

**ARUSHA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE
AUTHORITY**

MAJI WEEK COMMEMORATIONS.

MARCH 16-22, 2006.

WORLD WATER DAY- 2006 HIGHLIGHTS.

The Event:-

- Builds capacity by facilitating a deeper understanding of the links between water-society-environment-security.
- Promotes Partnerships and alliances between individuals and organizations from different fields of expertise in an inspiring atmosphere which offers ample opportunity for making new contacts and strengthening existing relationships.
- Reviews the implementation of actions, commitments and decisions in international processes and by different stakeholders in response to the existing challenges.

**SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES IN THE PROVISION OF WATER
AND SEWERAGE SERVICES IN THE CITY OF ARUSHA.**

1.0

INTRODUCTION.

2006 WORLD WATER DAY THEME: - “WATER AND CULTURE”.

“*Water and culture*” is the theme of the 2006 World Water Day which culminates on 22nd March 2006.

This theme calls for the attention of water stakeholders, customers, and the general public to be sensitized on the importance of water and realize that water is a vital and fundamental component in the environment in which human beings cannot survive in its absence. Availability or unavailability of clean and safe water governs the cultural behavior of any community.

AUWSA would like to join water stakeholders, the government, customers and the general public at large, at this time of commemoration of water week in Tanzania to protect water sources in order to make availability of this indispensable commodity sustainable.

As AUWSA marks its 8th year of operation with a service coverage of **95% of** clean and safe water with a water distribution network coverage of 225 Km.

The estimated water demand for Arusha City is 42,000 cubic meters per day. In order to meet this demand AUWSA has a five year Strategic Plan which focuses towards overcoming this challenge.

In its Strategic Plan (2004-2009) AUWSA has been working hard to improve water supply in the City by implementing the following measures:-

1.1 WATER SUPPLY SERVICE.

- **Water Production infrastructures.**

The supply of water comes from three different sources namely springs, river and boreholes. Spring sources include Olesha-Masama springs located 4km north of Arusha City and Ngarendolu springs which is within the City. Also there are 13 deep wells located in the northern part of Arusha City and 2 boreholes located within the City area. In an effort towards improvement of water supply in the City, AUWSA has recently commissioned a gravity water intake (source) from Nduruma River which has added a daily water production capacity of **3,800** cubic meters. ***(Recent Photograph)***.

The water produced by AUWSA is treated using Calcium Hypochlorite (granular) with 65% Chlorine concentration. It is clean and safe.

So far the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has granted AUWSA with a License to use the standard Mark for potable water produced by AUWSA after meeting the Tanzanian water quality standards.

- **Expansion of Water Supply network.**

The Authority has a continuous program to extend service lines with the main objective of covering areas that were not previously covered. The distribution network has so far increased from **148 km in 1998 to 225 km as at March 2006.**

Water production from Nduruma source has helped to complement the supply of water from the other existing sources hence started to overcome water shortage problems in some parts of the City which has for long been facing water shortages.

The extension of the distribution network in various areas has reduced the service lines connection distance for customers from the main lines and has therefore enabled many customers to afford connecting at shorter distance where accessibility and availability of safe and clean water is assured.

Due to expansion of this distribution network, the current service level is **95%** as compared to 75% during 1998. This has boosted the number of City residents with access to clean and safe water by increasing number of customer base to 21,805 as compared to 10,250 as at and of February 2006.

- **Reduction of Unaccounted for Water.**

Along with the above, the on –going exercise of controlling leakages and curbing water thefts, has enabled AUWSA to reduce

Unaccounted for Water (UfW) to between 30-35% as compared to over 50% in 1998. This exercise has enabled significant amount of water which was once lost to be available for human consumption and other socio –economic use.

In the light of the above measures AUWSA shall continue to strive to ensure that water supply is available in this City in order to sustain and spearhead socio-economic development, life and well being of the City residents.

SEWERAGE SERVICE.

Sewerage coverage in sub -Urban areas.

The total sewerage coverage in Arusha City is 11.6% only with a total length of 35.2 km.

