

HOMES & PROPERTY

EU, group partner on Osun water, sanitation policy reform

THE European Union (EU) Water Supply and Sanitation Reform Programme (EU-WSSSRP) has commissioned a non-governmental organisation – Bread of Life Development Foundation, to carry out a study for the development and restructuring of three agencies in Osun State to ensure better service delivery.

A statement by the group's Project Officer, Oluwasanmi Falobi, said the study is being carried out through the EU's State Technical Unit, as part of the EU funded Water Supply and Sanitation Reform Programme (WSSSRP) will involve development of Osun State Water Policy and restructuring of the Osun State Water Corporation (OSWC) and the Osun State Environmental Protection Agency (OSEPA).

The study is aimed at increasing access to safe, adequate and sustainable water and sanitation services and in Osun and five other focal states: Anambra, Cross River, Jigawa, Kano, and Yobe through

improved water governance and water and sanitation service delivery in urban town areas.

On the water policy development, the group will carry out desk study on all reports and/or documents related to institutional framework assessment or policy development in the state and appraise the rationale for policy development in the state; hold consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders for the purpose of enlightenment on the development of a state specific water supply and sanitation policy; extend call for inputs on key problems and policy issues on WSS in Osun State from all stakeholders including private sector, water consumer associations, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), CSOs/CDAs for the purpose of enriching the proposed state policy; and prepare draft state WSS policy in line with the state peculiarities in consideration of provisions in National Water and Sanitation Policies for domestication.

Other activities that

With the study, EU plans at increasing access to safe, adequate and sustainable water and sanitation services in Osun through an improved water governance, water and sanitation service delivery

Urban Development

will be undertaken by the foundation as part of the study are the establishment of a mechanism that will ensure gender mainstreaming and pro-poor focus in Osun State government's water supply and sanitation policy and facilitate CBO, CSO and NGO participation and input in the review and development of the current and new water and sanitation policy respectively; and the review of current and proposed institutional restructuring plan, legal and regulatory framework to make sure that they are in line with the provisions of the new State Water and Sanitation Policy.

The study is expected to review the organisational, financial, commercial and technical structure of the Water and Sanitation Utilities, (the OSWC and

OSEPA); including an assessment of the roles the private sector can play in financing or delivery water and sanitation services.

Towards achieving this, the study will review the current organisational, technical and commercial operations of the Osun State Water

Corporation including Human Resources (organisation, capacity, prerogatives, gender equality), operating cost and revenues, management structure, production and distribution process; propose restructuring options, to enhance efficiency and effectiveness, for discus-

sion, approval, adoption and finally implementation; design communication strategy between OSWC, the customers and the private sector; and determine the means of water distribution and tariff fixing based on affordability, willingness to pay, ability to pay with reference to pro-poor policy.

Already, a team of 10 experts headed by Prof. Lekan Oyebande, who is the chair, technical committee of the West African Water Partnership of the Global Water Partnership has been

constituted.

The conduct of the study will be largely based on inputs from water and sanitation sector actors/managers and stakeholders in Osun State while the group is expected to make recommendations for improvement in water and sanitation service delivery as considered appropriate with a view to making the operations of the Osun State Water Corporation and the Osun State Environmental Protection Agency more efficient and effective leading to sustainability.

Borno allocates 777 housing units to workers, others

Housing

From Njadvava Musa, Maiduguri

federal establishments and the general public with the former taking the lion's share of 70 per cent.

Speaking on the controversial project, Chairman, Housing Allocation Committee and Commissioner of Justice and

the state, Alhaji Zanna Mallam Gana, said the two-year delays and non-allocation of the houses was however caused by the lack of infrastructure facilities at the housing estate.

Gana said that before such housing units are allocated to beneficiaries, the estate must have all the basic infrastructure facilities includ-

in the protection of lives and property.

This, he explained, informed the Senator Ali Sheriff administration to allocate millions of naira in the building and installations of infrastructure facilities including the over 250 solar-powered lamps in providing electricity and water supply.

He said that out of the 777 housing units, workers were allocated 70 per cent of the houses while