

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KITUI



THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THIRD ASSEMBLY – (THIRD- SESSION)-2024

REPORT BY

THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, WATER AND IRRIGATION & LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE ON INSPECTION EXERCISE OF WATER PROJECTS IN KANYANGI WARD AND SPOT CHECK AT THWAKE MEGA DAM ON LABOUR ISSUES.

Clerk's Chambers,
Kitui County Assembly Buildings,
P.O Box 694-90200
KITUI.

FEBRUARY, 2024

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ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONONYMS

A.W.I	Agriculture, Water and Irrigation
AWWDA -	Athi Water Works Development Agency
CSR-	Cooperate Social Responsibility
CGGC -	China Gezhouba Group Company LTD
F. Y	Financial Year
GOK -	Government of Kenya
IATC-	Inter Agency Technical Committee
JICA -	Japanese International Cooperation Association
KITWASCO -	Kitui Water and Sanitation Company
KIMWASCO -	Kiambere Mwingi Water and Sanitation Company
MCA	Member of County Assembly.
NEMA -	National Environment Management Authority
NWSC-	Nairobi Water and Sewerage Company
NMS-	Nairobi Metropolis Services
PAPs-	Persons Affected by Project
SAO -	Senior Administrative Officer
TAWWDA -	Tanathi Water Works Development Agency
WRA-	Water Resources Authority

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The provisions of Article 185(3) of the Constitution 2010 gives County Assemblies the power to exercise oversight over the county executive committee and any other county executive organ. This role is further entrenched into our Standing Orders No. 190 (5) (b) which provides that;

'Each Sectoral Committee shall study the programme and policy objectives of departments and the effectiveness of the implementation'

Mr. Speaker Sir,

In line with the above provisions, the joint committee on agriculture, water and irrigation & Labour and Social Welfare held her preliminary meeting on 1st December, 2022 and vide *MIN (AWI) 008/2022* resolved to conduct an inspection of water projects implemented by County Government in Kanyangi Ward and undertake a spot visit at Thwake Mega Dam to respond to the worker's outcry on the alleged unfair labour practices by the management. The Committee further, came up with a program which included site visitations as from 3rd - 6th January, 2023.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

During the exercise, the committee sought to establish the quality of work done, and if members of the public got value for money from the resources allocated to specific projects, Whether the views of the residents were considered during identification and choice of the projects, challenges facing the already implemented projects and the Improvements that needed to be done on the projects.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The joint committee on agriculture, water and irrigation and Labour and Social Welfare visited the following water projects.

- a. Kavoo borehole
- b. Kavonge Borehore
- c. Kanyangi borehole
- d. Kanyongonyo borehole
- e. Kangukangu water project
- f. Thwake Dam

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The joint committee on Agriculture, Water and Irrigation and Labour and Social Welfare having successfully inspected the water projects in Kanyangi ward and toured the ongoing Thwake mega dam project, to interact with the management who gave a comprehensive briefing to the members. Upon successful undertaking of the planned exercise, the committee came up with the following observations:

1. In all the water projects visited, it was observed that diesel water pumps were uneconomical and difficult to manage. Further the solar panels installed in some of the projects were non-functional.
2. It was noted that most water projects lacked sufficient water storage tanks compared to the demands of the community while others had cracked leading to huge water losses.
3. In all water projects there were no washrooms which exposed the water to contamination.
4. Water management committees lacked capacity to effectively run the water affairs for optimal benefits to the community.
5. Water kiosk attendants were paid very little amounts which affected their morale to effectively serve the community.

6. There is a great disparity in the number of persons employed at the Thwake mega dam project on the basis of their counties of origin where Makueni county enjoys the lion's share of 49% as compared to Kitui with 16% and Machakos 15% among others.
7. From the data availed to the committee, it was evident that the project management had undertaken more CSR projects in Makueni county as compared to those undertaken in Kitui county.
8. A keen scrutiny of the planned project revealed that a larger community from Makueni county will benefit from water for irrigation as compared to Kitui county upon completion of the project.
9. Makueni county government leadership led by the former Governor and the current Governor had shown great interest in the ongoing project where the former governor had visited the site more than five times while the current governor had made two visits as at the time of the committee's visit, this was totally the opposite from the leadership of Kitui County who had never visited the site since its inception.
10. The committee observed that there was great disparity in gender balance where 84% of the staff recruited were males while only 16% were female, this was a recipe for gender based sexual harassment.
11. There was no clear staff welfare issues address mechanisms as it was evident that there was no staff welfare association, this was a fertile ground for staff mishandling creating a big room for unfair Labour practices.
12. The current staff engaged at the project were mainly on casual basis, a few on contractual basis and very few on permanent basis, this created a huge job insecurity to the persons engaged and was likely to breed favourism, nepotism among other vices at work place.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The joint committee recommends as follows:

That the County Ministry of Water and Irrigation should;-

1. Promote green energy through Installation of solar water pumping systems instead of diesel pumps to cut on cost.
2. Construct permanent ablution blocks in all water projects to enhance sanitation.
3. Undertake capacity building to water management committees to enhance their ability to run water affairs.
4. Remuneration to water kiosk attendants should be standardized so as to boost their morale in order to give optimal services.
5. In Thwake multipurpose Dam, the management should address the current staff establishment disparities by allocating more opportunities to those counties with less representation in future recruitments with a view of achieving parity in the three counties where the dam is established i.e Kitui, Makueni and Machakos.
6. Equal opportunities for CSR projects should be given to the counties where the dam is being constructed to ensure equal distribution of resources and benefits.
7. Proper publicity should be carried out in kitui, Makueni and Machakos counties to educate the locals on the current and future benefits accruing from the establishment of this flagship project. This will enable the locals make informed decisions in relation to investments and utilization of land around the dam.
8. The management should make deliberate efforts to achieve gender parity by availing more opportunities to female workers in the future recruitments in line with the provisions of the constitution 2010.

