

## **YOUR QUESTIONS ON THE PROPOSED SUGAR COMPLEX AT NYANGWETA ANSWERED**

My attention has been drawn to issues raised on social media by our stakeholders regarding the proposed establishment of a sugar complex at Nyangweta Forest, South Mugirango.

Firstly, I wish to state that we sincerely appreciate this feedback and concerns raised about various aspects of the project. Let me address some of these issues thus;

### **i. Stakeholder/Public Participation**

The Nyangweta Sugar Complex Project was generated by residents of Kisii County during stakeholders/public participation meetings/engagements that were carried out to identify priority projects for implementation. Public participation/stakeholder engagement is enshrined in the constitution as a right for all citizens. The process was started shortly after the County Government came into being with the first formal stakeholder/public participation meeting taking place on 15 April, 2014 at Nduru High school in South Mugirango Sub County. Participants of the meeting were drawn from all the wards of the Sub County. This build up public meeting approved the Project and identified the suitable land for it to be at Nyangweta Forest. There followed a series of Public participation meetings that were held to address diverse issues regarding the Project and its site.

Participants included Sugarcane farmers, relevant Government agencies, academia, chiefs, women group representatives, youth group representatives, religious leaders, members of the Kisii County Assembly, the County Executive, local Heads of National Government Departments, County Executive Committee Members and general public.

In order to reach stakeholders who did not get opportunity to attend the interactive forums that were held in Kisii County, NEMA placed public notices in newspapers with national circulation, the Kenya Gazette and vernacular radio station which ran for one week.

These comprehensive engagements were aimed at meeting the Constitutional requirements on stakeholder/public participation and specific laws relating to the processes of initiating and implementing projects of this magnitude.

## **ii. Nyangweta Sugar Complex Project**

The Sugar Complex will be located on a 120 acre of public land at Nyangweta and will consist of three plants including;

- a) Sugar Production plant
- b) Ethanol Production plant
- c) Electricity CO- Generation plant.

In compensation thereof, the Kisii County Assembly approved an area that is more than five times bigger to be gazetted as forests and placed under management of the Kenya Forest service for management.

## **iii. Identification of Investor and Signing of MOU**

In February 2016, the Kisii County Government organized an Investment Summit where we showcased trade and investment opportunities to local, regional and international investors. It was while at the Summit that Kanoria Group of Companies from India expressed interest in the Sugar and related products industry. Subsequent negotiations culminated in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Kisii County Government and the Kanoria Group of companies to establish the Sugar complex in Kisii County.

## **iv. Kisii Renewable Energy & Sugar Factory Ltd**

The Sugar Complex will operate under the name of a newly registered company - Kisii Renewable Energy & Sugar Company Limited (KRESP1).

The company is registered with NSSF as Employer and has KRA PIN certificate. Other registrations are on-going.

**v. Feasibility Study**

Feasibility study for the Sugar Complex Project was carried out and completed in 2016. The study showed that the project is viable.

**vi. The Catchment area of the Sugar Complex**

The catchment area of the Sugar Complex will include Bonchari, South Mugirango, Bomachoge Borabu, Bomachoge chache, Bobasi, Nyaribari and Kitutu Chache.

**vii. Environmental Impact Assessment Study & License**

The EIA Study was carried and a report submitted to National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA). Nema placed public notices in two newspapers with national circulation, Kenya Gazette, and on vernacular radio station which ran for one week. Issues which were raised by stakeholders following the public notices were addressed and subsequently, NEMA issued EIA license for the Sugar Complex Project. The EIA report is available on the Nema website.

### **viii. Budgetary provisions for Planting of Trees in Kisii County**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources at the County has a budget for carrying out tree planting every year. The budget will be retained to ensure that there are continuous deliberate plans to plant trees in the Kisii County with objective of increasing the forestry cover. The Kisii County Government collaborates with Kenya Forest Service to enhance forest cover and protect existing and future planted forest in the County.

### **ix. Lease of Land to Kisii Renewable Energy and Sugar Factory CO Limited**

The Kisii County Government will lease land to the Kisii Renewable Energy and Sugar Factory Company Ltd in accordance to the law. The terms and conditions of the lease shall be submitted to the Kisii County Assembly for debate and approval.

### **x. Approvals**

The Nyangweta Sugar Complex Project and site received its first approvals from the various Public forums held in South Mugirango Sub County. Other approvals obtained include from the Kisii County Executive Committee, the Kisii County assembly, National Environmental Management Authority and other Government agencies.

### **xi. Corporate Social Responsibility**

The Kisii Renewable Energy and Sugar Company Ltd will interact with the residents of the County in terms of corporate social responsibilities in various ways including development of playgrounds, roads, constructing bridges, ECD centre, upgrading one school, offering free extensions services covering food crops, fruits, horticulture, dairy farming, sugarcane development, upgrading one Health Centre to offer comprehensive medical services, supporting a youth group to develop a tree nursery for distribution at a minimal fee and others as will be driven by the community needs.

**xii. Proposed Sugar Factory to Transform the Economy and Support Livelihoods**

The establishment of the sugar complex at Nyangweta is an investment that is expected to significantly transform the economy of the County, greatly change the livelihoods of not only the sugarcane farmers but also those of the residents of the County at large. Expected benefits include; better prices for cane delivered, creation of employment opportunities for the residents, ready market for farm produce and other products, improvement of infrastructure and social services among others. The county Government will also earn revenue in terms of rent and license fees.

With regards

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KISII COUNTY