

Abstract

The National Water Conservation and Pipeline Corporation was inaugurated in September 1987 with the aim of making the already existing water suppliers self sustaining without having to always resort to the exchequer for funding.

The water supplies were, hitherto the inauguration of the Corporation, being ran by the Ministry of Water Development under the Operations and Maintenance Division. The Ministry charged minimal rates on water consumption and the operations and maintenance division had always voted large sums of money for its recurrent budget. While the process of cost sharing was being implemented in other Ministries and Government Departments, the Ministry, under the steering of the then Deputy Secretary of Planning and Establishment - Mr. Wamatu Njoroge, mooted the idea of privatizing those water supplies which were viewed as viable to be placed under the corporation - National Water Conservation and Pipeline Corporation.

■ ■

The Corporation assumed its operations in January 1988 and moved to the then Nairobi provincial water offices in Industrial Area - Nairobi.

Having inherited the water supplies from the Ministry and the same management which headed the Operations and Maintenance Divisions in the Ministry being the backbone of the Corporation, the same policies that were being followed in the Ministry were naturally adopted by the young Corporation.

However, it was soon to be realized that the ~operations could not proceed smoothly for an organization that is profit oriented to follow the same "social-duty" geared approach of the Ministry.

1

Due to lack of profit motivation in the operations of the Operations and Maintenance Division of the Ministry of Water Development the Corporation found itself lacking in money generating operations which resulted to evaluation of the existing systems relating to revenue collection. The water billing therefore became a natural option to turn to as it is the major revenue generating operations which the Corporation inherited.

It was then that FINIDA under the auspices of Eero Mestus offered to support a pilot project based in Kakamega on the Kakamega Water Supply - where FINIDA is also implementing a rural water supply project. Among the objectives of the pilot project was to computerize the billing system. This, therefore, forms the basis of this project which will be highlighted as it was adopted from the Ministry as a manual system and the conversion that this project implements on a desktop computer.