

Government of Kenya
Ministry of Water and Irrigation



The Water Act, 2002
(No. 8 of 2002)

The National Water Services Strategy (NWSS) 2007 – 2015, May 2007

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by section 107(2) of the Water Act, 2002, the Director of Water Services notifies for the information of the general public that the Minister for Water and Irrigation intends to publish a national water services strategy for the development, management and monitoring of water and sewerage services. In fulfillment of the provisions of section 49 of the Act, the Minister wishes to consult with the public on the contents of the draft strategy whose summary is set out below. The full text of the draft strategy may be obtained from www.water.go.ke

1. Summary of the National Water Services Strategy - NWSS

Water is the most important natural resource, indispensable for life and at the same time the backbone of growth and prosperity for mankind. According to UNDP more people die of water related diseases than in military conflicts around the world. Funds invested in WSS will generate an economic benefit of between 3 and 34 times depending on the technology and specific condition on the ground. In Sub-Saharan African countries every year 5% of the national product is lost because of inadequate WSS service provision. It is recommended to raise the profile of WSS and target to spend a minimum of 1% [UNDP target] of the GDP annually on WSS.

In Kenya the WSS situation is poor for a majority of people with, on the overall, approximately 57% (KIHBS 2005/2006) of households using water from sources considered safe. Sustainable access to safe water is around 60% in the urban setting and drops to as low as 20% in the settlements of the urban poor where half of the urban population lives. With a population growth of up to 10% in the low income urban settlements many 'hot spots' continue to develop in many towns and therefore sustainable access to safe water is declining. Sustainable access to safe water in the rural setting is estimated at 40%. Sanitation coverage country wide is about 50%. Living conditions in the settlements of the urban poor are appalling due to the resulting unsanitary environment. Missing sanitary installations and uncontrolled disposal of excreta pollutes the water sources from which most of the informal providers draw water. Vendors sell water of uncontrolled quality to consumers who have to spend

hours to fetch it at prices that are often between 5 and 20 times the tariff applied on consumers with a metered water connection.

The information presently available needs to be gradually improved and adjusted as and when more precise data becomes available through the information systems that are now being established.

In the past performance of utilities was poor due to ineffective management and inadequate provision for operation and maintenance. The resulting poor performance has led to rapid degradation of WSS infrastructure hindering the desire to achieve self sustainability impacting mainly on the low income consumers. Syndication of utilities into viable clusters and application of commercial principles has emerged as a powerful response to turn around this declining trend. It has led to improvements in performance and increase in investments for rehabilitation and establishment of new facilities.

In order to tackle institutional and operational weaknesses, the Government through the MWI has commenced water sector reform provided for in the Water Act 2002. All the new institutions within the WSS sub-sector have been established: Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB) to set standards and regulate the sub-sector; Water Appeal Board (WAB) to adjudicate on disputes; seven Water Services Boards (WSBs) to be responsible for the efficient and economical provision of water services; Water Services Trust Fund (WSTF) to finance pro-poor investments; Water Services Providers (WSPs) to be agents in the provision of water and sewerage services utilizing acceptable business principles in their operations. The MWI is responsible for overall sector oversight including policy formulation, coordination and resource mobilisation.

The NWSS defines the following strategic goals and strategic actions designed to provide an effective and efficient response to the challenges identified in the WSS sub-sector:

Strategic goals	Strategic actions
2.1 Reach at least 50% of the underserved urban population with safe and affordable water by 2015 (MDG) and thereafter, move to access to all by 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Increasing sustainability and benefits of economy of scale through clustering of utilities b. Review tariff guidelines periodically to cover justified costs c. Sector investments shall focus on infrastructure development and improvements of operation d. Service provision according to minimum standards specified in the sector benchmarks e. Increasing funding and leadership of GoK in the sector f. Foster good corporate governance
2.2 Reach through	a. Increase sustainability of sewerage systems and investments through

