



Attorney General, Dorcas Oduor (Centre) together with members of the Trustee task force during the inauguration of the Public Trustee Department at Sheria House, Nairobi.

Task force formed to overhaul Public Trustee Department

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(KNA)

The Government has established a task force to spearhead the incorporation and institutional transformation of the Public Trustee Department in a move aimed at improving the management of estates and trusts, clearing long-standing case backlogs, and strengthening the protection of widows, orphans, minors, and other vulnerable beneficiaries.

Speaking in Nairobi, Attorney General Dorcas Oduor said the reforms would modernise one of the country's oldest public institutions and restore public confidence in its services.

"The task force will serve for four months and tell Kenyans precisely what is wrong, fix what can be fixed immediately, and hand me the legal and institutional framework to address the remaining challenges," she said.

According to the Attorney General, the task force has been mandated to develop a legal framework for incorporating the Public Trustee Department into an autonomous corporate entity, review the Law of Succession Act, streamline service delivery, and recommend measures to strengthen governance, financial sustainability, and operational efficiency.

Oduor noted that the Public Trustee Department, which manages the estates of persons who die intestate, trust property, and the assets of minors and persons of

unsound mind, has operated for decades under structural limitations that have contributed to bureaucratic delays, a growing backlog of cases, and declining public confidence in its services.

"Kenyans have come to my office with files that are older than their children. Widows have waited years for distribution that in a functional system should have taken months. That is not acceptable, and it will not continue," she stated.

The AG announced that all files currently held by the department at headquarters and regional offices would be mapped to establish the number of pending cases, their age and the causes of delays.

"Where a file can be closed immediately once it is found, it will be closed immediately," Oduor asserted, adding that the exercise would also support the digitisation of records and improve beneficiaries' ability to monitor the progress of their cases.

The AG further reported that the task force would recommend reforms to better protect widows, widowers, orphans and persons with disabilities while developing governance and financial arrangements necessary to transition the department into an autonomous institution.

She added that public

participation forums and calls for memoranda will be conducted across the country before the final report is submitted.

Task Force Chairperson, Linda Murila described her appointment as an honour and said the initiative reflected the Government's commitment to reforming the justice sector. "The establishment of the task force is a clear demonstration of the Government's commitment to reform, modernisation, accountability and enhanced service delivery within the justice sector," she reiterated.

Murila disclosed that the task force would undertake broad consultations with government agencies, the Judiciary, professional bodies, civil society organisations and members of the public to ensure the reforms reflect stakeholders' views.

"We recognise that meaningful institutional transformation cannot be achieved in isolation. We will therefore engage widely with stakeholders and most importantly members of the public," echoed the Chairperson.

Murila also pledged that the team would execute its mandate diligently and deliver practical, implementable recommendations capable of transforming the institution within the stipulated time frame.

"We are fully aware of the expectations placed upon us and we are committed to delivering recommendations that are practicable, implementable and capable of delivering measurable improvements," she reaffirmed.

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

Country:	Kenya
PROJECT:	THE KENYA TOWNS SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROGRAM
ASSIGNMENT TITLE:	CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMPLIANCE COMPLETION AUDIT FOR THE KENYA TOWNS SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROGRAM - ATHI CLUSTER
REOI No. AWWDA/KTSWSSP/CS/24/2026	

- The Government of Kenya through the various water works agencies is implementing the Kenya Towns Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation Program (KTSWSSP) funded by African Development Bank (AfDB) for the construction and rehabilitation of water supply and sanitation infrastructure (including expansion into informal settlements) for improved water and sanitation services; and ii) capacity development of water service providers, the sector regulator for improved service efficiency and women and youth for increased employment opportunities in 15 towns under the Athi Cluster.
 - The consulting services ("*the Services*") involve undertaking Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) compliance completion audit to evaluate the project's level of compliance with applicable E&S requirements for the Kenya Towns Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation Program – Athi Cluster.
- The scope of services for the Consultant will include but not be limited to:
- Review and Planning:** Examine all relevant AfDB environmental and social requirements, national regulatory frameworks, permits, project documents, and previous reports; then prepare an Inception Report outlining the audit methodology, work plan, and audit criteria.
 - Field Verification and Stakeholder Engagement:** Conduct site inspections, field assessments, and consultations with key stakeholders to assess environmental and social risks, impacts, compliance, and mitigation measures.
 - Reporting and Validation:** Hold opening and closing meetings with AWWDA and AfDB project teams, present and validate findings, and prepare the required audit deliverables, including a summary synthesis report, a comprehensive Environmental and Social Audit/ESMP Completion Report, and a RAP Completion Audit Report.
- The consultancy services will be carried out over a period of 6 Months
 - Athi Water Works Development Agency now invites eligible consulting firms ("*Consultants*") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:
 - The firm should demonstrate a general Experience of minimum 10 years in consulting services.
 - Specific Experience Relevant to Assignment having prepared at least 3 No environmental and social audit of water and sanitation projects including large infrastructure projects, and implementation of ESIs, ESMPs, RAPs of projects financed by AfDB or other DFI for Donor-funded programmes for the last 5 years
 - Experience in Similar Conditions Working in Sub-Saharan Africa / developing countries and Experience with donor-funded projects (preferably AfDB)
 - Availability of appropriate skills amongst staff e.g. Environmentalist, Health and Safety Expert, Social Safeguards Expert, RAP Expert for the REOI Stage.
 - This assignment is open to firms from all eligible countries as defined under the African Development Bank's Procurement Policy
 - Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with Guidelines for recruitment of Consultancy firms under the "Procurement Policy for Bank Group Funded Operations" dated October 2015, which is available on the Bank's website at <http://www.afdb.org>.
 - Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.
 - A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.
 - Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 0800 to 1700 hours from Monday to Friday excluding lunch hour (1300 to 1400Hrs) and public holidays.
 - Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by close of business on **22nd July 2026** at **12:00 noon EAT**.
 - Clarifications may be requested no later than 14 days prior to the submission deadline in writing addressed to address below.
 - Those submitted by package should be clearly marked "Request for Expression of Interest for **Consultancy Services for Environmental and Social Compliance Completion audit for the Kenya Towns Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation Program -Athi Cluster**

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