

**AN OVERVIEW OF THE RURAL WATER AND SANITATION SUB SECTOR BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF CWSA ING. WORLANYO KWADJO SIABI (MV) AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CWSA 2019 REVIEW CONFERENCE AT NODA HOTEL, FUMESUA IN THE ASHANTI REGION.**

Nana Chairman.....

Hon. Minister, Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources

Hon. Ashanti Regional Minister

Hon. Municipal Chief Executive of Ejisu

Representative of Development Partners

The Executive Chairman of CONIWAS

Colleague Heads of Institutions

The Board Chairman of CWSA

Management and Staff of CWSA

Members of the Press

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to thank the Almighty God for making it possible for us to be part of the 2019 Review Conference. My task this night is to present to you an overview of the WASH sub-sector, and I find this very inspiring because with your support and cooperation as sector players a lot has been achieved since we last met to review our performance. The reform process despite the successes chalked, is also faced with some challenges and this will be enumerated in my presentation. It is my hope that with the pool of expertise in this review conference some key decisions will be arrived at to consolidate the gains made and also to address these challenges.

Nana Chairman, we are eleven years away from 2030, the end year for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to achieve SDG 6 which seek to “**Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**” there is the need for new strategies and investments in the sector. The SDG 6 has shifted the focus of WASH services delivery from providing basic to safely managed services, which implies water should be free from contamination, delivered on the premises of consumers and available when needed. As at the end

of 2018, 62.06% of rural and small town populations representing 13,510,255 people out of 21,768,268 had access to safe water (CWSA, 2019). It is worth noting that 8,258,013 people representing 37.94% are yet to be served with safe water. The government of Ghana is making efforts to bridge this gap.

The Agency is currently implementing some WASH projects. One major project being implemented is the **Additional Financing - Sustainable Rural Water and Sanitation Project (AF – SRWSP)** at a cost of US\$ 45.7 Million in Eleven (11) beneficiary regions to serve about 650,000 people in 94 districts. The project will deliver 23 small towns piped water systems, 250 boreholes fitted with handpumps, design of 10 small towns piped water systems in UWR, completion of designs to serve communities with high fluoride levels in groundwater in Upper East and North East regions and install 20,000 digni-loo latrines in households and to achieve 500 open defecation free communities.

**The Water Supply Improvement Project (WSIP) – Spanish - Debt SWAP** is being funded by the Spanish government at a cost of US\$3.78 million. The Project started in June 2018 and is expected to be completed by December 2019. In all, 18 piped water supply systems will be constructed. The project involves the completion of 110 kilometers of distribution network in the approved master plan, within the phases 1&2 enclave and the construction of the distribution and transmission mains for the Adaklu District. This will serve 35 communities with an estimated population of 69,000 people.

**The Rural Communities and Small Towns Water Supply Project (RCSTWSP)** is a €30 Million Project to be financed by UK Export Finance & HSBC. The beneficiary regions are; Ashanti, Eastern, Greater Accra, Volta & Oti regions. The project is expected to deliver safe drinking water to about 282,000 people. The project will deliver 150 Point Source Nano-Filtration Water Systems, 12 Piped Water Systems with household connections and public Stand pipes and will also have training and capacity building to staff of CWSA. The loan agreement has been approved by parliament and preparation for implementation is almost concluded.

Nana Chairman, the agency is working at securing funding for two new projects. The **5 Districts Water Supply System (Phase III)**. This is estimated at a cost of Euro 11.5 Million. This phase will focus on installation of distribution pipelines to serve communities in 5 Districts in the Volta

Region. The **Sustainable Rural Water and Sanitation Project - Phase 2**. This Project is estimated at US\$250 Million and will be implemented in all 16 regions. The project will have three components namely Water, Sanitation and Hygiene promotion and capacity building of key stakeholders.

### **CWSA Reforms**

Nana Chairman, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, CWSA is in the second year of implementing the reform programme. The objective of the policy reform is to transform CWSA into a utility service organization to efficiently deliver safe, reliable and affordable water, water-related sanitation and hygiene services to rural communities and small towns in Ghana. I am glad to present to you the status of implementation of the reform programme over the past two (2) years.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

Nana Chairman, Honourable Minister, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, with your support and guidance, the operations and management of small towns piped water supplies have been professionalized. The agency is now managing 125 piped water systems countrywide out of 1,022. This has created jobs for 792 new staff out of which 519 are professionals and 273 are auxiliary staff. This has improved operational efficiency of the water systems.

