

Nairobi >

Kidero launches special water access ATM in war against cholera

BY MUCHEMI WACHIRA

Nairobi County has launched a special water dispenser that will ensure access to clean water as the war against cholera and other water borne diseases went a notch higher.

Residents of Mathare slums in Nairobi will use special ATM-like smart cards to access water from the dispenser that replaces water taps.

"This will enhance access to clean drinking water," said governor Evans

Kidero when he launched the new water management system that uses special technology at Mashimoni in Mathare slums on Monday.

Besides providing clean water, the new dispenser, Dr Kidero noted, is efficient and user friendly.

Residents will only require a mere 50 cents to buy a 20 litre container of water, which they will load in the smart card. The slum dwellers have been buying the same quantity of water at Sh10 from vendors

who sometimes sell contaminated water. The Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company will manage the dispenser.

Most cases of cholera reported in Nairobi over the last two months have been in slums.

Informal settlements

The disease has so far killed 19 people in city, most of them informal settlements who rely on water from vendors.

Others fetch the water from rivers polluted with raw sewers.

"The new system will eliminate the management challenges experienced in water kiosks and benefit the residents in the informal settlements who will now buy clean water at the lowest costs," Dr Kidero said.

He added: "This system will also check water wastage while increasing revenue that the county government will use to improve water and sewerage services in all parts of the city."

The governor said his government will soon outlaw vending of water.

The project has been funded by the Danish Government and a services firm, Grundfos Lif which seeks to offer innovative sustainable water solutions to developing countries.

Dr Kidero said the project will spread to all other informal settlements of the city, including, Dand, Kawangware, Kibera, Mukuru Kajiunga and Mukuru Kwa Reuben.

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Nairobi | Tenders for sections already advertised

Plans for 53km JKIA road finally released

Project to decongest city will be funded by the World Bank and Kenyan government

BY OTIATO GUGUYU

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Plans to construct a 53-kilometre Jomo Kenyatta International Airport-Ririoni road to ease congestion in the city have been announced.

The Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) said in a statement yesterday funding for the project will be provided by the World Bank while the designs were funded by the government.

The road is divided into three sections: JKIA-Likoni Road Junction at the Southern Bypass Interchange; Likoni Road Junction-James Gichuru Road Junction near ABC Place on Waiyaki Way and the James Gichuru Road Junction-Ririoni section.

KeNHA said tenders to build sections of the road had already been advertised and procurement was ongoing.

"We had to find a better way of moving people through a well-organised bus system using dedicated lanes, and thus we came up with the Rapid Bus Transit system, a faster and efficient way of moving people," KeNHA General Manager David Muchilwa said.

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The length of road to be built from JKIA

3

Number of sections that the road is divided into

The project entails building a dual carriageway from JKIA, passing through Likoni Road and linking James Gichuru Road to Ririoni on the Nairobi-Nakuru highway.

The road will have a dedicated Rapid Bus Transit lane from JKIA to Kikuyu.

Mr Muchilwa says construction of the service lanes will begin before the contractor moves in to build the inner lanes.

The JKIA turnoff to Likoni Road junction will have an additional lane on either side between JKIA terminal and Likoni Road junction while service lanes will be built on both sides between Likoni Road junction and the start of the flight path.

Elevated dual carriageway

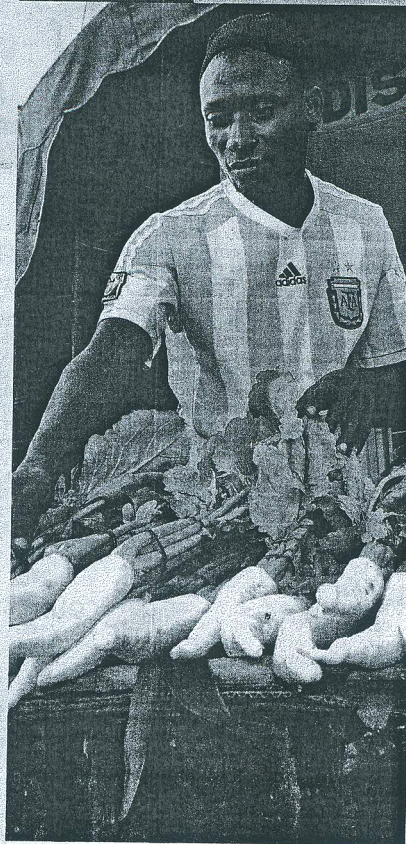
Feeder roads at the Likoni and James Gichuru junction will have an elevated dual carriageway over the median between the road-over-rail bridge just before Haille Selassie Intersection up to the KBC headquarters.

