



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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

Press Release (For Immediate Release)

Makueni, Thursday, February 11, 2021

Thwake Multipurpose Dam poised to be a big game-changer for region, says State

Four Principal Secretaries drawn from the National Development Implementation Technical Committee (NDITC) have hailed the ongoing works at the multi-billion Thwake Multipurpose Dam in Makueni and Kitui counties terming it as transformative and a big game-changer for the regions.

The delegation which was led by Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Ambassador Kamau Macharia, spoke on Thursday, February 11, 2021 during a tour of the four-phased project expected to change the economy of the regions in a big way once completed.

The delegation also included Principal Secretary for State Department for Planning in The National Treasury Saitoti Torome,

Principal Secretary, State Department of East African Community (EAC), Dr. Kevit Desai and Principal Secretary, State Department for Youth Affairs Julius Korir.

“We appreciate the great progress made at Thwake Multipurpose Dam. This project will be a big-game changer to thousands of residents. We are committed to ensure it progresses well to completion and address all the impending challenges,” said Ambassador Macharia, during the visit which was also attended by Makueni County Commissioner Maalim Mohammed and members of the County Development Implementation Coordination Committee (CDICC).

Also in attendance was the Water Secretary Eng. Samuel Alima, the Program Implementation Team (PIT) Coordinator Eng. David Onyango, the Contractor and the Consultant.

Mr Maalim said that Thwake Dam has been the dream for thousands of residents in the region terming it as a bankable project which is poised to change millions of lives.

The PSs also noted the need to address critical challenges ahead of the works including siltation and pollution downstream.

While addressing the delegation, Eng. Alima added that the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, together with other partners, is working on ways of expanding the sewerage connection in Nairobi and environs.

“The government has formed a multi-sectoral team to address the cleaning of Nairobi and Athi rivers before the anticipated completion date of Thwake Dam in June, 2022. Elaborate measures to clean the Nairobi rivers and make the water fit for human consumption are already in place. Water Resources Management Authority and the National Environment Management Authority will enforce relevant laws to prevent the pollution of rivers by individuals and corporate organisations,” he noted adding that studies are underway with issues on dam management.

Thwake Multi-Purpose Dam Project is a key project supporting the Big 4 Agenda. Irrigation has been identified as a driver of the Big Four Agenda in achievement of Food and Nutrition Security. The Model farm of 100ha once developed will also contribute to production of food in the areas.

As an enabler to the Big Four, the project will also be the long-term supplier of water to the Konza Technopolis which is a key project under manufacturing.

Eng. Alima also noted that Thwake project currently has over 70 graduate trainees spread in the areas of Geology, Electrical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Construction Management, Biosystems Engineering, Water Engineering, Information Technology and Sociology and community development.

Media Contact

Godfrey Olali

Senior Communications Specialist

0720872881