9. Staff engaged in the project should be allowed to form a staff welfare association with proper leadership to champion for welfare matters affecting their members. The management should as well recognize the leadership by involving them while making decisions affecting staff.
10. Kitui county Government leadership should borrow a leaf from the Makueni counterparts in embracing this mega project. Firstly, by creating time to visit the construction site and secondly engaging the project management to explore areas of partnership in harnessing the CSR benefits and job opportunities associated with this flagship project.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

In conclusion, the projects inspection was an informative experience that allowed members to gain a comprehensive understanding of the projects progress and identify areas that require improvement. The inspection also provided members with an opportunity to meet the community and discuss concerns, potential solutions and establish a way forward. The exercise gave the members an opportunity to get first hand information on the on-going construction of the Thwake Multipurpose Dam which is likely to turn around the fortunes of the people living around the dam.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

On behalf of the members of the Joint Ccommittee it is now my duty and privilege to present this report for adoption by the Honourable House.

1.0 BACKGROUND

Mr Speaker Sir,

The joint Committee's attention was prompted by the public outcry on the purported periodic breakdowns of water projects and irregular supply of water in Kanyangi ward. The committee was as well responding to the allegations of unfair labour practices being undertaken by the management at the upcoming Thwake Multipurpose dam. The committee swung into action and held a preliminary meeting at the assembly precincts to draw a program of activities on 1st December, 2022 including site visitations and thereafter compiled a report on the findings and recommendations for adoption by the house.

In undertaking the inspection exercise, the Committee acted within the provisions of **Article 185 (3)** of the Constitution which states that; -

"A County Assembly, while respecting the principle of the separation of powers, may exercise oversight over the County Executive Committee and any other County Executive organs.

1.1 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP/ ESTABLISHMENT

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Joint Committee on Agriculture, Water and Irrigation & Labour and Social Welfare was constituted pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 182(1). The Committee comprises the following members: -

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Hon. Anthony Musyimi Musyoka | Chairperson |
| 2. Hon. Joseph Kasungi Kavula | Vice-Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Aron Kilonzi Kasele | Member |
| 4. Hon. Immaculate Wanza John | Member |
| 5. Hon. Bonface Mukwate Katula | Member |

6. Hon. Christopher Nzilu Nzioka	Member
7. Hon. Harrison Maluki Mawia	Member
8. Hon. Fastina Mwendu Solomon Salu	Member
9. Hon. Jacqueline Cate Kalenga	Member
10. Hon. Muthama Musyoka Kieti	Member
11. Hon. Sylvester Kitheka Munyalo	Member
12. Hon. Joseph Musyoka Mbite	Member
13. Hon. Charity Kathathi Musyoka	Member
14. Hon. Frida M. Mutinda	Member
15. Hon. Pricilla M. Makumi	Member
16. Hon. Mary P. Ndumbu	Member
17. Hon. Zacchaeus I. Syengo	Member
18. Hon. Mary M. Musili	Member
19. Hon. Elizabeth N. Peter	Member
20. Hon. Cornelius M Ngumbau	Member
21. Hon. Jeremiah M. Mutua	Member

1.2 COMMITTEE MANDATE

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The joint Committee draws her mandate from the provisions of Standing Order No. 190(5) which *inter alia* provides that a Sectoral Committee shall: -

- a) Investigate, inquire into and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operation and estimates of the assigned department;
- b) Study programs and policy objectives of departments and the effectiveness of the implementation;
- c) Study and review all county legislation referred to it;

- d) Study, assess and analyse the relative success of departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;
- e) Investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned departments as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the County Assembly;
- f) To vet and report on all appointments where the constitution or any law requires the County Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order 185 (Committee Appointments); and
- g) Make reports and recommendations to the county assembly as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation

1.3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I take this opportunity to extend my sincere and Special appreciation to the Office of the Speaker and that of the Clerk for the facilitation accorded to this Honourable Joint Committee in fulfilment of its oversight mandate.

Mr. Speaker Sir,


I also express reflective gratitude to the members of the Joint Committee on agriculture, water and irrigation and Labour and Social Welfare and also the secretariat for their technical support. It is through their enthusiasm, tireless hard work and commitment that we credit the accomplishment of this very imperative mission.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Joint Committee extends its appreciation to the members of the public and the senior management of the Thwake multipurpose dam for willingly providing information that the committee needed to compile in this report.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

On behalf of the members of the Joint Ccommittee it is now my pleasant duty and privilege to present this report for adoption by the Honourable House.

SIGNED  DATE 19TH FEB 2024

HON. ANTHONY MUSYIMI MUSYOKA (MCA)
CHAIRPERSON, JOINT COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, WATER
AND IRRIGATION & LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE.

Report compiled by:

1. Onesmus M. Mbwang'a – Clerk serving Committee on Labour and Social Welfare.
2. Winfred Musyoki - Clerk Serving Committee on Agriculture, water and Irrigation

2.0 INSPECTION OF WATER PROJECTS IN KANYANGI WARD

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The joint committee on visited the following water projects.

