

Africa water investments scorecard launches

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There is high expectation for improved progress in water investments in Africa, including Malawi, following the launch of the Africa Water Investments (AIP-Pida) scorecard in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, on March 2.

The tool was launched during the Seventh Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (Pida) week which was held under the theme 'Accelerating Transboundary Pida Water



PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE CHILINDU

Kikwete: The launch is a huge milestone

Investments Through the AIP Water Investment Scorecard.'

The tool will be used under

the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme which seeks to leverage \$30 billion/year by 2030 towards climate resilient water and sanitation investments.

The scorecard will help countries like Malawi track investments in water projects to ensure they match the ever-growing urban population, which according to United Nations Habitat, is one of the fastest urbanising countries in the world.

Speaking during the launch of the scorecard, former Tanzania president Jakaya Kikwete, who is Global Water Partnership

Southern Africa and Africa Coordination Unit board chairperson said the initiative is as a huge milestone in the quest for water security in Africa.

He said: "Today is a momentous occasion in the history of efforts to transform and develop the water and sanitation sector in Africa.

"The efforts are aimed at translating into the people of Africa getting enough safe and clean drinking water for social and economic needs."

African Union Development Agency (Auda)-Nepad has

been driving the process for the establishment of the scorecard in collaboration with the African Ministers Council on Water and other partners.

In his remarks, Auda-Nepad chief executive officer Ibrahim Mayaki, said the instrument will accelerate investment mobilisation for water projects.

The first activity on putting into effect the scorecard will be the launch of the \$600 million Zanzibar Investment Programme at a high-level conference in Zanzibar, which starts today and ends tomorrow. ■

Chilima says govt will clear AIP mess

GEORGE SINGINI
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Vice-President Saulos Chilima has called for proper planning for 2022/23 Affordable Inputs Programme (AIP) to ensure that it does not face challenges faced this agriculture growing season.

The Veep said this entails sourcing the fertiliser and farm inputs on time.

He said this on Tuesday in Kasungu during his tour of public sector reforms projects being undertaken by Kasungu District Council and Kasungu Municipal Council.

Chilima, who was responding to concerns by Kasungu South East legislator Khumbize Chiponda that some farmers have failed to access fertiliser in the 2021 AIP this year, said government will ensure that it rectifies some of the challenges before the start of the next growing season.

Chiponda, who is also Minister of Health and was representing Kasungu Central legislator Ken Kandodo during the Veep's tour of Kasungu town, said proper



PHOTOGRAPH: GEORGE SINGINI

First Deputy Speaker Madalitso Kazombo (L), Chiponda (C) and Chilima (R) during the tour

planning in the AIP would ensure that farmers benefit from the programme.

She said: "A good number of people have failed to access fertiliser this year due to logistical challenges.

"I would like to urge you our Vice-President that when government is coming up with this year's programme, we need good

preparations so that most people should access fertiliser."

But Chilima assured that with the budget starting in April, there will be enough time to procure fertiliser in good time.

He said: "There will be about six months of sourcing fertiliser and we will do so at a cheaper cost. This should also give ample time to ensure that farmers have access to

fertiliser on time.

"We do not want a situation where people panic to source fertiliser as if we are hunting mice. Fertiliser should be sourced on time and farmers should be able to access fertiliser without challenges."

The Veep went on to remind the people that the country is implementing a Public Sector Reforms Programme and that each government ministry signed for projects and initiatives that they work on to improve service delivery.

He said the Public Service Reforms Department, which he heads, will be tracking such projects.

Chilima, expressed satisfaction with four of the 10 reform areas that Kasungu District Council is working on.

The council is implementing health sector reforms where it has increased bed space for neonatal services at the district hospital.

The council has also procured a fire engine and refuse trucks.

Meanwhile, the council is also planning to construct a new bus terminal and new market to create jobs and generate revenue for the council. ■

Dodma for enhanced record keeping in camp management

CHIPILIRO KHAMULA
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The Department of Disaster Management Affairs (Dodma) has called on district councils to enhance record keeping for effective camp coordination and management.

Dodma director of disaster response and recovery, Reverend Moses Chimphepo said this on Tuesday in Blantyre when he officially opened a four-day camp coordination and management orientation for district civil protection committees.

The committees are structures responsible for coordinating the implementation of various disaster risk management interventions at district level.

Chimphepo said record keeping is key to inform decision-making and provision of basic needs for internally displaced persons.

"We need to safely keep records of disaggregated data in terms of sex, gender, age and most importantly, the vulnerable for instance women, people with disabilities and people living with HIV and Aids," he said.

One of the participants, Blessings Kamtema, who is also Nsanje relief and rehabilitation officer, said the orientation provided them with a guide on effective camp set-up and management.

The training brought together committee members from Chikwawa, Nsanje, Mulanje, Phalombe and Zomba districts. It was funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB). ■

Malawi sets pace for health economics

STEVEN PEMBAMOYO
STAFF REPORTER

The Health Economics and Policy Unit (Hepu) has said Malawi's policies on health economics are being replicated in other East, Central and Southern African (ECSA) health community member States.

Hepu director Joseph Mfutso-Bengo said this on Tuesday in Lilongwe during a two-day Thanzi La Onse Dissemination Extraordinary Think-Tank conference.

He said: "The major positive for Malawi is that it has powerful health economics policies which are being replicated in other countries such as Uganda. This is what ECSA wants."

Mfutso-Bengo said since the beginning of the Thanzi La Onse project in 2018, the number of health economists has been significantly increasing from only two to 16.

"Currently, Malawi has 16 health economists but there is hope that by the end of this year, the number will jump to 30 which may become the highest in the member States," he said.

However, Mfutso-Bengo said despite these positives, Malawi is resource-limited to achieve the best on health economics programmes.

In his remarks, Ministry of Health Principal Secretary Dr Charles Mwansambo said the country is doing its best despite limited resources.

ECSA is a nine-member International organisation established in 1974 to coordinate health programmes through platforms where member States can share and learn ideas from each other. ■



PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE CHILINDU

Mfutso-Bengo: We are increasing numbers