<p>sustainable waterborne sewage collection, treatment and disposal systems 40% of the urban and 10% of the rural population by 2015</p>	<p>ensuring that development funding has a waste water component</p> <p>b. Improve treatment of effluent by encouraging PPP and government to establish facilities</p> <p>c. Sewerage systems shall be managed by commercially oriented WSPs</p> <p>d. WSBs and WSPs subsidize sewer development to the urban poor</p> <p>e. Develop common understanding of roles of different Ministries/departments at all levels in the basic sanitation promotion and development</p> <p>f. MWI to define roles that WSPs and private sector in the water sector can play in basic sanitation</p>
<p>2.3 Increase access to safe and improved basic sanitation facilities particularly for the poor to 77.5% in the urban setting and 72.5% in the rural setting by 2015</p>	<p>a. Contribute to inter-sectoral cooperation through effective participation of MWI and institutions in fora on sanitation</p> <p>b. Enhance the contribution of the water sector to basic sanitation by promoting integrated programmes that have a sanitation component</p> <p>c. Promote professionalism and minimum standards for basic sanitation through guidelines to enhance local level capacity</p> <p>d. Fast tracking basic sanitation for the poor through subsidies by GoK or DPs</p>
<p>2.4 Achieve the MDG by fast tracking affordable and sustainable access to safe water in the settlements of the urban poor.</p>	<p>a. Ensure increased service provision in the settlements of the urban poor with minimum requirements and standards through GoK or DP subsidy in infrastructure development and empowering to manage facilities</p> <p>b. Accelerate sustainable access to safe water in the settlements of the urban poor by formalizing connections, setting pro-poor tariffs, providing appropriate outlets</p> <p>c. WSRB, WSBs and WSPs shall develop and implement strategies to extend formalized service provision to the urban poor</p> <p>d. Water sector reports to include advances in service provision to urban poor.</p> <p>e. Institutional development aimed at building capacity to be prioritized to develop local level management of WS provision</p>
<p>2.5 Reach at least 50% of the underserved in rural areas with safe and affordable water by 2015 (MDG) and thereafter move to sustainable access for all by 2030</p>	<p>a. Promote increase in investments and ownership for sustainable access to water in the rural areas</p> <p>b. Improve water quality of water sources by enforcing water quality standards and effective policing by WRMA etc</p> <p>c. Sustainability of rural water systems by promoting beneficiary participation in planning, implementation and management</p> <p>d. Enforcements of national standards and regulation</p> <p>e. Improve monitoring of existing water supplies to update baseline data for timely intervention.</p> <p>f. GoK, DPs to channel funds through WSTF to ensure compliance to national standards</p> <p>g. Investment in rural will aim at supplying water for both human and livestock.</p> <p>h. WSB shall promote PPP where viable</p>

	i. Support to user groups shall focus on good governance.
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Other strategic actions are lined out for cross-cutting issues such as: Information systems, sector Coordination and Programming, Human Rights and Poverty Alleviation, Financing in WSS sub-sector, Gender mainstreaming, HIV and AIDS, Environmental Sustainability and Disaster Management.

2. Places where the NWSS can be inspected

The public may inspect the draft NWSS for free or obtain copies at a fee of Kenya shillings Two Hundred (200/-) at any of the following offices:

- Ministry of Water Headquarters, Maji House, Ngong Road Nairobi, Box 49720, Nairobi. Tel. 2716103
- Athi WSB, Africa Re Centre, Upper Hill Nairobi, Box 45283-00100, Nairobi. Tel 2724292/3
- Rift Valley WSB, Giddo Plaza, Office Nr 25, George Morara Road, Box 2451-20100, Nakuru. Tel 051 2213557
- Lake Victoria North WSB, Former KEFINCO Complex, Box 673-50100, Kakamega. Tel. 056 30989/30795
- Lake Victoria South WSB, LaVictors House, Off Ring Road Milimani, Box 3325, Kisumu. Tel. 057 2025128
- Northern WSB, Box 495-70100, Garissa. Tel. 046 3197/3598
- Coast WSB, Kizingo area, Box 90417-80100, Mombasa. Tel. 041 2 315230
- Tana WSB, Box 1292-10100, Nyeri. Tel. 061 2032282
- The document can also be viewed and downloaded for free at www.water.go.ke

3. The public is now invited to make written comments or objections to the zero draft NWSS dated May 2007 to be received not later than Tuesday 10th July 2007. All comments or objections must be submitted to: The Director - Water Services, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Maji House Ngong Road, P. O. Box 49720-00100, NAIROBI

4. A public meeting to receive comments, whether in writing or not, is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 20th June 2007 at the KICC from 09.00am to 12 Noon. All those who wish to give comments are invited to this meeting.

(signed 31st May 2007)

Eng. R. N. Gakubia

Director of Water Services

Ministry of Water and Irrigation