



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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*For immediate release*

### **THEFT OF WATER METERS ON THE RISE IN KISUMU**

The Kisumu Water and Sewerage Company (KIWASCO) has spent more than Ksh 500,000 on replacing stolen water meters in the city this year. An estimated 163 meters have been reported stolen in the last year and the number could be higher as some cases are not reported. Most of the water meters have been stolen in estates such as Lolwe, Nyalenda, Manyatta, Obunga and Robert Ouko junior and senior which are the hotspot areas. Thefts of water meters increased in the last three months, with more than 70 households in the city targeted during that period.

KIWASCO MD, Thomas Odongo said brass meters that have cast-iron boxes are being targeted by the thieves, as these have a high resale value. But the company is determined to curb the thefts resulting to financial losses and will soon be moving toward installing plastic meters throughout the city.

“We are looking at replacing all meters with plastic above-ground meters. These meters have no resale value in the public domain,” Odongo said. The MD was speaking following the arrest of a thief who was caught having stolen two meters in Lolwe estate yesterday.

The company resorted to alerting the police about the spate of water meter thefts as it is a crime and is costing the company huge losses both capital investment and recurrent expenditure.

The cost to the company to replace one stolen water meter is Ksh 3000 — an amount the company does not budget for. Odongo urged customers to work with the company by reporting cases of meter theft through any of the communication channels.

“We need to work together in order to protect our water,” he said. “If you report a case of stolen meter, the company has a cash reward of Ksh 10,000 for you”.

Theft of water meters is one of the contributors of Non-Revenue water that the company is grappling with and bringing the culprits to books will see the company save on the losses currently being incurred.



*Photo: the thief after being apprehended at Lolwe estate*

Thomas Odongo  
**Managing Director**

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