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PRESS RELEASE

Nairobi Water and Sewerage Emergency Physical Investments Programme Additional Water Transmission Works to Nairobi – Groundbreaking Ceremony

The **French Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Etienne de Poncins**, the Permanent Secretary, **Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Eng. David Stower**, and the **Chief Executive Officer of Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Mr Dov Zerah**, will be present at the groundbreaking ceremony of the Additional Water Transmission Works to Nairobi, on Monday 25th July 2011 at 3pm, at Gigiri Reservoir Site, Nairobi.

The Additional Water Transmission Works to Nairobi is part of the “Nairobi Water and Sewerage Emergency Physical Investments Programme” implemented by Athi Water Services Board (AWSB) and funded by AFD (www.afd.fr). The main objectives of the “Nairobi Water and Sewerage Emergency Physical Investments Programme” are to improve the living conditions of the inhabitants of the city of Nairobi through large investments in water and sanitation infrastructures, and simultaneously to complement the implementation of reforms within the water sector at the local level.

Under these objectives, the following main components have been included in the Project:

- The full rehabilitation of Sasumua Dam and Sasumua Treatment Plant, which were seriously damaged in 2003 and whose spillway was threatening to collapse, with huge risks of human and further physical damages; these works were commissioned last April;
- The rehabilitation of the Dandora/Nairobi sewerage treatment plant and for the trunk sewers: these works were commissioned last year;
- Major works on the Ngethu system: rehabilitation of main transmission lines to Nairobi, rehabilitation of the Ngethu Water Treatment Plant (works completed), construction of new main water pipelines to Nairobi and Kabete (starting works) and rehabilitation of the Kabete pumping equipment (starting works).

The total cost of the Project is EUR 62 million, totally financed by AFD thanks to a soft loan granted in 2005 to the GOK, partially un-lent to AWSB.

Once completed, this project will increase Nairobi’s water production capacity by 25%, will secure main dams, treatment plants and pipes providing water to Nairobi and will improve the quality of rivers and environment in Nairobi.

The ceremony will officially launch new works for:

- **the laying of a fourth water main transmission pipeline between Kwa Maiko and Gigiri (18 km of 800 or 900 mm diameter steel pipe);**
- **the laying of a transfer water pipeline between Gigiri and Kabete (9 km of 700 mm diameter steel pipe);**
- **the rehabilitation of the pumping system at Gigiri**

The rehabilitation of the Kabete water treatment plant.

The total cost is around KShs 1.5billion. The projects will enable the transmission of 40,000m³/day to Nairobi.

Water and sanitation is one of the priorities of Kenya-France Cooperation. Since 1998, AFD has funded around EUR 148 million towards this sector in Kenya.

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