- a. Kavoo borehole
- b. Kavonge Borehore
- c. Kanyangi borehole
- d. Kanyongonyo borehole
- e. Kangukangu water project
- f. Thwake Dam

2.1. KAVOO BOREHOLE

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Kavoo borehole is located in Kanyangi village in Kanyangi ward. The borehole was drilled in 2016 by the County government of Kitui. It has a water production capacity of 48 M³ per hour. World vision funded the water extension and opened the following water kiosks which are functional.

- i. Kavoo Water kiosk
- ii. Itithini water kiosk
- iii. Kavumbini water kiosk
- iv. Makutano ma syumakanda water kiosk
- v. Mbetwani (low demand)

Specific Observations

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The joint Committee made the following observations, that;

- i. The water project had a management committee which oversees the day-to-day operations of the project.
- ii. The project had Twenty Eight (28) private Connections and four (4) water kiosks. Each kiosk had an attendant with a monthly salary of four thousand shillings (ksh 4000).
- iii. The borehole had two water kiosks which are non-functional; that is ndokeani and Ngomeni water kiosks awaiting commissioning by the County Government.
- iv. The borehole uses generator which the management complained to be consuming high amounts of diesel.
- v. Some of the storage water tanks and pipelines were leaking resulting to high loss of water.
- vi. There was no pit latrine hence posing a health hazards.

Specific Recommendations

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The joint Committee made the following recommendations;

That the Ministry of Water and Irrigation should:

- i. Repair the entire water pipeline extension and water storage tanks to minimize water leakages as well as ensure constant water supply in the area.
- ii. Constructs a pit latrine at the water point to enhance on sanitation.
- iii. Install solar panels as an option to cut on the high electricity bills as well as high cost of fuel for the generator.

2.1 KAVONGE BOREHOLE.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The joint Committee visited this project which is located at Kanyangi village in Kanyangi ward. The project was done by the County Government of Kitui in 2014/2015 Financial Year and started functioning in 2017.

Specific Observations

The joint Committee observed as follows:

That;

- i. The borehole was not functioning since August 2022. The water pump copper wire which connects to the solar panels from the underground was vandalized by unknown individuals.
- ii. The water pump area is not fenced hence some of the solar panels and batteries had been vandalized.
- iii. The borehole water is very salty thus it's not suitable for human consumption thus it is only used for watering animals, cleaning and construction.
- iv. There is no proper and organized committee to manage the operations of the borehole.
- v. There was no pit latrine hence posing a health hazard.

Specific Recommendations

Mr. Speaker Sir,

THAT; the Ministry of Water and Irrigation should;

- i. Establish well trained water management committee to oversee the operations of the project.

- ii. Repair the broken pump motor wires for the borehole to start functioning.
- iii. Fence the water pump area so as to prevent invasion by human leading to theft.
- iv. Construct a pit latrine at the water point to improve on sanitation.
- v. Desalinate the water to make it fit for human consumption.

2.3 KANYANGI BOREHOLE

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The joint Committee visited this project which is located at Kanyangi village in Kanyangi ward and was briefed by the Kanyangi Ward Administrator. The borehole was drilled by the defunct Ministry of Local Authority in 1977.

Specific Observations

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The joint Committee made the following observations,

That;

- i. The borehole is managed by Kitui Water and Sanitation Company (KITWASCO)
- ii. The water is used for domestic use as well as Commercial use.
- iii. The borehole has Nineteen (19) public Water kiosks however, only nine (9) are operational.
- iv. The borehole supplies water to Four (4) Public institutions, that is, Kanyangi Girls Secondary School, Kanyangi Boys Secondary School, Kanyangi Level IV Hospital and Kanyangi Police station.

- v. The project has Four Hundred and Fifty Six (456) private Connections out of which only three hundred and forty-two (342) are active.
- vi. The borehole serves two big masonry tanks with a capacity of 100M³ each while the water pipeline extension covers thirty-five (35) Kilometers.
- vii. The water retails at kshs. 2.00 per 20litre jerrican leading to a monthly collection amounting to ksh 3 96,000. Despite this, the committee was informed that the project is not able to meet its monthly expenditures thus it is unable to pay workers, electricity as well as purchase fuel for the water pump.
- viii. The community alluded to mismanagement of funds by the KITWASCO as the borehole had an accrued an electricity bill of ksh 639,000 despite making monthly collections of kshs 396,000.
- ix. The borehole was powered with solar energy, generator and electricity.
- x. The borehole site and the water pump area is not fenced.
- xi. The public alleged that the KITWASCO officers were ruthless as they would disconnect water without giving any reasonable notice while they dragging when called upon to reconnect water even after the water users pay for reconnection fee.
- xii. Broken water lines took long time before repairing even after payments were done leading to huge water losses and in some cases the water officers asked for money to do what they employed to do.
- xiii. The public complained of high bills even when no water had been supplied.
- xiv. There were no pit latrines hence posing a health hazard

Specific Recommendations

Mr. Speaker Sir,

THAT; the Ministry of Water and Irrigation should;

- i. Summon KITWASCO and KIMWASCO Managing Directors to respond issues on operations of water projects under their jurisdictions
- ii. Require that KITWASCO to provides audit reports, showing how funds collected and used as well as availing bank statements for public scrutiny.
- iii. Fence the entire borehole site so as to prevent invasion by humans and animals leading to contamination of water..
- iv. Construct a pit latrine at the water point to improve on sanitation.
- v. KITWASCO to initiate disciplinary processes on staff found to be involved in and corrupt practices.

