



## NATIONAL DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

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### **SPEECH BY CHAIRMAN OF NDMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MR RAPHAEL NZOMO, MBS, DURING COMMISSIONING OF KWA DIKI WATER PAN IN KWALE COUNTY ON NOVEMBER 6, 2019**

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#### **Protocols**

- Your Excellency Governor Salim Mvurya
  - My colleagues from the NDMA Board of Directors
  - County Government officials
  - NDMA management team and staff
  - Wananchi wa Mazola na Puma Location kwa jumla
  - **Ladies and Gentlemen**
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- Today, we are here to commission yet another project aimed at building the resilience of the residents of Mazola Sub-location and the greater Puma Ward, especially during drought periods.
  - Construction of the pan was completed last year at a cost of **Kshs 10.6 million**. The construction was supported by the European Union, County Government and communities. The pan is meant to provide water to more than **6,000 people**, more than **20,000 livestock** and support some irrigation activities.
  - We have heard testimonies on how this **Kwa Diki** water pan has improved your access to water. Since the pan impounded water during the October to December 2018 short rains season, it has served you throughout the year without drying up.
  - While the National and County Governments are obligated to support you to establish such water infrastructure, it is your responsibility to take care of it. Guard it jealously because as it is now all too evident, drought will surely be back.
- This pan has already demonstrated that it will provide you with the much-needed water for yourselves and your livestock.
- The devastating effects of climate change are now all too evident in our country. We are increasingly oscillating between drought periods and

enhanced rainfall that often results in flooding. The Government has committed to end drought emergencies in Kenya. The ending drought emergencies strategy, or EDE, recognizes that poverty and vulnerability are the root causes of drought emergencies.

- Government policy is now focusing on long-term solutions that ensure droughts do not become disasters. This requires the implementation of programmes and projects that strengthen community resilience to the risks posed by drought.
- **The Kwa Diki** water pan is fully in line with the EDE approach. By providing water throughout the year, it will be of immediate help during dry seasons and drought years. But over the longer term, it will also prepare people to deal with drought, by supporting local livelihoods based on farming, livestock and forestry.
- As a specialized institution mandated to coordinate drought management, the National Drought Management Authority is also the focal point in Government for coordination of the EDE strategy.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

- Access to water is still a challenge in our arid and semi-arid regions and the Government is constructing water infrastructure such as pans and dams to address the problem. Though the impact of mega dams in improving access to water in ASALs is well documented, the place of smaller earth dams and water pans is often overlooked.

There is evidence that water pans are very effective in making water directly accessible to vulnerable communities in the region.

- In addition to the provision of the **Kwa Diki** water Pan, the NDMA, with the support of our development partner, the European Union, has been implementing interventions to respond to drought situations as well as building resilience in Kwale County. For instance, during the drought experienced in 2016-17, we supported various response activities at a cost of **Kshs 21 million**.
- This support covered livestock disease surveillance and vaccination, slaughter destocking, provision of livestock feed supplements, health and nutrition, fuel subsidies and conflict management.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

- Though fast and appropriate action is needed to help those affected when droughts arise, rather than just dealing with its effects, other kinds of investments are required to reduce the underlying risks and to help people become less vulnerable. In this regard, we have collaborated with the Kwale County

Government to implement various drought resilience projects such as the **Kshs 14.8 million** Chengoni integrated food security project in Samburu-Chengoni Ward which comprises a water pan, draw-off and sanitation facilities, a livestock trough and drip irrigation infrastructure.

- With funding from the Government of Japan through the UNDP, we have also implemented projects to stabilize and build the resilience of communities affected by violent conflicts and disasters at a cost of **Kshs 7.4 million**.

These projects were implemented in all four sub-counties. The projects have supported women and youth groups in the County to start income-generating activities.

- NDMA's focus on building resilience to drought through improving access to water is replicated in all the ASAL counties that we serve. For instance, in the last financial year, we invested **Kshs 140 million** in the construction of dams and auxiliary structures in various ASAL counties. In the current financial year, we have already committed **Kshs 136 million** for waterworks in Lamu, Kajiado, Marsabit, Wajir, Laikipia and Isiolo counties.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

- Disaster management is a shared function between the National and County Governments. I, therefore, call upon the County Government to priorities in their county integrated development plans activities that contribute to ending drought emergencies and consciously mobilize and allocate resources towards their realization.
- As I conclude, I would like to thank the European Union, who have not only supported this project, but have also supported other projects in this County. I would also like to thank other development partners who have supported other projects in the County.
- I would like to close by thanking everyone for attending today's ceremony, and for their partnership and collaboration. I am confident that the Kwa Diki Pan will make a positive contribution to the lives of people in this area.
- I am now delighted to declare this water facility officially commissioned and handed over to the community.

**Thank you**

**RAPHAEL NZOMO, MBS**

**NOVEMBER 6, 2019**