



Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Kenya

PRESS RELEASE

Building toilets could be new business for Nakuru

Nakuru County is seeking a novel business-minded approach to building more toilets for its growing population. This week, the European Union in partnership with Dutch and Kenyan water companies, launched an innovative approach to improving sanitation which looks to provide more toilet facilities for over 200,000 people in the town but also around the County.

Using a business model that has proven effective in Mozambique, and other parts of the world, the sale of waste matter from a projected 80,000 latrines that will be built in Nakuru over the next four years will go towards their sustainable maintenance and expansion of these much-needed facilities.

The worldwide recognized system of ecological sanitation – ecosan - does not produce the sort of pollution in the surrounding ground soil associated with pit latrines and waste output, once processed, has been proven for sale as agricultural fertilizer and in the generation of electricity using biogas. Around the world, in Germany, India, China and Sweden, processing of waste matter from toilets has been successfully sold on the commercial market.

The Nakuru Water and Sanitation Services Company, NAWASSCO, had determined that the investment required to extend the sewer system to the semi-urban areas of Nakuru was not available so an alternative was sought. The European Union and the large Dutch water company, Vitens-Evides International, stepped forward to provide initial funds. The construction and installation of the new latrines, as well as the contracting a local company to carry out the composting process, is expected to give a boost to employment in the County.

Phase one of the project will see ecosan latrines being renovated and built in Nakuru town. And with technical advice from Vitens-Evides International, backed by Shs 280 million from the European Union, they will work with NAWASSCO to build the business of transporting, selling and processing the waste, to a certified standard. Phase two will roll the project out to other parts of the county.

Speaking about the launch today (Friday 7 June), the European Union Ambassador to the European Union, Lodewijk Briet, said,

“Kenya needs innovative ideas and start-up financial support to provide solutions to some of its infrastructure problems, including sanitation for people living outside towns.

“Working with the the Nakuru Water and Sanitation Services Company and the local government, we hope that this funding from the European Union will provide a long-term answer to better health and sanitation for Kenyans in the County.”

Today’s launch at the Merica Hotel in Nakuru was attended by HE Governor, Kinuthia Mbugua, Chairman of NAWASSCO, Ibrahim Osman, and representatives from Vitens-Evides International and the European Union.

This development project is part of a range of activities that the European Union does to support urban and rural development in Kenya; in roads infrastructure, water supply, agriculture, energy,

community-led development and maternal health. The European Union's partnership with Kenya also involves trade, aid, security and diplomatic engagement.

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