



Nakuru water firm goes mobile in meter reading

A water services company has rolled out **mobile** meter reading technology to improve efficiency and revenue collection.

Nakuru Water and Sanitation Company (Nawasco) managing director John Cheruiyot said the firm has spent nearly Sh0.6 million to buy **smartphones** and pay consultants who installed the software.

The system was officially launched at the company offices in Nakuru Town two weeks ago. It was installed by Nairobi-based StoneHouse Technologies.

Nawasco is owed Sh500 million by various defaulters with the defunct Nakuru municipal council being the main culprit as it owes the company Sh200 million.

According to engineer Cheruiyot, Nawasco's monthly revenue collection of nearly Sh50 million is set to increase with the introduction of **mobile** meter reading.

Meter readers will now relay the figures

on the ground directly to their head office and the same is processed thus saving the firm funds set aside to buy stationery.

With the new system, staff who in the past manipulated data will no longer be able to do so as their phones are fitted with **Android** software which will be indicating the exact position from where they are taking the readings.

"Days when meter readers would sit under a tree and guess the readings for our clients are now gone and they will have to read the correct figures and if the gate of the client is locked the phone will indicate the meter reader indeed visited the client," said Engineer Cheruiyot.

"This new system is secure, easy to operate and cases of manipulation of data by the meter readers will be eliminated as the system is fully integrated with our billing system," he said. The MD said they plan to

map out all company infrastructure in the county in a bid to improve response in case of emergency.

StoneHouse Technologies sales and marketing director, Mr Ken Okuto, said his company has initiated talks with Thika Water and Sanitation Company, Kisumu, Mavoko and Eldoret water companies to install the new **mobile** meter reading system.

"The new technology is the best solution to minimise complaints and increase revenue as the readings will take the shortest time to process and send the bill to client on good time," said Mr Okuto.

Rift Valley Water Services board chairman Bartonjo Chesaina said meter readers were the heart beat of the water companies and the success of the new system will depend on how they will embrace the new technology.

-Francis Mureithi



The Nakuru water company has introduced mobile meter reading to improve efficiency.

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