

H.E. Ato Kebede Gerba State minister of Water, Irrigation & Energy

H.E. DR-kebede Worku State minister of Health

H.E. Fuad Ibrahim State minister of Education

Ladies and gentlemen,

First and foremost, on behalf of Ethiopian Water Related Works Contractors Association, I would like to convey sincere appreciation for having this opportunity to take part in this MSF (Multi-Stakeholders' Forum) and address participants.

As you may know, Ethiopian Water Related Works Contractors Association was established two years ago and has been operating as temporary forum thus far. However, Memorandum and Articles of Association was approved and election of Executive Committee has been conducted in our recent General Assembly held in the presence of high level representatives of Ministry of Water Irrigation and Energy and Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations. We are only waiting to obtain certificate of registration with Ministry of Industry. We expect to officially launch the establishment of the Association upon obtaining our certificate of legal registration soon in the presence of you (esteemed stakeholders).

Ladies and gentlemen,

We recognize that WASH program has been on the right track in line with government policy and strategy towards accessing clean and adequate potable water, sanitation facility and hygiene to our people. We would like to pay tribute to successful accomplishment of the program over the years which owes very much to active role and constructive role and engagement of stakeholders. Despite the fact that have good reason to congratulate ourselves for promising achievement thus far, we strongly believe that there is still a crucial need to further strengthen efforts ahead.

Honorable state ministers

Ladies and gentlemen,

On this occasion, I would like to reassure commitment and readiness of private sector players engaged in water sector to continue working together for the realization of the planned One Wash Program in the next seven year and beyond. We will continue working together and growing together.

In this regard, however we expect some policy fine tuning measures in water sector policy framework in view of further enhancing the capacity of private sector. We would like to draw government attention to provide further enabling policy environment for sustainable growth and development of water sector which calls for adequate investment incentives and entitlements including duty exemption on import of water construction machineries; build capacity of consultants by providing modern design & study equipment. (the number of abandoned water wells will be decreased and variation during construction implementation will be minimized).

On the other hand we request government to be our guarantee by facilitating loan with commercial Bank of Ethiopia (because we cannot provide collateral always to banks). We also expect the creation of enabling environment for growth of private sector that requires opportunities that enable production of water construction materials like submersible pumps, pipes and fittings by way of import substitution.

On the other hand, long term financing schemes, human resource capacity building require due attention on the part of government but also other stakeholders. We are confident that most of these crucial will be addressed by government this year.

We hope that consultative forums like this one would contribute to a great deal in addressing issues of common interest to bring about sustainable growth of water construction sector in Ethiopia, and strongly believe that this needs to be advanced further.

Finally, on behalf of Ethiopian Water Related Works Construction Association, I would like to call upon stakeholders of WASH program to rise to the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Together, let's build the future; let's WASH!! Build us we will Build.

I thank you very much.