

# State unveils plan to expand irrigation, boost farm output



State Department for Irrigation Principal Secretary Ephantus Kimotho [left] and his National Treasury counterpart Chris Kiptoo [third left] at Galana Kulalu during a past field visit.

BY AKHAL LORUA (PCO)

The State Department for Irrigation has launched the National Irrigation Sector Investment Plan (NISIP), a transformative roadmap aimed at accelerating Kenya's food security agenda, boosting agricultural productivity, and enhancing climate resilience through expanded irrigation development.

The plan targets an increase in the area under irrigation from 664,000 acres in FY 2021/2022 to 1,289,142 acres by FY 2027/2028.

This expansion is expected to enhance agricultural output, create employment, raise household incomes and support the Government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

Water available for irrigation is projected to grow from 55.4 million cubic metres (MCM) in FY 2021/2022 to 2,379.2 MCM by FY 2027/2028, ensuring year-round water supply for farming.

Speaking during the Head of Public Service Monthly Meeting with Accounting Officers at Konza Technopolis, Principal Secretary for Irrigation, CPA Ephantus Kimotho, presented the status of irrigation development and highlighted key achievements and priorities in advancing national food security.

"Through strategic investments in irrigation infrastructure and enhanced water access, irrigated maize production is projected to rise from 0.2 million bags to 5.075 million bags," said Kimotho.

"This expansion will cushion the country against climate shocks, strengthen food reserves and bolster national food

security."

Under the maize value chain, he pointed out that the Department is providing reliable irrigation water to smallholder farmers while operationalizing the Galana Kulalu Food Security Project, which aims to produce over 14 million bags of maize annually from 200,000 acres under irrigation.

Key milestones include the construction of a major intake and reservoir with a capacity of 450,000 cubic metres. Additionally, Project Nafaka is progressing in three phases, with the third phase targeting 20,000 acres within 30 months.

"The Galana Kulalu initiative will not only contribute significantly to food security but also attract foreign investment, create jobs, increase government revenue, and stimulate growth in agro-processing and manufacturing industries," he emphasized.

On the rice value chain, the PS disclosed that the Department has committed to raising paddy rice production to 700,000 metric tonnes by 2027 through strategic irrigation investments and modernization of public schemes.

Interventions, he said, include converting schemes to gravity-fed systems, solarizing infrastructure to cut energy costs, rehabilitating 78,341 acres under existing schemes, and expanding an additional 27,500 acres for rice.

"Our goal is to increase rice production in public irrigation schemes from 305,000 metric tonnes to 570,000 metric tonnes, while commercialization of 35,000 acres will add

another 420,000 metric tonnes annually," noted Kimotho.

"Combined, these efforts will raise total rice production to about 990,000 metric tonnes, bridging the national deficit and reducing reliance on imports," he said.

The Principal Secretary also highlighted progress in horticulture, where the Department is connecting over 100,000 farmers to irrigation water through community schemes and another 10,000 through farmer-led initiatives.

So far, he said that 50 community schemes have been completed, enabling irrigation on 60,000 acres, while 86 projects are ongoing. "These schemes empower smallholder farmers by boosting productivity, diversifying crops, improving incomes, and creating jobs, particularly for youth and women," he remarked.

Kimotho noted that further achievements include 143 completed community water pans and small dams, with 65 ongoing projects.

"Under the household water pans programme, 8,724 units have been completed and 160 are under construction." "The Micro-Irrigation for Schools Programme has also made strides, with 66 projects completed and 31 ongoing, enhancing food production, nutrition, and agricultural learning in schools," he added.

The PS said that other flagship initiatives include the Smallholder Irrigation Programme for the Mt. Kenya Region, expanded community irrigation schemes, and irrigation-supported fodder production programmes to strengthen livestock value chains and support feedlot development.



## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) (CONSULTANCY SERVICES)

### THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA MULTINATIONAL HORN OF AFRICA ISIOLO – MANDERA CORRIDOR

#### CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR IRAP STAR RATING ASSESSMENT & ROAD SAFETY AUDIT OF SELECT MAJOR CORRIDORS (2,500 KM) AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT ON DEVELOPMENT OF KENYA ROAD ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (KenRAP)

