



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

Press Release (For Immediate Release)

Makueni, Tuesday, January 26, 2021

PS Irungu lauds ongoing progress at Thwake Dam, commits to ensure pollution is tackled

The Principal Secretary, Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Joseph W. Irungu, CBS on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 lauded the ongoing works at Thwake Multipurpose Dam project registering his confidence that it will be implemented according to the set timelines.

Speaking during a routine site tour of the project being implemented by the Ministry, the PS noted that Thwake Multipurpose Water Development program is a key flagship project being undertaken by the government noting that its implementation will change lives of thousands of residents in Makueni, Kitui and even parts of Machakos counties.

He noted that the government has already rolled out the process of cleaning key water sources especially Nairobi River and others. The exercise, he added, will also be done downstream and involve counties of Machakos, Makueni and Kitui.

“We have already involved key stakeholders like the Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS), Ministry of Environment and National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) to ensure that the clean-up exercise is expedited. We want to ensure that the waters that will flow to Thwake Dam is clean,” noted the PS.

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.

“This project will hugely contribute to the achievement of the Big 4 agenda. I want to assure you of my commitment. It has key components such as irrigation, water supply and hydropower which will spur development in Makueni, Kitui and parts of Machakos. We need collaboration between stakeholders, the community and local leadership,” he said of the project whose progress is currently at 46 per cent.

The PS was accompanied by the Water Secretary Eng. Samuel Alima, Makueni County Commissioner Mr. Maalim Mohammed, Thwake Multipurpose Water Development Program Coordinator Eng. David Onyango, a section of officials from the ministry, the Contractor and the Engineer’s Representative.

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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