

A. NATIONAL POLICY ON WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT- SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 1 OF 1999 MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

Para 3.5.1. Operation and maintenance of water supplies has recently become one of the major problems within the water sector.

Para. 3.5.2. Involvement of the beneficiaries at all stages of water supply development process prepares them for the eventual taking over of the same for operation and maintenance. The basic solution to the problems in operation and maintenance of water supply schemes, therefore, lies in the full involvement of the users

Para 3.5.3 in line with government policy of cost sharing, the Ministry in -charge of water affairs will fully encourage active participation of beneficiaries in the development of water supplies. In this regard, the Government will continue to promote the development of water systems that are self-sustaining and where beneficiaries themselves are encouraged to take the full responsibility of operating and maintaining such systems.

B. WATER ACT 2002

The Water Act is very specific about creating:

1. WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY primarily for conservation and licensing.
2. WATER SERVICES REGULATORY BOARD primarily for regulating the sector.
3. WATER SERVICES BOARD primarily for licensing the suppliers in urban areas.
4. WATER SERVICES TRUST FUND-primarily for financing rural areas.
5. WATER APPEAL BOARD for dispute settlements.

In my experience, as the Chair of Athi Water Resources Committee of No.1 above, I would like to point out:

1. That Government transferred all rural schemes to “communities” These are neither defined in the policy. They were in earlier drafts which some of us challenged and thus they did not survive the act document. But note that they are alive in the earlier policy document above.

2. Getting money out of the Trust is not only complicated but also bureaucratic and thus not easily accessible by community organizations.

Therefore there are obvious concerns as far as the Ukai Derivative’s Strategy is concerned. These are *inter alia*:

1. Training at the Certificate, Diploma and Degree levels in terms of a. Identification of water resources potentials b. Identification of and community sources
2. Training in water structures and equipment maintenance at the Certificate, Diploma and Degree level.
3. Training at the Certificate, Diploma and Degree level of water management for production.