

NATIONAL LAND COMMISSION RECEIVES KSH.150 MILLION TO COMPENSATE FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE MWACHE DAM CONSTRUCTION IN KWALE COUNTY.

The National Land Commission has received Ksh. 150 million from the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Water and Irrigation Hon. Eugene Wamalwa to begin compensation to residents of Mwache whose land will be used for construction of a multi-purpose Dam.

Speaking after receiving the cheque at Fulugani Primary School, Kinango Sub County, Kwale County on Friday National Land Commission Chairman Prof Muhammad Swazuri said the valuation exercise will start immediately and residents will be compensated for crops, structures and land to pave way for construction of the dam.

The project will require 1,600 acres of land and will involve displacement of approximately 4,250 persons whose assets and livelihoods may be affected, as well as access to natural or economic resources as a result of activities under the Mwache dam project.

The seven year project funded by the World Bank through Kenya Water Security programme is expected to provide 138 million CM3 water for domestic, irrigation and livestock use to Kwale County and supply water for domestic use to Mombasa County.

The Cabinet Secretary pledged an additional Ksh. 200 million to the National Land Commission in the next one month to fast track the valuation and compensation of residents to enable other implementing agencies start work on the Ksh. 35 billion project.

Prof. Swazuri who was accompanied by Commissioner Dr. Clement Lenashuru and the Director of Communication Khalid Salim committed that the Commission will ensure timely delivery of the land to pave way for the commencement of the project just as was the case for the mega Standard Gauge Railway project. He said all the monies forwarded by the government will go to intended beneficiaries.

Speaking when he unveiled the Ksh. 35 billion project at Fulugani primary school in Kwale County, Hon. Wamalwa said the project is one the Jubilee flagship projects envisioned to end the decades-old water shortage in Kwale and Mombasa Counties. Hon. Wamalwa observed that the project has a major irrigation component that is expected to produce enough food to deal with the famine problem in this area.

The function was also attended by the area Member of Parliament Gonzi Rai, Kwale Women Representative Zainab Chidzuga and her Taita counterpart Joyce Lay, Kwale County Water Executive Mohamed Mwabuzo, Kasemeni MCA Anthony Yama and officials from the project implementing agencies namely Coast Development Authority, Kwale County and Water Resources Management Authority.