2.4 KANYONGONYO BOREHOLE

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The joint Committee visited this project which is located at Kanyongonyo village in Kanyangi ward. The delegation was briefed by the project Committee Chairperson as follows:

The borehole was drilled and started operating in the 2007. It was funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The borehole was handed over to the community thereafter.

Specific Observations

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The joint Committee made the following observations,

That;

- i. The water project has a management committee which oversees the day-to-day operations of which the community claimed to be having insufficient capacity to effectively run its affairs.
- ii. The project has Twenty Eight (28) private Connections and four (4) water kiosks that is, Kanyongonyo kiosk, Littre center kiosk, Kwa masavu kiosk and Kyunduani Junction (kwa Mwatu)kiosk. Each kiosk has an attendant paid a monthly salary of Four Thousand Shillings.
- iii. The water retails at kshs. 3.00 per 20litre jerrican. On a monthly basis during dry season Kanyongonyo kiosk collects ksh 25,000, Littre center kiosk collects ksh 10,000, Kwa masavu kiosk collects ksh 4,000 and Kyunduani Junction (kwa Mwatu) kiosk collects ksh 20,000.
- iv. The borehole water pump is powered by a generator and electricity.
- v. There are insufficient water tanks for water storage while Some of the pipelines are leaking resulting to high water loss.
- vi. The project has a watchman who is paid Kshs 4500 per Month.
- vii. There were no pit latrines hence posing a health hazards.

Specific Recommendations

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Committee recommends as follows;

That the Ministry of Water and Irrigation should;

- iv. Require the project managing Committee to provide reports, showing how funds are collected and used to restore public trust.
- v. Implement solarization option to cut down on high electricity bills as well as high cost of fuel for generator.

- vi. Provide more water storage tanks to boost water storage as well as constructing pit latrines at the water points to improve on sanitation.

2.5 KANGUKANGU WATER PROJECT.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The joint Committee visited this project which is located at Kanyangi village in Kanyangi ward. The delegation was received and briefed by the Kanyangi Ward Administrator and the Village Administrator.

The water project was initiated through partnership by the World Vision and the County Government of Kitui in efforts to provide clean water to the residents of Kanyangi and Mutomo wards in the year 2009.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Committee was further informed that upon completion, the project begun supplying water in the 2014/2015 Financial. The project has a potential of serving more than 100,000 residents. As at the time of visit, the project was in-operational due to power outage following a blown-out transformer at the site as well as lack of fuel for the generator.

Specific Observations

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The joint Committee Members made the following observations,

That:-

- i. The Kangukangu water project is managed by Kitui Water and Sanitation Company(KITWASO)
- ii. The project is installed with a very high capacity pump however the fuel supply was so irregular.
- iii. The water is used for domestic use as well as Commercial use.

- iv. There were no staff houses and wash rooms.
- v. Following the electricity transformer breakdown the project was left to rely on power from backup generator which was very expensive to run due to high cost of fuel.
- vi. The pipeline faced a challenge of bursts and leakages due to long period of being non-operational.

2.6 THWAKE MULTIPURPOSE DAM SPOT VISIT

Mr. Speaker,

The attention of the joint committee was drawn by the public outcry from workers at the Thwake Mega Dam where it was alleged that the management was involved in unfair activities which would otherwise lead to unfair labour practices.

The committee held her preliminary meeting in the assembly precincts to draw a program of activities which included a spot visit at the site on 3rd January, 2023.

Upon arrival at the site, the joint committee was received by the senior site Engineer Mr. Pius Musis and the Liaison Officer Mr. Kyenza. The two officers briefed the Joint committee and later led the committee to a tour around the dam construction site.

2.6.1 OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

Mr. Speaker,

The committee was informed that Thwake multipurpose dam was being constructed through partnership by The Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation and the African Development Bank. This was a Flag Ship Program under Vision 2030 of the Government

of Kenya (GOK) and a key project under the Government Big Four Agenda. The program comprised a multi-purpose dam for

- water supply,
- hydropower generation and
- irrigation development.
- It will also provide regulation of flows on River Athi downstream of the dam for flood control and drought mitigation.

2.6.2 FUNDING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Speaker,

The Funding of the Dam design and construction is partly by the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Water and partly by the African Development Bank on a 10%, 90% share respectively.

The SMEC (Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation) was entrusted with the Design Review and Construction Supervision of the Dam Works. The Construction Contract was awarded to **CGGC** (China Gezhouba Group Co, Ltd) in November 2017 and Construction Works began in March 2018.

The Construction Period is 1683 days from the Start Date and an extension period of 608 days. (End Date 4th July, 2024). The Construction Commencement Date was 27th March, 2018.

2.6.3 MAIN PROJECT CONTRACT DETAILS & FEATURES

- i. Employer (as per signed contract document) is the Ministry of Water Sanitation and Irrigation.
- ii. Engineer Water Secretary Ministry of Water Sanitation and Irrigation (Eng. SAO Alima)

- iii. Targeted Project output (Water supply, sewerage systems, power generation and irrigation)
- iv. Dam Height & Crest Length – (80.5m, 1500m)
- v. Reservoir Area & Storage at FS (28km², 688Mm³)
- vi. Catchment Area (10,272 km²)
- vii. Average River Flow (41 m³/s)
- viii. 2 Tunnels- (length 731m & 797m)
- ix. Spillway Chute Width & Length Tapered from 235m to 100m, 520m

2.6.4 LAND ACQUISITION AND RESETTLEMENT ACTION PLAN

- i. 99.8% of compensation has been done where 1,789 Fully compensated and relocated.
- ii. 1,792 Persons Affected by Project (PAPs) in Makueni and Kitui counties have benefited while only 3 families remain uncompensated due to family disputes.