Water safety challenges are being addressed as CWSA is directly involved in the management of the water systems. Ten (10) Water Safety Specialists have been employed and water safety plans have been developed for the water systems under CWSA management. The technical audit on the water systems revealed water quality challenges. As a result, procurement for packaged water treatment plants is on-going.

Non-Revenue Water has been a challenge over the years and bold steps have been taken to address this issue. There have been the supply and installation of 404 bulk water meters and 5,750 service water meters nationwide. This has contributed to the reduction of distribution losses from 50% in 2017 to 42.50% to date. The agency is also trying to apply technology to address this problem and is currently piloting a range of prepaid metres in the Eastern and Greater Accra regions. Under AF-SRWSP project, SmartTAPS which is a cashless but a prepaid water system will be introduced in eleven regions of the project to improve revenue generation.

To get the water systems to perform optimally, there have been rehabilitation and expansion works across the country. It is worth noting that about 73 existing boreholes nationwide have gone through cleaning, redevelopment and pump testing to re-establish their maximum sustainable yields. So far a total of 45 pump houses on some selected piped water system nationwide have been rehabilitated. For efficient and reliable pumping regime, 30 submersible pumps (grid) for piped water system in Upper West, Ahafo and Volta Regions have been supplied and installed. Rehabilitation and Expansion is on-going on the New Kweiman Piped Water System in the La-Nkwantanang Madina Municipality in the Greater Accra region, the Seniagya Piped Water System in the Ashanti Region and the Mim Piped Water System in the Ahafo Region.

There is a conscious effort to promote alternative power usage to cut down on cost of electricity. In this regard, there are steps to ensure that at least one pump for each water system is solar powered. There have been a supply and installation of eight (8) submersible pumps (photovoltaic) for piped water system in Upper West, Ahafo and Volta Regions.

## **CHALLENGES**

Nana Chairman, notwithstanding the positive outcomes of the reform, there are some challenges which need to be resolved to ensure the success of the programme. These include:

1. Resistance by some Chiefs and stakeholders - In some communities, there have been agitations by chiefs and other interest groups to prevent CWSA from managing the water systems. There have been instances in which CWSA has deployed staff and after a few months they were chased out of the community. For instance, in the Ashanti region in particular it has been very difficult for CWSA to deploy staff to manage the water systems in most communities because of resistance. Honorable Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources, we appeal to you to use your good offices and influence to support CWSA to overcome this impediment.
2. Unserved Population - Huge investments are required to serve the over 37% of rural and small towns population without access to safe water.
3. Scaling up - We also need resources to rehabilitate the remaining 908 piped water systems and to ensure that they perform optimally.

## **WAY FORWARD**

Nana Chairman, I am pleased to inform you that the agency is enjoying a lot of goodwill and support. I have the strongest conviction that we are on the path to success. Under the able leadership of the Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources, Hon. Cecilia Abena Dapaah, a Cabinet Memo has been prepared and submitted to Cabinet seeking policy approval towards the amendment of the Community Water and Sanitation Agency Act, 1998 (Act 564) to transform CWSA into a utility service organization. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you Hon. Minister for championing the CWSA reform.

As part of the reform process a Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) was prepared for a two (2) year period (2018-2019). This plan will end this year and a new four (4) year plan will be prepared to give direction to the agency for the next four years.

Going in to the reform we anticipated some level of resistance and our approach has been that of dialogue and engagement. The agency will continue to engage with Communities and key stakeholders and with the support of government to successfully reform the sub-sector.

## **CONCLUSION**

Nana Chairman, Honorable Ministers, ladies and gentlemen, the theme for this Year's Review Conference is '*Steps towards a Utility service organization: the success story, the challenges and the way forward*'. The key objectives of the conference are to:

- i. To evaluate the achievements and constraints of CWSA's direct management of piped systems (Focus on Water production and expenditure related to production and distribution of water)
- ii. To document the lessons learnt in the participation of the management of piped systems
- iii. To deliberate on innovative approaches in technology and finance
- iv. To formulate strategies to consolidating the gains and scale-up towards the completion point

Nana Chairman, Honorable Ministers, MPs, Municipal Chief Executive, Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, we gather here to work towards achieving these objectives within the review conference duration. I hope to see active participation and engagement from all to enable us take

decisions that will ensure that CWSA is on track to achieving its mandate of delivering sustainable WASH services.

I sincerely thank you for your attention and May God bless us all and our Motherland Ghana.

**WORLANYO KWADJO SIABI (MV)**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**