

River to be re-routed

By NATION Correspondent

The River Tana, which recently left more than 40,000 people without a reliable source of water after it changed course, will be rerouted to its original course in a week, the Government has said.

Tana Delta district officer Benson Karani yesterday said National Water Conservation and Pipeline Corporation engineers had indicated that the work would be done using special equipment from Nairobi.

The engineers are expected to begin work after survey work and costing are done.

Town's water supply to be boosted

By MAZERA NDURYA

The Government plans to replace worn-out pipes and start new projects to boost water supply in Mombasa Town and its suburbs.

The work will involve setting up a new water pipeline from Mzima and rehabilitating existing pipes, according to the Coast Water Services Board.

This is expected to address the problem of leakages, which has been blamed for inadequate water supply.

Data from the board show that about 50 per cent of water from Mzima Springs in Taita is

wasted due to burst pipes and defective metering.

An engineer in charge of technical services at the board, Mr Meshack Mutungi, said the existing pipes burst at least twice a month and take a lot of time and resources to repair.

"Once completed, the Mzima Two project will have a guarantee of about 20 years before it becomes weak and starts leaking.

Scrap metal

"But leakage is not the only major problem we are facing," he said, and singled out vandalism, especially of steel

pipes that are sold as scrap metal, as a worrying issue.

"Although some people have been arrested and jailed, the practice is still going on. The good price being paid for scrap metal is making the vandals go an extra mile," he said.

He said a World Bank-funded project was also under way to replace weak sections of the existing pipeline, thereby reducing wastage.

Mr Mutungi said similar arrangements were being made with the French government for the rehabilitation of the 80-year-old Marere project that also supplies water to parts of Mombasa.

TOURISM

80 travel agents from Italy arrive

After sampling local resorts, they will woo more visitors

By MATHIAS RINGA

At least 80 prominent travel agents from Italy yesterday arrived in Mombasa for a week's tour of the country.

This follows a recent visit to Italy by a delegation led by Tourism minister Najib Balala to woo more Italians to visit Kenya.

The travel agents, together with more than 100 tourists, arrived at Mombasa International Airport aboard a Blue Panorama plane shortly after 11am.

According to Franco Rosso product manager Laurent Parent, the agents are in the country to sample wild safaris in Tsavo National Park and coastal beaches, among other tourist resorts in Malindi and Diani in the South Coast.

Marketing

Soon after landing, the group left for Tsavo East National Park for safaris while today they are scheduled to visit Taita Hills.

Their tour was sponsored by leading Italian tour operator Franco Rosso, the Kenya Tourist Board (KTB) and Pollman's Tours and Safari with the aim of marketing Kenya as a destination of choice among Italian holidaymakers.

The tour operators will also seek to reassure jittery Italians that Kenya was now safe after the post-election violence that drove away many tourists.

"Franco Rosso and KTB, among other partners, have brought agents from Italy so that they can witness for

themselves the tourist attractions here as well as being exposed to the peaceful atmosphere after the turbulent post-election violence period," said Mr Parent.

"Our aim is to ensure that Italian tourists come in droves in Kenya as it used to be over the years. The travel agents will then convince their clients to visit this country for holidays since it is one of the key destinations, especially Malindi Town," he added.

The Franco Rosso official expressed hope that in December their charter flights into Mombasa would increase from one per week to four, with the number of passengers rising from just above 100 per week to 500.

He said the tour firm expects to bring to Kenya about 5,000

100

Number of tourists in the company of agents

tourists between December and April next year following the increase of charter flights.

KTB account director marketing and public relations Federica Volla hoped the Italian travel agents would assist in wooing holidaymakers.

Following the post-election violence, she said, the number of Italians visiting the country dropped sharply.

Between January and August this year only 11,000 came compared to 83,000 last year, she added.

"After the post-election violence we lost 70 per cent of the Italian tourist market. We ferried in the agents to see the country so that they can help in mending up things. We want the tourists to come back in large numbers," she said.

Process server accused of making 'effortless' bids

By EUNICE MACHUHI

The High Court was yesterday told that an ODM parliamentary poll loser did not satisfy the requirements of due diligence before serving a petition through a newspaper advertisement.

Garsen MP Danson Mungatana, through lawyer Cecil Miller, termed "effortless" the attempts by the process server, Mr Thomas Nduku, to effect personal service on him before opting for substituted service.

Mr Mungatana's election is

being challenged by Mr Hussein Dado, who wants the election nullified.

His lawyer Ms Julie Aulo, had argued that the Garsen MP was duly served with the election petition by way of advertisement after personal service became impossible.

Mr Miller, who filed an application seeking to strike out the petition for lack of personal service, denied the claims by the petitioner and termed the process server a liar.

Mr Justice Leonard Njagi, sitting in Mombasa, will make a ruling on October 23.



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