2.6.5 SOCIAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

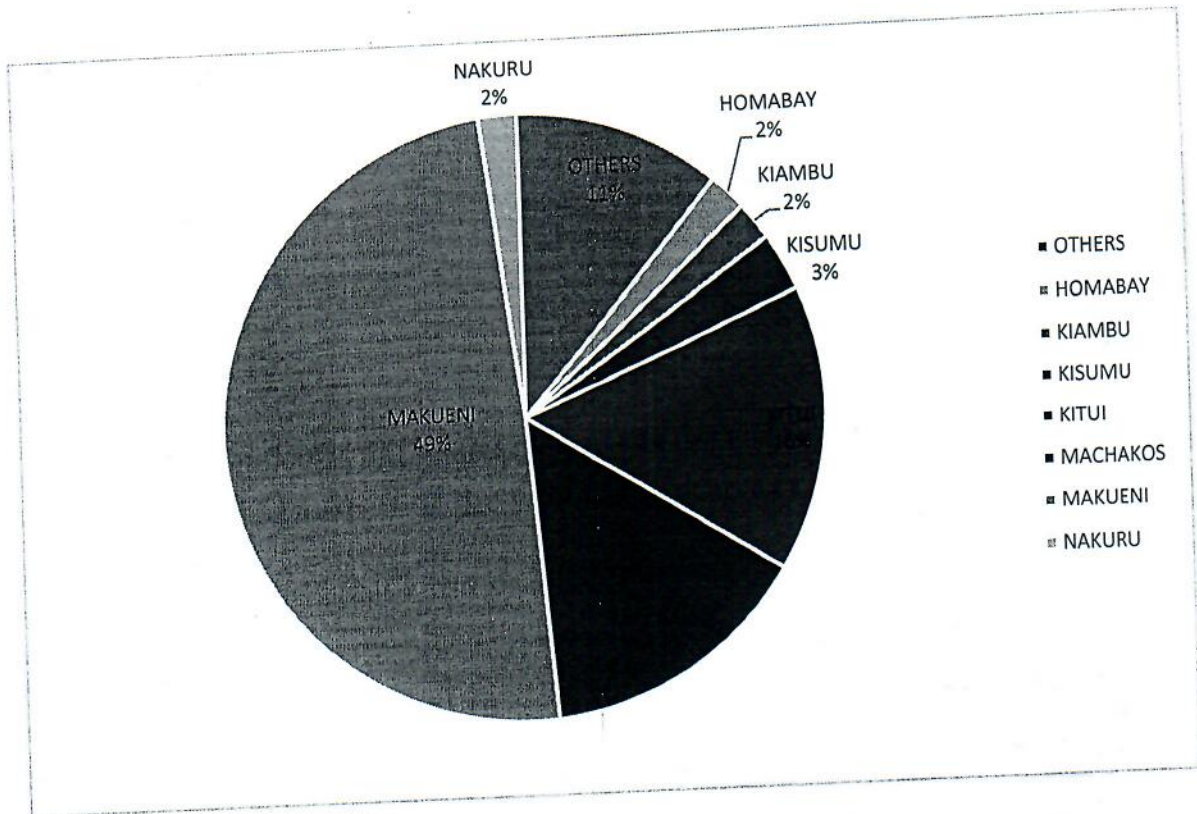
Employment

Currently there are 1,291 local people employed directly into the dam construction project of which (84%) are male and (16%) are female. The project is also supporting local industries through the sourcing of construction materials such as cement, steel and fuel for the construction of the dam.

Local subcontracts

Under the contract for construction of dam embankment and associated works, 30% of works worth approximately Ksh.11billion is planned to be subcontracted to local companies wholly owned by Kenyans. Currently subcontracts worth Kshs10.45 billion have been made with local companies.

2.6.6 PERCENTAGE PERSONNEL DISTRIBUTION PER COUNTY



2.6.7 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT Environmental Concerns of the Community Around Dam 2022

The Ministry is aware of the environmental concerns of the community around Thwake Dam construction site since the commencement of construction in March, 2018, and has continuously ensured the implementation of remedial actions in compliance with environmental regulations and guidelines.

Some of the concerns are complaints on blasting of rocks and cracks in buildings. The contractor has acquired all environmental licenses and permits and also conducted the survey of structures neighboring the project that may be affected by blasting vibration. Continuous monitoring of noise and vibration is ongoing.

The Inter Agency Technical Committee (IATC) team is mandated to generate possible action lines that will be implemented to control pollution problems in Nairobi Basin Rivers which feed into the Thwake Dam. The team includes;

- Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation,
- National Environment Management Authority (NEMA),
- Athi Water Works Development Agency (AWWDA),
- Nairobi Water and Sewerage Company (NWSC),
- Nairobi Metropolis Services (NMS) (Up to 2022) and
- Water Resources Authority (WRA).
- Tanathi Water Works Development Agency (TAWWDA)
- Nairobi River Commission (To look into ways of working together)

3.0 COMMITTEE'S GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Mr. Speaker,

The joint committee on Agriculture, Water and Irrigation and Labour and Social Welfare having successfully inspected the water projects in Kanyangi ward and toured the ongoing construction of Thwake mega dam water project. The committee interacted with the management who gave a comprehensive briefing to the members.

