of initiating and promoting irrigation development and maintaining existing irrigation schemes in the

country. The National Irrigation Board has over the years, managed Mwea, Perkerra, Ahero, West Kano, Bunyala and Hola Irrigation schemes. During the 2005/06 Financial Year, Bura irrigation scheme was returned under the National Irrigation Board management in order to infuse professional management in its operation.

National Irrigation Board (NIB) has been spearheading the rehabilitation and expansion of the National irrigation Schemes. Due to the substantial contribution of the national irrigation schemes towards poverty eradication, job creation and food security, the budgetary allocations to the Board has been on an increase from Financial Year (FY) 2003/04 to date.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** I wish to report to the Honourable members that during the FY 2003/04, NIB had a gross allocation of KShs 114,838,013 while for the FY 2004/05, FY 2005/06 and FY 2006/07 there was a slight increase in gross allocation to KShs 171,520,840, KShs 372,130,816, KShs 415,300,000 respectively. This means that

over this period NIB has received from the Government KShs 1,073,789,669.

With this investment the Government through NIB, has managed to achieve the following among others;

- 1) Resumption of crop production at the Western Kenya Schemes from the 2,200 ha that have had the infrastructure habilitated,
- 2) Stabilising crop production by installation of new pumps at Ahero, West Kano, Bunyala and Rwambwa-Mudembi and increasing water supply to enable expansion by another 500 ha in the outlying areas,
- 3) Formation, registration and capacity building of the farmers Irrigation Water User Associations (IWUAS) in all the schemes.

To this end, I am pleased to inform thte Honourable members that over 2,000 farmers have been trained on all aspects that are relevant to irrigation management with a view of improving crop production and

- 4) Initiation of the full rehabilitation and reconstruction works at

Bura and Hola Irrigation Scheme. These two schemes will have a gross area of 3,500ha.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** due to budgetary and other constraints, the performances of these schemes had not been satisfactory. In this regard my Ministry restructured the National Irrigation Board whose combined area under Irrigation is 12,000 ha. Based on a refocused mandate, the Board will concentrate on

1. Rehabilitation of West Kano, Ahero, Bunyala and Perkerra Irrigation Schemes,
2. Technical and logistical support to Mwea farmers for the operation and maintenance of its main and secondary infrastructure, and
3. Rehabilitation and reconstruction of Hola and Bura Irrigation Schemes to bring them back to full production.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** my Ministry has allocated KShs. 130,000,000 in the Recurrent Vote and KShs. 420,000,000 in the Development Vote to enable the Board to continue the rehabilitation and expansion of

irrigation schemes in West Kano, Bunyala, Mwea, Ahero, Bura, Perkerra, and Hola Irrigation Schemes.

**Mr. Speaker Sir**, as the Honourable Members have observed from their copies of the 2007/2008 Development Estimates of Expenditure pages 531 to 641, my Ministry's Gross Development Expenditure during the financial year 2007/2008 is **KShs. 11,418,139,034** of which Kshs. 6,850,139,029 is support from our development partners while Kshs. 4,568,000,005 is from the Exchequer. As indicated above, my Ministry continues to receive substantial support from a number of development partners towards development activities in the Water Sector.

I wish therefore to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitudes to our development partners on behalf of my Ministry and the Government of Kenya.

The Recurrent Estimates of expenditure pages 875 to 926 reflect a Gross Expenditure of KShs.3, 874,199,710 of which Appropriation-In-Aid amounts to KShs.929,140,000 leaving a net expenditure of Kshs. 2,945,059,700.



**Mr. Speaker Sir,** I am therefore requesting this house to approve the combined Gross Expenditure for both the Development and Recurrent Votes of **KShs.15,292,338,744.**

**Mr. Speaker Sir, I now beg to move.**