



REMARKS BY

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MWA STRATEGIC PLAN FORUM

*WINDSOR GOLF HOTEL AND COUNTY CLUB
NAIROBI*

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Distinguished Participants and Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

- It is a great honour and privilege for me to be invited to address the MWA Strategic Planning meeting during the deliberations on the Kenya Program.
- As a country we are deeply honoured that MWA continues to play an active role in the sector and it is greatly appreciated.
- We say thank you to the MWA management for this decision. It exhibits the confidence you have and appreciation of the opportunities in the Kenyan Water sector development Agenda.
- Today, humanity continues to grapple with multiple challenges due to climate change and natural disasters that have led to increased scarcity of water, food, energy and poverty. These challenges oblige all of us as Governments, Private Sector and Civil Society to brainstorm on the possible intervention measures to handle these pertinent issues.
- Allow me to share with you some highlights of the Water Sector in Kenya, which I believe is replicated in most African countries, as a demonstration of the status and the challenges the continent faces.

Status of Water and Sanitation in Kenya

- Kenya has 5 water towers which are under threat due to anthropogenic activities mostly by the human population. Kenya's forest cover which hosts all these water towers is 1.7% of her landmass area. This is way below the international standards of 10%.
- As per last census, our population was 39 million and is projected to increase by 1 million people every year. Most of the Population is found in the rural areas (25.74 million) which are bordering the water towers.
- The urban population stands at 13.3 million of which 60% that live in

informal settlements.

- As a growing economy, there are numerous developmental challenges that demand the meager Government resources. This puts pressure on the Government's efforts to provide sustainable access to safe water, sewerage systems, and basic sanitation for the population.
- Today, 24 million (53%) of Kenya's population can access safe clean drinking water within short distances. Of these, 10.3 million live in rural areas and have access to water within 2 kilometers. In the urban areas water is accessible within 30 minutes of water source.
- Despite these efforts, 16 million Kenyans are without access to water in both rural and urban areas. The current Funding to the water sector is inadequate and hence this high deficit in access to water.

On Sanitation Status,;

- ⊕ The total sewerage coverage only serves a population of about 3.5 million Kenyans.
- ⊕ An estimated 1.4 Million Kenyans use on-site sewerage.

The challenges are surmountable if we come up with overarching strategies for improving access to basic Water and Sanitation services. Here I have a number of Proposals

1. **Recognizing the right to services.** Despite the common acceptance of multilateral, bilateral agencies, governments, academia and civil society that water and sanitation is critical for human survival, they are not a high priority issue in policy debate. We need to actively pursue a right based approach to the provision of these essentials. Water and Sanitation should be provided on the basis of justice for all.
2. **Political willingness from governments.** There is sufficient evidence that important changes will only be possible with political willingness at the highest level.
3. **The funding gap on Water and Sanitation access.** There exists a huge funding gap, which cannot be paid by the poor, especially for initial investments. We need to urgently find and pursue new funding mechanisms like the PPP interventions. In Kenya the funding gap to be able

to reach the MDGs is estimated at USD 78 million and USD 31 million for Water and Sanitation respectively.

4. Clear and specific pro-poor policies and strategies that include;
 - *New pro-poor strategies for water and sanitation access, linked to the delivery of the MDGs, need to be implemented rapidly.*
 - *Water Recycling and value extraction from Waste*
 - *Increased appreciation and utilization of Renewable Energy- Solar, Wind among others, ~~Water~~ *Water**
 - *Use of latest effective irrigation technology and its effective transfer. This will facilitate cost-effective methods of food production and will reduce the cost of food in the continent.*
5. Mainstreaming environmental issues and particularly climate change in national development strategies and the development agenda.
6. Enhance the participation of Women and the affirmative development of the girl child in the Water and Sanitation Agenda. This cannot be overlooked as it will go a long way in eradicating poverty.

It's my hope that the deliberations and decisions arrived at during these deliberations will be communicate to the ~~global~~ *fraternity*.

- ✓ Brief on the Bill. — *Shahidul Karim*
- ✓ Join the WSWG forum
- ✓ Join hands with the leadership of the Ministry for common approaches and understanding *Country*
- ✓ Align and support Governments

I am convinced that your efforts will ultimately translate to improved services to the ~~global~~ *community*. *Kenya*

KARIBU and have deliberations and engagement.

Thank you