Rapid Bus Transit lanes will also be included alongside interchanges at intersections on Popo-Kapiti, Langata-Lusaka, Bunyala road, Rhapsa and James Gichuru road.

The final stretch from James Gichuru to Ririoni will have additional lanes on both sides and space will be left in the middle of the road for a future bus rapid transit system.

The road expansion is expected to spur industrial expansion in the area by easing access to the Industrial Area.

Ramadhan | Traders cash in



KEVIN ODIT | NATION
A trader waits for customers at Bondeni area in Mombasa yesterday. Traders in the region have been doing brisk business as Muslims break their fast during Ramadhan.

Mandera >>

Plan to arm chiefs in volatile region wins praise

BY MANASE OTSIALO

A chief in Mandera has welcomed a government plan to provide them with firearms.

Mandera County Principal Chief Isaack Adawa said the announcement by the northeastern region coordinator, Mr Mohamad Saleh, is a step in the right direction since chiefs are targets of Al-Shabaab militants.

"The idea is good, considering that chiefs are living in fear as armed militants are targeting us while we perform our duties," said Mr Adawa.

He said firearms would motivate chiefs, as they would give them a sense of security and confidence.

Mr Adawa said many chiefs have been killed in Mandera. The latest killing, he said, happened to a chief who was walking from a mosque in Wajir.

"The idea is good, considering that chiefs are living in fear as armed militants are targeting us while we perform our duties"

Principal Chief Isaack Adawa

Chief Adawa is also a victim of an Al-Shabaab attack. He suffered gunshot wounds when Mandera Governor Ali Roba's convoy was attacked in March on the Mandera-Arabia-Elwak road. Three people died during the attack including two police officers and a former civic leader. The governor, however, was not hurt.

Mr Adawa urged chiefs in Mandera to unite communities and shun divisiveness, which leads to inter-clan clashes.

"Our role as chiefs is to unite the people, regardless of the clans they belong to.

"We need to ensure that residents live peacefully. Our duty is to be on the look out for people planning heinous activities so as to help the government to combat terrorism," said Mr Adawa in Mandera Town.

Nairobi >

Family of slain varsity student demands urgent probe

BY STELLA CHERONO

The family of a student who was killed on campus on Saturday in unclear circumstances has demanded that police speed up investigations into the case, which management admits was committed by fellow students.

Julius Omondi Omollo, a first-year Bachelor of Arts Criminology student at the University of Nairobi was killed alongside another student, Fetya Mohammed Yusuf, under unclear circumstances.

But Vice Chancellor Peter Mbithi said in a statement the two were

beaten to death by other students after they allegedly attempted to steal a laptop.

"A student left his room at about 3am headed for the Architecture and Design Building. Near Hall 6, he was accosted by five men who snatched his bag containing a laptop," the VC said.

He said the student screamed for help and pursued the suspects towards State House Road where they were caught by group near YMCA who beat them up.

He said three of them managed to escape.

But Omollo's family has doubted

this explanation, saying no one, not even students at the university, could clearly explain what happened. The family says some students said it was too risky to do so.

The family says Omollo's sister who lives in Narok received a call that her brother had been murdered at the university.

The next day, another sister travelled to Nairobi to find out what had happened to her brother.

"None of the students wanted to talk about the incident," a family member said.

A family member who did not want to be named said the college

administration had not contacted the family officially.

"The institution has not made any official communication. Not even a call. The dean of students told us on Monday morning that he was not aware of the killings," he said.

The killings sparked a storm online after blogger Robert Alai alleged that a gang run by student leaders knew the killers.

Mr Alai claimed he had received information from sources at the university that a student leader organised a mob to kill the two students after they refused to sell alcohol for him on campus.