



Chairperson of the GVWC Board of Directors Exchanging the MoU with the MD of GWCL with a Warm Handshake

Guma Valley Water Company (GVWC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ghana Water Company Limited for a learning and twinning arrangement between the two Companies. The twinning arrangement was facilitated by the Millennium Challenge Coordinating Unit under the Sierra Leone Threshold Program as part of the ongoing institutional strengthening program for GVWC.

The MoU which was signed at the Bintumani Hotel on 5th December 2018, will cover a period of two years, ending in December 2020 and subject to a renewal after a review or evaluation of the period by both parties.

The crux of the MoU is organizational capacity building. Ghana Water Company Limited will support the Guma Valley Water Company through exchange of visits,

short- and long-term placement of experts (staff of the utilities), and participation in courses at the Ghana Water Training School.

Acting Managing Director of Guma Valley Water Company, Maada Kpenge described the signing of the MoU as a major milestone in the Company's transformation drive. He highlighted some of the challenges that have rendered the utility deficient in performing its mandate to deliver water service to the 1.5 million inhabitants of Freetown and the Western Area. Mr Kpenge said Guma currently produces around 70,000 cubic metre of water per day but, half of this is lost in the network. Low metering ratio and poor revenue generation are major concerns also expressed by the Acting Director. He said the MoU will provide an experiential learning opportunity for Guma staff and it will enable them to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills and expertise that will quickly facilitate the transformation of Guma to one of the top performing utilities in the sub-region. He commended MCCU for initiating the twinning programme.

Managing Director of Ghana Water Company, Ing. Dr. Clifford A. Braimah, said the signing of this historic MoU lends credence to the partnership that was established between the two countries by Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and Sir Milton Margai of Sierra Leone just after the two countries attained independence. He said the twinning arrangement came at an opportune time when Guma has successfully implemented several Performance Improvement Programs (PIP) supervised by staff of Ghana Water Company and the result was phenomenal.

"We are happy to provide our fullest support to meet our obligations of this MOU without any monetary compensation to demonstrate our commitment to strengthen the bond between the two countries and utilities, and to help each other succeed," the MD stated.

In his keynote address, the Minister of Water Resources Dr. Jonathan Tengbeh thanked Ghana Water Company and MCCU for what he described as a timely intervention and assured all of the fullest support of the Government of Sierra Leone. The Minister said the twinning programme is happening at a very strategic time as the Government is

planning to expand water facilities in Freetown to help address some of the challenges Guma is faced with.

Chief Executive Officer of Millennium Challenge Coordinating Unit (MCCU), Madam Ndeye Fatu Koroma, described the signing of the MOU as a tangible step towards realizing the goals of the WASH sector. She said integral to the country's ability to meet the SDGs was the ability of Guma to be able to deliver water to the citizens of Freetown.

The CEO underscored that a key objective of the Sierra Leone Threshold Program which is being implemented by the Millennium Challenge Coordinating Unit with support from the Millennium Challenge Corporation is to ensure the financial viability of Guma and to build institutional capacity of Guma Valley Water Company. She urged the Guma management to take the opportunity very seriously as MCCU is committed to making the funds available for the team to be able to benefit from the embedded experiential learning.