



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**MINISTRY OF WATER, SANITATION AND IRRIGATION**  
**THWAKE MULTIPURPOSE WATER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PHASE I**

Friday, July 10, 2020

Press Release (For Immediate Release)

**Makueni, Friday, July 10, 2020**

**Key county development committee laud Thwake Dam progress**

Makueni County Commissioner Maalim Mohammed on Friday, July 10, 2020 led members of County Development Implementation Coordination Committee (CDICC) in inspecting the progress at Thwake Multipurpose Dam in Makueni County.

Mr Mohammed and his entourage, while terming the project as bankable, lauded the progress of the flagship development which is pillared under Vision 2030 blue print. They later visited and inspected various areas within the multi-billion project jointly funded by the Government of Kenya and the African Development Bank (AfDB). Once completed, Thwake Multipurpose Dam is poised to change lives of close to 1.3 million rural inhabitants of Makueni, Kitui and parts of Machakos County.

“Thwake Dam is a success story and one of the key projects under the watch of H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta. It’s a key flagship facility which will change lives of millions of people in this region hence must be monitored and supported fully,” he said.

He was flanked by a section of Project Implementation Team (PIT) from the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, representatives from Presidential Delivery Unit (PDU), representatives from China Gezhouba Group Company Ltd which is the company constructing the dam and SMEC International Pty (K) Ltd which is the main consultant.

On more workforce, the Commissioner reiterated that the Contractor must recover lost time of 5% (five-percent) lost due to effects of Covid-19 which caused at least 400 workers to be sent home by the Constructor as a measure to curb the spread. He assured that the government will ensure the workers are brought back once all the necessary strategies and measures to combat the pandemic are put in place. He ordered the Contractor to make sure that all measures are put in place to curb the virus in-and-out of the project site.

“We need to put all the necessary measures in place. Workers are living outside the project and this can pose some danger,” he ordered.

In line with the Occupational Safety and Health Post-Covid-19 Return to Work Advisory issued by the Directorate of Occupational Safety and Health Services, the Dam management, comprising a section of Project Implementation Team (PIT) from the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, the Consultant and the Contractor on Wednesday, July 8, 2020 held fruitful deliberations on preparations of a Seventeen-Point checklist on strategies which will be put in place as more workers are expected at the site.

Mr Maalim’s visit came just two weeks after another progress tour of the project by Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary Ms. Sicily Kariuki.

During her visit, the CS assured that Thwake Dam will be completed within the stipulated time in December 2022 lauding the progress as good and within the agreed timelines.

The construction of the dam which is at 37 per cent has been at a slow rate since the onset of Covid-19.

“There has been a delay of 5 per cent owing to the cutting down of workers due to the pandemic but we have agreed with the Consultant to bring back 400 workers so that we can cover the lost time,” said the CS during the recent visit a fortnight ago.

Thwake Multipurpose Water Development Program, once complete, will create thousands of jobs, spur emergence of small scale industries, boost healthcare and sanitation, ensure food security and irrigation in Makueni and Kitui counties.

Already, the ongoing civil works in phase one and related activities has created direct and indirect employment of more than 1,200 locals. The project will also improve sanitation and hygiene hence minimizing threat of diseases amongst the rural inhabitants in Makueni, Kitui and Machakos counties.

The first phase, which is currently on course, involves construction of an 80.5m high multi-purpose dam (688 million cubic meter storage capacity) and associated preliminary works needed to enable implementation of other three phases.

Phase Two of the work will involve construction of hydropower and substation development expected to generate at least 20MW of installed capacity.

The program's third phase will involve development of water supply system to treat and distribute up to 150,000 cubic metres of treated water per day to millions of rural inhabitants of Kitui and Makueni counties and inhabitants of Konza City in Machakos County and its environs.

The last stage of the project, will see development of irrigation works for up to 40,075 hectares of land in Kitui and Makueni counties (approximately 100,000 acres of land).

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