The committee makes the following general observations:

1. In all the water projects visited, it was observed that diesel water pumps were uneconomical and difficult to manage. Further the solar panels installed in some of the projects were non-functional.
2. It was noted that most water projects lacked sufficient water storage tanks compared to the demands of the community while others had cracks leading to huge water losses.
3. In all water projects there were no washrooms which exposed the water to contamination.
4. Water management committees lacked capacity to effectively run the water affairs for optimal benefits to the community.
5. Water kiosk attendants were paid very little amounts which affected their morale to effectively serve the community.
6. There is a great disparity in the numbers of persons employed at the project on the basis of their counties of origin where Makueni county enjoys the lion's share of 49% as compared to Kitui with 16% and Machakos 15% among others.
7. From the data availed to the committee, it was evident that the project management had undertaken more CSR projects in Makueni county as compared to those undertaken in Kitui county.

8. A keen scrutiny of the planned project revealed that a larger community from Makueni county will benefit from water for irrigation as compared to Kitui county upon completion of the project.
9. Makueni county government leadership led by the former Governor and the current Governor had shown great interest in the ongoing project where the former governor had visited the site more than five times while the current governor had made two visits as at the time of the committee's visit, this was totally the opposite from the leadership of Kitui County who had never visited the site since its inception.
10. The committee observed that there was a great disparity in gender balance where 84% of the staff recruited were males while only 16% were female, this was a recipe for gender based sexual harassment.
11. There were no clear staff welfare issues address mechanisms as it was evident that there was no staff welfare association, this was a fertile ground for staff mishandling creating a big room for unfair Labour practices.
12. The current staff engaged at the project were mainly on casual basis, a few on contractual basis and very few on permanent basis, this created a huge job insecurity to the persons engaged and was likely to breed favourism, nepotism among other vices at work place.

4.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The joint committee recommends that the County Ministry of Water and Irrigation should

1. Promote green energy through Installation of solar water pumping system in place of diesel pumps to cut on cost.
2. To Construct permanent ablution blocks in all water projects in entire Kitui County.
3. Completes and operationalizes all stalled water projects to ensure there is value of money to the public.
4. The project management should address the current staff establishment disparity by allocating more opportunities to those counties with less representation in future recruitments with a view of achieving parity in the three counties where the dam is established i.e Kitui, Makueni and Machakos.
5. Equal opportunities for CSR projects should be given to the counties where the dam is being constructed to ensure equal distribution of resources and benefits.
6. Proper publicity should be carried out in both kitui, Makueni and Machakos counties to educate the locals on the current and future benefits accruing form the establishment of this flagship project. This will enable the locals to make informed decisions in relation to investments and utilization of land around the dam.
7. The management should make deliberate efforts to achieve gender parity by availing more opportunities to female workers in the future recruitments in line with the provisions of the constitution 2010.
8. Staff engaged in the project should be allowed to form a staff welfare association with proper leadership to champion for welfare matters

affecting their members. The management should as well recognize the leadership by involving them while making decisions affecting staff.

9. Kitui county Government leadership should borrow a leaf from the Makueni counterparts in embracing this mega project. Firstly, by creating time to visit the construction site and secondly engaging the project management to explore areas of partnership in harnessing the CSR benefits and job opportunities associated with this huge project.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this inspection exercise was an eye opener to the members of the joint committee on the management of water projects in Kanyangi ward many of which were in very deplorable state and thus not giving the intended benefits to the targeted population. The water management committees lack the capacity to effectively manage community water for optimal benefits. Proper capacity building should be carried out on these water management groups by the county ministry of water and irrigation so as to enable the groups undertake their roles effectively.

The county government of Kitui should embrace the upcoming Thwake multipurpose dam so as to realize the enormous benefits ranging from the CSR projects, job opportunities, water for irrigation and electric power generation when the project comes to completion.

PHOTO GALLERY

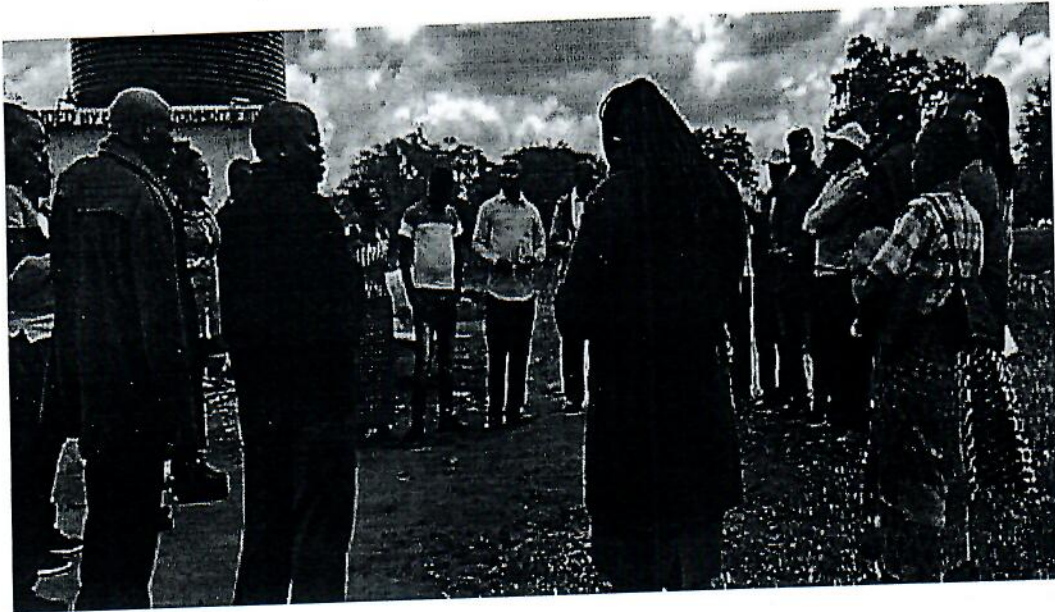


figure 001 engagement with the locals at Kavoo borehole.

