

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF GARISSA



GARISSA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND IRRIGATION

**REPORT ON THE SUBMISSION BY THE CECM WATER & THE
MANAGING DIRECTOR GAWASCO**

12TH MAY 2024

DIRECTORATE OF COMMITTEE SERVICES

THE CLERK'S OFFICE

GARISSA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

P.O. BOX 57-70100

GARISSA

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1.0 PREFACE

Mr. Speaker Sir,

It is my Honor and pleasure to present to this Honorable House a report of the Water and Irrigation Committee on Consultative meeting with County Executive Committee Member for Water, MD Gawasco & his technical team.

1.1 Mandate of the Committee

The Water and Irrigation committee is a sectoral committee in Garissa County Assembly, mandated under Standing Order number 222, Section 6 (a, b, c, d, e and g) to;

- a) Investigate, inquire into and report on all matters related to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimations of assigned department.
- b) Study the program 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 analyze the relative success of the department, measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives.
- e) Investigate and inquire into all matters related to the assigned department as they may deem necessary and as may be referred to them by the county assembly.
- f) Make reports and recommendations to the county assembly as often as possible, including recommendations for proposed legislation.

1.2.1 Committee member

- 1) Hon Maryan Mohamed Hassan..... Chair
- 2) Hon. Yunis Abdi Ibrahim..... V/Chair
- 3) Hon. Mohamed Abdi Farah..... Member
- 4) Hon. Issa Aden Abdi.....Member
- 5) Hon. Omar Abdi Hassan.....Member
- 6) Hon. Mohamed Sheikh AbdiSalatMember
- 7) Hon Halima Hussein GureMember
- 8) Hon. Mustaf Abdirashid Ahmed..... Member
- 9) Hon Dekow Mohamed Duale Member
- 10) Hon Katra Iman Sigat..... Member
- 11) Hon. Abdiweli AdenMember
- 12) Hon. Ahmed Noor Aden Member
- 13) Hon Mahat AbdikadirMember

1.1.2 Committee Secretariats

1. Abdi Mohamed Hassan - Committee clerk
2. Saadia A. Salah - Researcher
3. Ahmed Adan Digale - Sergeant At Arms

2.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The committee is grateful to this House through the Honorable Speaker for the support granted in executing its mandate and further grateful to the office of the Clerk for facilitating and providing technical support to the committee during this exercise.

Gratitude and much thanks go to the Members of the Committee and Secretariat attached to the Committee for their commitment, time and selfless service that led to the successful visit and timely completion of this report.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I wish to confirm that the recommendations of the committee in this report were agreed upon unanimously. It is therefore my pleasant duty and privilege on behalf of my committee to table this report and commit it to the House for debate and adoption pursuant to the provision of section 180(6) of the standing orders.

SIGNED.....

DATE.....

HON. MARYAN MOHAMED HASSAN

COMMITTEE CHAIR WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES

3.0 INTRODUCTION

The Water & Irrigation sector plays an important role in the development of the county as a whole. The Core function of the Departments is set of activities that are central to the existence of its key competencies. This includes the provision of clean water in adequate amounts and safe sewerage services in the most economical and efficient way. This pursuant article 43 1 (d) to the provision of Constitution of Kenya article states to clean and safe water in adequate quantities.

MANDATE OF GAWASCO

Garissa Water sewerage Company (GAWASCO) has been mandated to ensure that every person shall have access to safe and clean water for domestic use within reasonable distance on its jurisdiction. Additionally ensure national water quality standards are adhered to and also to ensure that there is equitable distribution of water to the residents in Garissa Township municipality and the County in general

Mr Speaker Sir,

In order to perform its core business and achieve set objectives, GAWASCO established the following departments: Administration and Human Resource, Financial and commercial and technical.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY GAWASCO

Services include but are not limited to water and sewerage services, new connections for water and sewerage lines, billing/dispatch, burst repair, curbing illegal connections, disconnections and reconnections of water meter, customer care, awareness creation on water sector reforms and corporate social responsibility.

GAWASCO'S CUSTOMERS

GAWASCO's customers include urban households, business premises, schools, health centers, government institutions, big hotels, banks and many others. The company has a growing network of collaborators including government departments, Northern Water Service Board, Arid Lands Resource Management Project and World Bank Project.

WATER SUPPLY SOURCES

The GAWASCO Main water supply source is Tana River and boreholes located along Maramtu seasonal river, ADC & Iftin farm. The water works plant in Tana river bridge (Pump House) includes abstraction (mud removal and pumping of extracted water to the treatment plant located in Bulla Riig (Spenco) area which then undergoes the following steps; purification, disinfection through chlorination and sometimes fluoridation). Treated water is then pumped to the elevated reservoirs tanks for distribution to specified Bullas.

SOURCES OF WATER

The main water sources in the county for domestic, livestock and irrigation use comprise surface water and groundwater. Surface water sources are from Tana River and 150 water pans while groundwater comprises 60 deep boreholes and a number of shallow wells with insignificant production. Access to safe, adequate and affordable water and sanitation services is a fundamental human right and vital to human dignity, health, and economic and social development however in Garissa County this falls below the required standard.