TENDER NO. KeNHA/2966/2026

#### Transport Sector

Financing Agreement reference: ADF-2100150042744

Project ID No: P-Z1-DB0-249

- The Government of the Republic of Kenya has received financing from the African Development Fund (ADF) towards the cost of the **Horn of Africa Isiolo – Mandera Corridor: El Wak – Rhamu Road (A13) Upgrading Project**, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for this loan to make eligible payments under the contract for the **Consultancy Services for IRAP Star Rating Assessment & Road Safety Audit of Select Major Corridors (2,500 Km) and Institutional Support on Development of Kenya Road Assessment Program (KenRAP)**.
- The Consultancy Services among others will include (i) to conduct iRAP Star Rating Assessments and Road Safety Audit of select High Risk Corridors (2,500 Km), utilizing Crash Risk Mapping and FSI Estimation to prioritize and deliver a cost-effective Safer Road Investment Plan (SRIP) that targets the achievement of a minimum 3-star standard; (ii) to provide institutional support on development of Kenya Road Assessment Program (KenRAP) as a multi stakeholder initiative; and (iii) to build sustainable capacity for the KeNHA Road Safety Unit and Staff from the Authority through training and knowledge sharing on all aspects related to the services. The assignment will take Thirty (30) months.
- The Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA), being the implementing agency of the Government of the Republic of Kenya now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interests in providing the above services.
- Interested firms must provide information indicating they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, in similar conditions and availability of the appropriate skills among staff, etc). Consultants may form joint ventures to enhance their chances of qualification. Interested international Consultants are further encouraged to team up with local/Kenyan consultants thereby fostering a more nuanced and context-sensitive understanding of the characteristics of Kenyan road infrastructure. Such partnerships leverage the invaluable experiential knowledge of local consultants, who possess deeper insights into the prevailing operational challenges, environmental conditions, and user dynamics. Moreover, this synergy ensures that proposed safety interventions are not only technically sound but also contextually appropriate, practically implementable, and sustainably aligned with the socio-economic and institutional realities of the Kenyan environment. The short-listing criteria comprise:
  - Firm's Registration:** The firm must be duly registered and have a minimum of eight (8) years' experience in the fields of transport engineering, road safety engineering, and/or road infrastructure assessment. Demonstrable experience in applying internationally recognized road safety methodologies, particularly the iRAP (International Road Assessment Programme) framework or equivalent, will be required.
  - Firm's Experience:** The firm must demonstrate specific experience in successfully undertaking at least three (3) similar assignments. Such assignments should include iRAP Star Rating Assessments, road safety risk mapping, or comparable road infrastructure safety evaluations, as well as experience in road safety improvement strategies and/or capacity-building initiatives.
  - Experience in similar conditions:** The firms that demonstrate having experience in similar assignments in Sub-Saharan Africa will be an added advantage.
  - Availability of Key Experts:** The firm must demonstrate adequate technical and managerial capability to undertake the assignment, including familiarity with data collection technologies, road safety analysis tools, and institutional capacity development. Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.
- Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's "Procurement Policy for Bank Group Funded Operations"-August, 2015, which is available on the Bank's website at <http://www.afdb.org>. Borrowers are under no obligation to shortlist any consultant who expresses interest.
- Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours (weekdays from 0800hr to 1700hr local time, excluding public holidays).
 

**Attention:** Director (Highway Design and Survey)  
**Street Address:** Kenya National Highways Authority, Barabara Plaza, Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), Nairobi, off Mazao road (Opposite Aviation House)  
**Floor/Room Number:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor North wing, Block A  
**City:** NAIROBI, KENYA  
**Telephone:** +254 700423606, +254 20 4954200  
**Email addresses:** [directorhpd@kenha.co.ke](mailto:directorhpd@kenha.co.ke), [procurement@kenha.co.ke](mailto:procurement@kenha.co.ke)
- Expressions of interest must be delivered in written form and clearly marked with the assignment title & Tender No. and deposited in the box at Kenya National Highways Authority Headquarters, 2nd Floor, Block C, Barabara Plaza, Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), Nairobi, Off Mazao Road (Opposite Aviation House) or addressed to the:
 

**Deputy Director, (Supply Chain Management)**  
**Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA)**  
**2nd Floor, Block C, Barabara Plaza, Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), Nairobi**  
**Off Mazao Road (Opposite Aviation House)**  
**P.O. Box 49712-00100, Tel: +254 700423606, +254 20 8013842,**  
**Email: [procurement@kenha.co.ke](mailto:procurement@kenha.co.ke)**

so as to be received on or before **30<sup>th</sup> June, 2026 at 1100hrs local time.**

- Electronic submission is **NOT** permitted. Expressions of interest shall thereafter be opened in public on **30<sup>th</sup> June, 2026 at 1100hrs Local Time** in the presence of the applicants' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below.

**KeNHA Headquarters,**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Block C, Barabara Plaza, Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), Nairobi**  
**Off Mazao Road (Opposite Aviation House)**

- Interested Consultants are required to continually check the Kenya National Highways Authority website: [www.kenha.co.ke](http://www.kenha.co.ke) for any additional information or clarifications that may arise before submission date.

**Deputy Director (Supply Chain Management)**  
**FOR: DIRECTOR GENERAL**

For all your enquiries email us on: [complaints@kenha.co.ke](mailto:complaints@kenha.co.ke) Toll Free Line: 0800-211-244 Customer Care: 0700 423 606 #Road Safety Starts With You