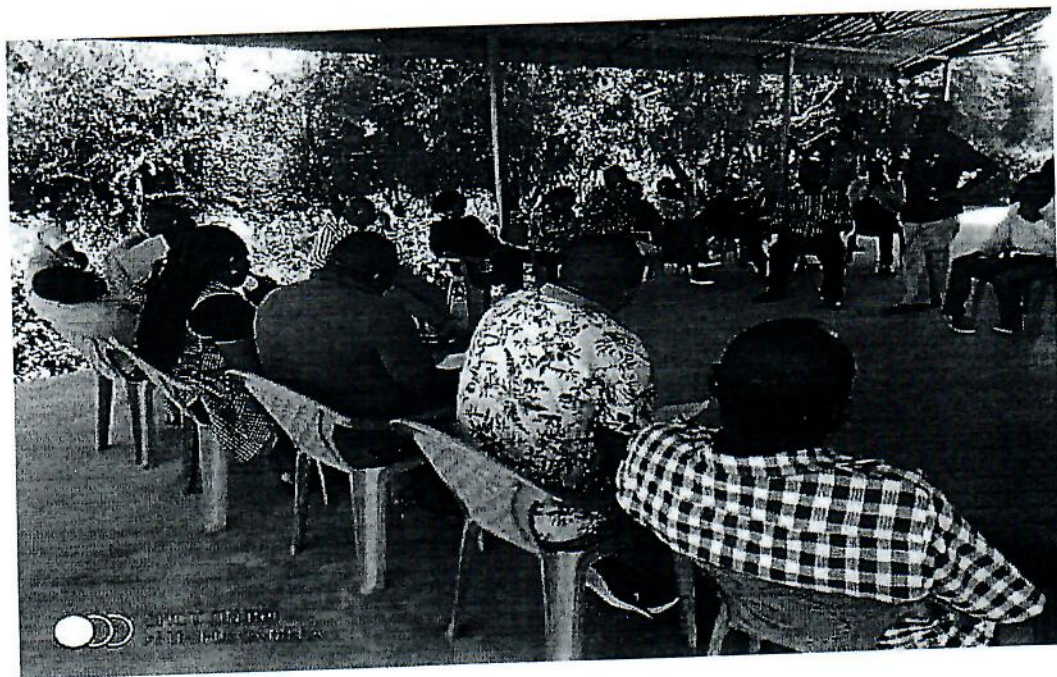


figure 002 engagement with the locals at Kavonge borehole.



figure 003 engagement with the locals at Kanyongonyo borehole.

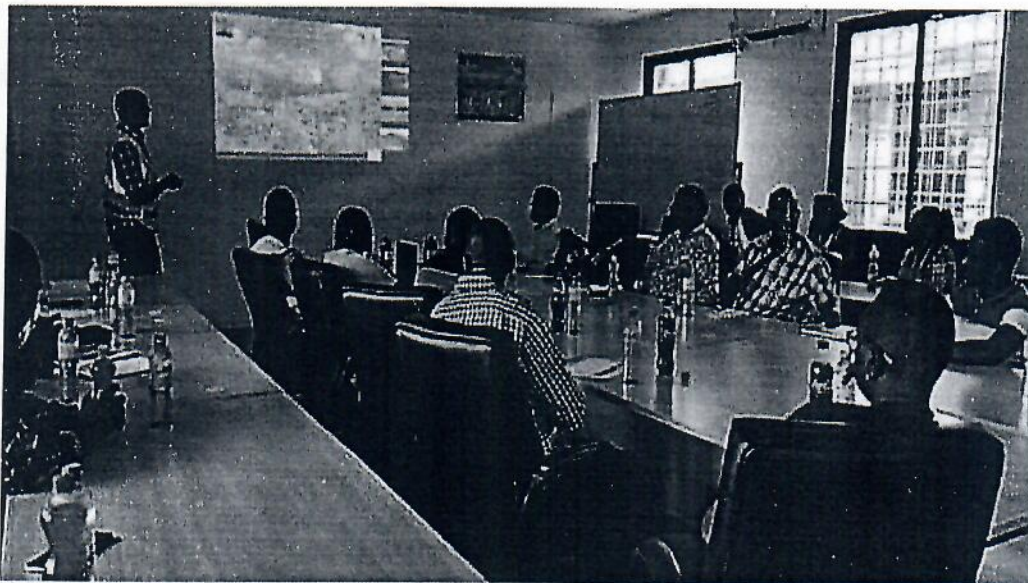


figure 004 a briefing to the committee by the management at Thwake dam.

