

**BRIEF ON THE ACTIVITIES OF
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
SOKOTO STATE**

BY

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PERMANENT SECRETARY**

AT

GOVERNMENT LODGE SOKOTO

ON

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INTRODUCTION:

Sokoto State is located on the extreme North Western part of Nigeria between longitude $4^{\circ}8'$ and $4^{\circ}54'$ east and between latitudes 12° North and $4^{\circ}58'$ east. It is in the semi arid zone and among the highest temperate regions in Nigeria. It is also hydro geologically situated in the sedimentary area in which the surface conditions encourage high infiltration rates leading to rapid loss of our surface water storage through evaporation. The state covers a land area of 28,232.22sqkm and has a population of 3.6m people as per 2006 census.

By the data supplied above, some important observations could made:

- i. That Sokoto State is in the arid zone, hence has high temperatures.

ii. That the state is also large.

iii. That so many people live within the area.

Since the creation of the state efforts have been made to provide portable water to the teeming number of people living in the state. A part from the state efforts other tiers of government; local and federal have also played roles in water provision to the people of the state. However, factors such as high demand for portable water induced by population explosion, migration, ageing and over stretching of water supply facilities have made adequate supply of water most challenging as we shall see.

The water supply schedule of the Ministry has three components; urban and semi urban water supply. There is also water sanitation project. While urban water supply is handled ~~by the~~ directly by the Ministry ~~while~~ WATSAN agency takes care of the water and sanitation project.

URBAN WATER SUPPLY BEFORE 2007

This covers supply to the Sokoto city and its environs. It is estimated that about 2million people live within the radius of Sokoto urban water supply. Apart from boreholes scattered in different locations in the city, supply of water is mainly made through the three main water works established by the State many years ago. These include: Old Sokoto Water Works constructed since 1967, bi-water package plant constructed in 1983 and New Extension Treatment Plant constructed in 1988. Their various capacities are as follows:

S/no	Name of water works	Designed capacity	Production before 2007
1.	Old Water	12m gals per day	2.5m gal per day
2.	Bi-water package plant	6.6m gals per day	1.5m gals per day
3.	New extension treatment plant	23m gals per day	16m gals per day
	Total	41.5MGD	20MGD

By the above table it could be observed that all the above schemes were operating below capacity; producing only 20MGD instead of a total of 41.5MGD installed capacity. That was actually the situation as at May 2007.

Immediately His Excellency Dr. A. M. Wamakko assumed office the above scenario changed. He made it clear to the people that the above situation was not only unacceptable but must also change. He was aware of the World Health Organization standard which says 120 litres of water is required per head each day. By this standard therefore he realized that Sokoto with a population of 2million people should have at least 53.33 million gallons of water per day.

To achieve this he created a Task Force Committee to address the issue with immediate effect. The sum of 500m naira was allocated to the committee with full powers to operate without bureaucratic

hindrances to achieve targets given to it. Indeed this made the magic because as I am talking to you all the schemes are operating on full capacity. In addition, all the 49 broken down boreholes in the city were reactivated with new ones created where applicable. Presently, the water supply condition in the city has remarkably improved. However, experts still believe that to be more comfortable Sokoto should have at least 100MGD to take care of future expansion of the city. In view of this, the State Government is making arrangements to undertake three major water projects to address the urban water supply deficit. This includes:

1. Rehabilitation of new extension treatment plant.
2. Construction of large diameter tube wells at Asare on the confluence of rivers Rima and Sokoto.

3. Reactivation of abandoned Kware water supply scheme to detach Kware from the metropolitan supplies and also supply Dundaye, Achida and Hamma Ali towns.

However, these projects are capital intensive. They are projected to cost over 12 billion naira. This is where the state needs assistance from all assisting agencies. Once these projects materialize, water scarcity in Sokoto and environs will be a thing of the past.

OTHER URBAN WATER SCHEMES

These include Gwadabawa, Yabo, Tambuwal, Isa, Gada, Illela, Tangaza, Dange and Binji. Attention was focused on them with a view to upgrading their present capacities. Before the end of the first phase of this administration all the other schemes must have been upgraded.

SEMI URBAN WATER SUPPLY

This administration inherited about 97 semi-urban water schemes. More than 30% needed rehabilitation and more than half needed upgrading to urban schemes. This administration has succeeded in the rehabilitation of most of the broken down ones and presently in the process of upgrading majority of them.

WATSAN

This is a collaborative agency harnessing resources from the State Government, UNICEF and Federal Government to execute water and sanitation projects in the state. A lot of achievements were recorded especially in the construction and repairs of GEP schools and V.I.P latrines all over the state. Also many solar panels were installed on some boreholes.

**SUMMARY OF COST AND NUMBER OF PROJECTS
EXECUTED FROM JUNE 2007 - TO DATE**

(a) June to December 2007

1. Under Semi-urban Water Supply, 4No projects were executed at the cost of N23,072,852.50
2. Under urban Water Supply, 20No of projects were executed at the cost of N623,152,852.50.
3. Under WATSAN, 10No of projects were executed at the cost of N35,497,016.00.

(b) June - December 2008

1. Under Semi-Urban Water Supply, 17No projects were executed at the cost of N269,510,620.00
2. Under Urban Water Supply, 27No projects were executed at the cost of N788,191,299.00
3. Under WATSAN, 8No projects were executed at the cost of N26,717,500:00

(c) **Jan 2009 to date:**

1. Under Semi-Urban Water Supply, 4No projects were executed at the cost of N22,730,400:00
2. Under Semi-Urban Water Supply, N500,000,00 voted for expenditure by Task Force Committee.
3. Under WATSAN, 1No project was executed at the cost of N3,051,500:00

Total A, B and C = N2,285,872,642.00

2010 BUDGET HIGHLIGHT

1.0 State Water Board

- The state government has proposed to construct tube wells at the confluence of Sokoto and Rima rivers.
- Expansion of Sokoto new extension treatment plant (Phase II) by construction of additional seven (7) filter units, 1 clarifier, backwash tank etc.

- Diversion of Kware mainlines to Achida and environs.
- Rehabilitation of Bi-water package plant and old water works.

2.0 Semi-Urban Water

- The state government has proposed conversion of 22No motorized water schemes to Solar Powered Boreholes.
- The state government to upgrade 24No village water scheme to full semi-urban water scheme.
- 17No of new semi-urban water schemes would be constructed.
- 5No new village water schemes would be constructed.
- Also, state government has proposed to establish hydro met stations at Kalmalo, Gwadabawa, Isa and Tambuwal.

- The state government has proposed the rehabilitation of 202No semi-urban water supply schemes.

3.0 WATSAN

The state government has also proposed to drill 48No hand-pumps in Guinea-worm communities.

A total of over N10billion is expected to be expended in the implementation of the above projects.

CHALLENGES OF WATER SUPPLY IN SOKOTO STATE

Challenges in water supply are many, ranging from physical, chemical, electrical, fuel, lubrication, old-age of plants, equipment and distribution network:

- i. Costs of spare parts for the maintenance of the systems, such as pumps, electrical motors, control panels etc.
- ii. High consumption of water treatment chemicals due to turbidity of our water throughout the season.

- iii. Lack of sufficient power supply from Power Holding Company.
- iv. Rampart pipe burst due to old-age.
- v. High cost of fuel and lubricants.