



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

MEDIA BRIEF ON THWAKE PROJECT

The Government of Kenya (GoK) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) through the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation are jointly funding the Thwake Multipurpose Water Development Program (TMWDP) Phase 1.

LOCATION

The project is located in Katithi location of Mavindini Division in Makueni County, a distance of about 180 kilometers south east of Nairobi.

OBJECTIVES AND GOAL

The goal of the first phase is to enhance water security. The objective is to increase water storage for rural and urban human consumption, for irrigation and livestock and for hydropower, with a principal focus on the semi-arid counties of Kitui and Makueni.

BENEFICIARIES

The program targets close to 674,700 (Six Hundred Seventy-Four Thousand) rural residents of Kitui and Makueni counties, where

poverty rates are at 62.5 per cent and 63.8 per cent, respectively. It will also benefit close to 640,000 (Six Hundred and Forty Thousand) residents living around the envisioned Konza Techno City in Machakos County, expected to get water supply from the project.

PROGRAM PHASES

First Phase, 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. The progress is already estimated at 37 per cent.

Phase Two will involve construction of hydropower and substation development expected to generate at least 20MW of installed capacity, thereby enabling the residents to access much needed electricity to power small-scale industries, irrigate their farms hence transforming lives.

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 inhabitants drawn from rural areas of Kitui and Makueni counties and the envisioned Konza City in Machakos County and its environs.

Last Phase 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).

THWAKE AS A SOCIO ECONOMIC ENABLER, ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE BIG 4 AGENDA AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

- TMWDP will see creation of thousands of jobs, emergence of small scale industries, boost to healthcare and sanitation, food security and irrigation.

- Ongoing civil works and related activities have already created direct and indirect employment of more than 1,200 locals – both men and women who are mainly the bread winners for their families. By this, the project will ease the direct resource dependency pressures.
- TMWDP will open up the areas for agribusiness through irrigation and also generate electricity.
- Other benefits to the local residents will include fishing, tourism and significantly increase the price of land.
- TMWDP will be a major boost to realizing the Vision 2030 and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through eradication of extreme poverty and hunger by enhancing income sources and food security
- Provision of water from the dam will see enhanced development and growth of local markets as more economic and social interests arise.
- The project will improve sanitation and hygiene hence minimizing threat of diseases amongst the rural inhabitants in Makueni, Kitui and Machakos.

THWAKE AS A SOCIAL INVESTMENT VEHICLE

As part of government's strategy to empower locals through promotion of local entrepreneurships, local contractors and suppliers from Makueni and Kitui are poised to benefit by providing services and supplies during the construction. The program will also see schools and community health facilities benefit as part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program.

- **Ends** -

