

Milestone as Thwake Dam compensation exercise inches to completion

Makueni, Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Compensation for the remaining 28 Project Affected Persons (PAPs) whose parcels of land were earmarked by State for additional construction of Thwake Multipurpose Dams' critical components is inching closer to completion.

The State, needs additional 59.95 acres of land covering at least nine land parcels at a cost of Kshs 44,972,853. The additional land is required for the expansion and construction of the multi-billion Thwake Multipurpose Water Development Program's critical components like the saddle dam, enlarged spillway, employer's camp and the main access road.

"We are happy that finally, the residents agreed and signed the awards for their compensation. This exercise will now pave way for the construction of the saddle dam, enlarged spillway, employer's camp and the main access road. It is a great milestone," said Makueni County Commissioner Maalim Mohammed, when he led a team of State officials at a meeting in his office with the 28 families, commonly referred to as PAPs.

The negotiation process, he added, began August last year between his office, the residents and a multi-agency comprising State officials.

While terming the exercise as a big breakthrough, Mr. Maalim thanked the residents for their cooperation by allowing State to acquire the land needed for additional dam expansion.

"We will expedite the process of compensation as a government to ensure the residents access their money promptly. On Social component, they will be educated on ways of utilizing the money and inject them into sustainable investments," he added.

The State had set aside an estimated Kshs 3.5 billion to compensate the first batch of 1,792 residents whose land was acquired for the dam construction.

Out of that, there are only nine families awaiting compensation which has been slowed down by family disputes. The State however, has stated that the money is already with the National Land Commission and the PAPs will be paid once they conclude the disputes.

The Meeting was attended by the Program Implementation Team (PIT) Coordinator Eng. David Onyango who represented the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, a section of National Land Commission

officials, members of the County Security Intelligence Committee and local administration team.

Thwake Multipurpose Dam is a mega project pillared under Vision 2030 flagship and an enabler of the Big 4 development agenda.

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