BRIEF ON GAWASCO

Mr. Speaker Sir, Garissa Water and Sewerage Company (GAWASCO) was established in September 2006 under Company's Act and contracted by Northern Water Services Board (NWSB) to provide water and sewerage services in Garissa Municipality. The old and new supply system abstracts water from Tana River, the supply system covers an estimated area of 63 km².

3.1 BACKGROUND

Mr Speaker Sir,

The genesis of the invite was prompted by the submission of Gawasco damage report where committee members paid impromptu visit to Gawasco water plant. Committee members deliberated extensively and seek further clarification which are critical components to assess the effectiveness of the department in these areas.

The following officials accompanied the CEC Water & MD Gawasco officials who appeared before the committee on Thursday 9th May 2024 upon invitation via a letter referenced GCA/W&N/CA/VOL.1/2024 / (1)

- | | | |
|------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| I. | Christopher Kamau | Technical Service Manager |
| II. | James Mugo | Commercial & Finance |
| III. | Mohamed Onle | Human Resource & Corporate Manager |

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The CEC Water, MD Gawasco & technical Staff appeared before the committee to provide more information on matters related to; Masalani Water Plant, Budgetary Allocation, Status of Maramtu project, Boreholes data collection, Modogashe Water Pipping Project, Tariff adjustment, Licence expiring & Dilapidated Elevated Tank. Brief introductions were made by the members and CEC with his technical team and thereafter the chair read the mandate of the committee from the standing order, functions of County Executive Member from the County Government Act 2012 to notably guide and furnish the members & CEC with the legal framework for robust and substantive proceeding.

3.2 SUBMISSION BY THE CECM

3.2.1 STATUS OF MASALANI WATER PLANT

The department acknowledges the challenges facing the Masalani Water Plant, despite being the second most heavily invested facility. The urgent need for the installation of a new generator has been emphasized, particularly to address power outages. There have been issues due to the transition from the old to the new system, resulting in delays in operationalization. An investment of 40 million is allocated for improvements. The plant is slated to receive new intake supply from Northern Water Service Board, and the upcoming financial cycle will cover the environ of Ishqbin. The CECM further confirmed that the Masalani Water Plant will become fully operational by the end of this month May 2024.

3.2.2. MODOGASHE WATER PLANT & STAFFING

The CECM highlighted that their staff comprises of various cadres, with specialists stationed in Garissa. They have also established a Rapid Intervention Team that is mobile. The CECM mentioned that budget allocations for sub-county offices will be earmarked for construction in the upcoming financial year, starting from October.

Moreover, he mentioned the ongoing supervision of the Modogashe Water pipe project, which has a budget allocation of 400 million. The progress stands at 60%, with an initial completion target set for June. However, due to flooding, the project completion is now expected in August.

The CECM also noted that the breakdown of the Jalago boreholes has not been brought to his attention. Additionally, challenges have emerged with the water Users Association and Management committee, leading to issues in revenue collection and savings management. However, efforts to register the Water Users Association are underway across the entire of Garissa County.

3.2.3 BARAKI TO MAALIM PROJECT & WATER QUALITY SERVICES

The CECM disclosed a breakdown of the 470 million development allocation. This allocation includes funds for various projects such as the Modogashe Water Pipe project amounting to 267.988.714 million, Gawasco at 70 million, Garwasco at 70 million, Masalani at 38 million, Maramtu at 38 million, ADC boreholes at 24 million, and Gawasco Dam at 38 million.

The CEC highlighted the completion of 5 boreholes in rural areas and 6 boreholes for Gawasco. The suitability of the boreholes is evaluated through water studies, lab tests, and approvals for human consumption, leading to the issuance of certificates.

Chlorine treatment provides an advantage in water supply areas under Gawasco's jurisdiction.

The status of Baraki to Maalim project, with a 10-year duration and a cost of 225 million, has reached 70% completion. While the project is set to be finalized in the next financial year by December 2024, it is worth noting that there has been variations in material costs since 2016, impacting project expenses.

3.2.4 KASHA WATER PAN BREAK DOWN & FATUMA GOLICHA

The CECM confirmed that the procurement of equipment for the Kasha water pan will take place next week. Furthermore, assessments for the Fatuma Golicha project have been completed, specifically focusing on the suitability of the water pan for consumption and received documentation from KENHA. However, an incident occurred where a hostile lady chased away the Rapid Intervention Team. The CECM further urged the MCA Saka to intervene and promote a holistic approach for the successful completion of the project.

3.2.5 DATA COLLECTION BOREHOLES, STATUS OF HALUGHO DAM & BUDGET ALLOCATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT

The department is continuously monitoring the data collection & chronological status will be available in two weeks. The department will share details of its projects with the Director of Finance, and the County approved significant projects.

Additionally, the CECM mentioned that 30 million was allocated for the Halugho dam project, which was awarded to the M A J contractor. Due to reasons raised, the department decided to cancel the project and allocate the funds to the next financial year.

3.2.6 BAHURI & KALAHA BOREHOLES BREAKDOWN

The generators at the water plant have been operational for 5-10 years, are regularly maintained and repaired to ensure water quality as mandated by the constitution. Recently, the Bahuri water plant experienced a breakdown, as reported by the engineer assessment report. Although the issue was intervened by rainfall, repairs are scheduled to be carried out within a week. It has been noted that Bahuri currently has no connection, which was not previously brought to my attention. The CECM reiterated other partners have expressed interest in establishing a connection.

4.1 SUBMISSION BY MD GAWASCO

4.1.1 GAWASCO LICENCE CERTIFICATE & RAINFALL DAMAGE

MD Gawasco made request for an extension for another day to present on the financial cycle. The company is Mitigating on efforts including constructing walls near the water plant and addressing the removal of the transformer near the river banks, a task undertaken by KPLC. Furthermore, the reapplication process for the license certificate has commence.

4.1.2 TARIFF ADJUSTMENT

The Managing Director confirmed that there has been no tariff adjustments on clients with meters, only on those without meters. Gawasco was established in 2010, and the company has not filed annual returns for the past 10 years and stated that license application flourish with tariff adjustment and they need the CR 12 and tax approvals, which are currently being processed for review by WASREB.

The chair instructed MD Gawasco to provide all the necessary documentation that permit and legalize compliance with regulation for adjusting the tariff.

4.1.3 MARAMTU WATER PROJECT

The Bula Sagaray water project has been halted, while the Maramatu Water Project is progressing to its second phase and is expected to be completed in the next quarter of the financial year 2024/25.

4.1.4 BUDGET ALLOCATION

The CEC Water & MD Gawasco highlighted several areas of concern: lack of financial autonomy, advertising handled by the County treasury, procurement and supply activities and no disbursements received from the executive in the past two financial year.

5.0 GENERAL FINDINGS & OBSERVATION

The committee were able to observe and noted the following challenges;

1. There are no clear structured plans by the department for future expansions or establishment of a new water supply system yet there is continuous growth and development of new Bullas in Garissa Township due to budget constraints.
2. There is no water harvesting in the county that can provide a temporary solution during prolonged drought in the sub-counties.
3. Most of the elevated tanks are dilapidated with serious leakages, especially tanks located opposite Boy'sTown primary and one located in Garissa University.
4. Gawasco pump House & Boreholes doesn't provide long-term water solution. During rainy seasons they get submerged by water and cannot be accessed in case of breakdowns hence leading to serious water shortage
5. There is a lack of financial autonomy within the Department and Gawasco as a whole.
6. Inadequate technical staff stationed at Sub County level.
7. The department consistently does not complete projects within the established timelines.
8. The department fails to adhere to the submission of quarterly performance report to the Assembly.
9. The department decided to cancel the project of Halugho dam and allocate the funds to the next financial year.

5.1 RECOMMENDATION

1. River Tana is the most reliable water source and there is a need to increase development funds for Water treatment plant
2. The department should Fast-track and come up with water harvesting projects to enhance the loss of rainwater that can provide sufficient use for domestic and human purposes.
3. The department through the Gawasco Company should repair all elevated tanks with leakages and build extra tanks in ADC, Bulla Medina, Burburis, Waberi and Bulla Iftin since it's highly affected by water rationing.
4. The department should explore using solar panels during the day and electricity at night in the pump house which is more economical as opposed to the conventional ways of using electric power and diesel-powered pump.

5. The treasury should grant the department financial autonomy to ensure effective and efficient service delivery to the residents of Garissa County.
6. The technical staff should promptly station in the sub county by the department.
7. The department should implement a more robust project management system to enhanced efficiency and accountability
8. The department should submit quarterly financial and non-financial performance report to the assembly,
9. The department should provide the documentation of the cancellation of Halugho dam project and reason slated to that effect.

5.2 CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I would like to inform this honorable house that the exercise was a success and a great learning avenue for the committee. Finally, I now urge this honorable house to adopt this report as it is.

Thank you.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

Mr Speaker Sir,

We, Members of the Committee on Water & Irrigation have adopted the report on the submission of CEC Water & MD Gawasco and hereby affix our signatures to affirm our approval and confirm its accuracy, validity and authenticity: -

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
1) Hon Maryan Mohamed Hassan	Chair	.....
2) Hon. Yunis Abdi Ibrahim	V/Chair	.....
3) Hon. Mohamed Abdi Farah	Member	.....
4) Hon. Issa Aden Abdi	Member	.....
5) Hon. Omar Abdi Hassan	Member	.....
6) Hon. Mohamed Sheikh AbdiSalat	Member	.....
7) Hon Halima Hussein Gure	Member	.....
8) Hon. Mustaf Abdirashid Ahmed	Member	.....
9) Hon Dekow Mohamed Duale	Member	.....
10) Hon Katra Iman Sigat	Member	.....
11) Hon. Abdiweli Aden	Member	.....
12) Hon. Ahmed Noor Aden	Member	.....
13) Hon Mahat Abdikadir	Member	.....