That mainly covers the Central Business District (CBD).there are 545 inspection manholes. The wastewater is conveyed to Lemara where there are five Waste Stabilization Ponds (WSPs).

AUWSA is continuously extending the sewerage network by constructing new sewer lines in various areas. Recent similar efforts covered have Ngarenaro/Kambi ya Fisi,Levolosi and Kaloleni areas This initiative will conserve the environment and provide health and hygienic sewage collection and safe disposal.

(Recent photo of Kaloleni sewer construction)

2.0

CHALLENGES.

- **Weather and climatic changes**

There has been a drastic climatic change which resulted in very limited rains.

These drastic changes have brought serious impact in the production of water from both springs and borehole sources whereby the productions from those sources have decreased. This has caused inadequate water supply for Arusha City residents.

- **Environmental degradation within water sources.**

There has been serious environmental degradation along the water sources caused by some institutions and local people who reside and engage themselves in various socio-economic activities, such as grazing, farming, and tree harvesting. This has caused rampant deforestation, pollution and depletion of this natural resource.

- **Unreliable electric power supply.**

Of recent, Tanzania has faced a long period of drought which affected electric power production and supply in all parts of the country particularly. There has been unreliable electric power supply to run water production pumping units due to frequent low voltage and power blackouts. This has caused inadequate water production from boreholes and hence inadequate water supply capacity.

3.0 INITIATIVES TAKEN TO OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES.

Sustainable water supply services in Arusha.

To ensure adequate production of safe and clean water to meet current and future demand, AUWSA in its medium Term Strategic Plan (2004-2009) intends to develop additional gravity water source from Malala river and to drill two boreholes at Ilkiroriti and Kiranyi areas.

Environmental conservation measures.

AUWSA has since 2002 initiated a number of measures aimed at conserving environment along the water sources to ensure sustainable water supply.

Measures taken by AUWSA so far are:-

- To continuously use MAJI WEEK forum to conduct awareness creation and sensitization campaigns to educate local people and various stakeholders on importance of conserving water resources for sustainable life and development and to conduct tree-planting campaigns along water sources. So far a total number of trees, which have already been planted since that period -to date, are 12,190. In 2006 commemoration of maji week, AUWSA has planned to evaluate the status of trees planted during previous tree planting campaigns.
- Involvement of other stakeholders in environmental conservation measures.

- To support local environment groups and involve them in Environment conservation campaigns.

4.0 NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

- **Universal Metering.**

In addition, AUWSA has taken into consideration proper management and efficient use of clean and safe water in order to attain its economic value; this was done by making sure that each customer is metered. Hence the percentage of metered customers at present is 100% hence attaining Universal metering.

- **Establishment of a progressive tariff structure**

In a move to improve revenue collection through efficiency in billing and collections, AUWSA has established a progressive tariff structure that is currently in force. This has been possible through the achievement of *universal metering*. Progressive tariff structure makes water more affordable to small consumers. Before progressive tariff, there was a block tariff structure which contained minimum charge. Progressive tariff eliminates minimum charge; customers pay their bills according to their consumption level.

- **Application of modern Billing system and Data loggers.**

AUWSA has recently introduced Perfect Bill software and Data Loggers for modern billing system and meter reading respectively. This has increased accuracy in meter reading and data recording and efficiency in billing preparation and as a result customers are now able to get accurate bills on time and hence reducing customers' complaints in relation to their bills.

- **Provision of water for Urban Poor households.**

By recognizing that water is a fundamental human right, indispensable and essential to sustain life, health and well-being, AUWSA has started to provide clean and safe water free of charge to 62 domestic households identified as urban poor in 15 wards of Arusha City. Provision of such service came into effect in March 2004 whereby 31 households located in Unga Ltd, Terrat, Ngarenaro, Daraja II, Sombetini and Elerai Wards started to get the service and followed by another 33 households of Levulosi, Kati, Kimandolu Baraa, Themi, Lemara, Olorien, and Sekei Wards who started to get this service effective March this year.

5.0

CONCLUSION.

In the light of the above measures AUWSA shall continue to strive to ensure that water supply is available in this City in order to sustain and spearhead socio-economic development, life and well being of the City residents.