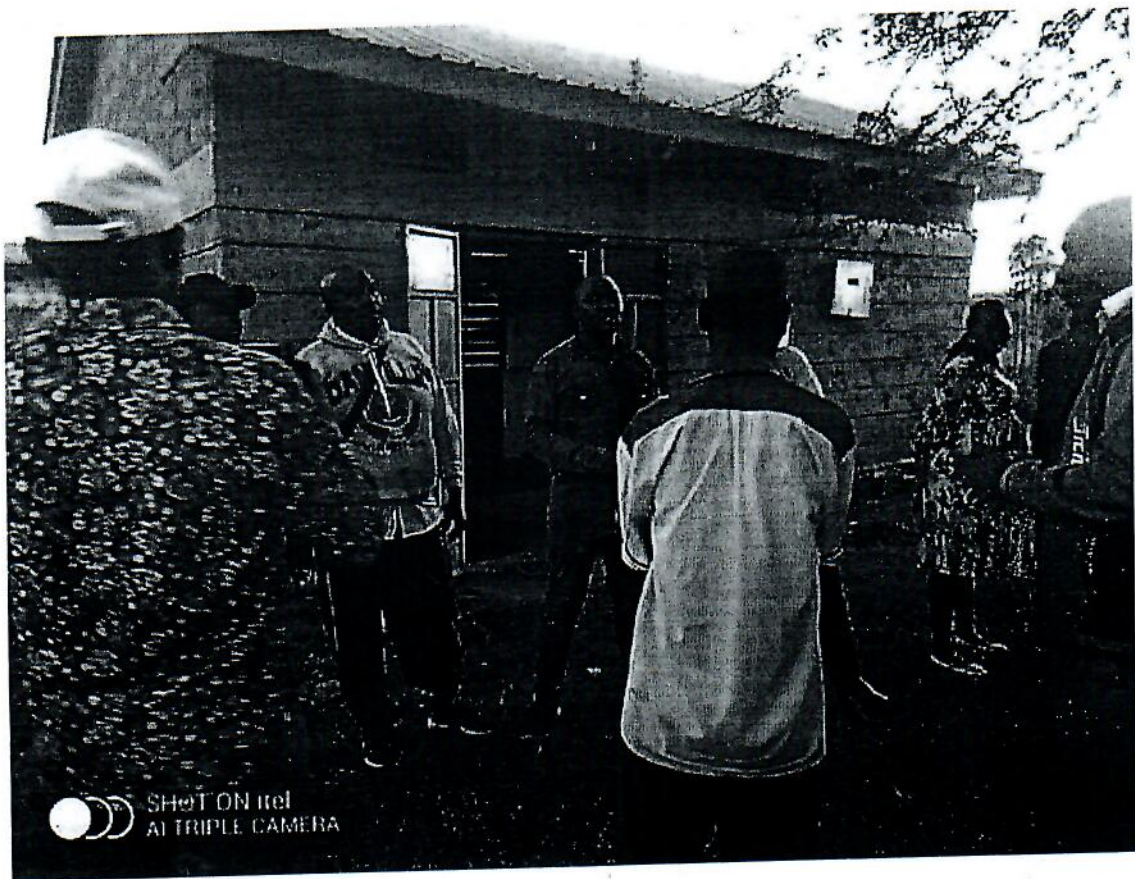
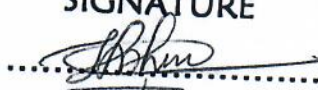
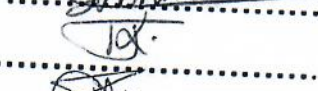
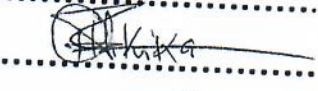


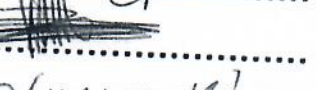
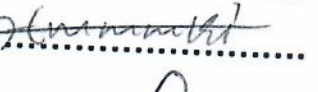




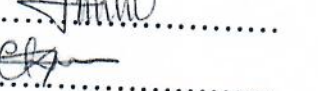
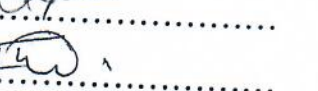



figure 005 engagement with the locals at Kangukangu borehole.

ANNEX 1

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON INSPECTION EXERCISE OF WATER PROJECTS IN KANYANGI WARD AS WELL AS RESPONDING TO THWAKE MEGA DAM LABOUR MATTERS.

We Members of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Water and Irrigation & Labour and Social Welfare have adopted this Report on inspection exercise of water projects in Kanyangi ward as well as responding to Thwake Mega Dam Labour matters and hereby affix our signatures to affirm our approval and confirm its accuracy, validity and authenticity; -

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
1.Hon. Anthony Musyimi Musyoka	Chairperson	
2. Hon. Joseph Kasungi Kavula	Vice-Chairperson	
3.Hon. Aron Kilonzi Kasele	Member	
4.Hon. Immaculate Wanza John	Member	
5.Hon. Bonface Mukwate Katula	Member	
6.Hon. Christopher Nzilu Nzioka	Member	
7.Hon. Harrison Maluki Mawia	Member	
8.Hon.Fastina Mwende Solomon Salu	Member	
9.Hon. Jacqueline Cate Kalenga	Member	
10.Hon. Muthama Musyoka Kieti	Member	
11.Hon.Sylvester Kitheka Munyalo	Member	
12.Hon. Joseph Musyoka Mbite	Member	
13.Hon Charity Kathathi Musyoka	Member	
14. Hon. Frida M. Mutinda	Member	

- 15. Hon. Pricilla M. Makumi
- 16. Hon. Mary P. Ndumbu
- 17. Hon. Zacchaeus I. Syengo
- 18. Hon. Mary M. Musili
- 19. Hon. Elizabeth N. Peter
- 20. Hon. Cornelius M Ngumbau
- 21. Hon. Jeremiah M. Mutua

Member
Member
Member
Member
Member
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Member

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