

INAUGURAL KENYA WATER SECTOR CONFERENCE AND SWAP LAUNCH

30TH - 31ST OCTOBER, 2006

EVENT SUMMARY NOTE

Context

Since 2000 MWI with the support of its development partners has introduced a number of sector reforms focusing on the separation of policy formulation and regulation from service provision and the separation of water resources management from water services. Several landmark documents such as the new water law have been launched and the main sector institutions are now established: Water Services Trust Fund, Water Services Regulatory Board, Water Services Boards, and Water Resources Management Authority. At the same time the government, at local and central level, NGOs and development partners have worked actively to mobilize resources to meet the policy goals and achieve the aspirations of millions of ordinary Kenyans for equitable access to water and sanitation.

Following these processes and under the chairmanship of the Sector Wide Approach to Planning (SWAP) committee the sector has developed a framework and roadmap for achieving a SWAP in the water sector. The roadmap presented at a stakeholders workshop in March 2006 and further endorsed at the Water Sector Working Group meeting in April 2006 expects a SWAP launch during the Inaugural water Sector Conference in October 2006. About 200 participants representing all of Kenya's public water sector institutions at the national, regional and local levels, private and civil society sectors as well development partners will take part in the conference.

Objective and content

The overall objective of the conference is to launch the SWAP for the water sector and undertake the inaugural annual water sector review. The theme of this first review will focus on i) the status and challenges facing the sector as it implements the water sector reforms and ii) the progress and the next steps for SWAP implementation.

The conference is divided into 2 days. The first day will review the sector status and challenges and the second day will review the progress towards SWAP and develop undertakings to be achieved by the sector during the next year.

The conference is structured into 5 main sessions as shown below:

