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PRESS RELEASE

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THE U. S. GOVERNMENT SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH BAUCHI STATE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN BAUCHI STATE

The United States Government signed a memorandum of understanding with Bauchi State Government on November 27, 2012 to provide access to water and sanitation in Bauchi State through a partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/Nigeria). The MOU was signed by his Excellency, the Executive Governor of Bauchi State, Malam (Dr.) Isa Yuguda, the US Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Terence McCulley and the USAID Mission Director, Dana Mansuri.

This MOU provides a transparent framework for mutual responsibility and accountability to implement a development partnership over a three-year period and provide for regular dialogue to help in the development of Bauchi State.

Many residents in the urban areas of Bauchi State (including Bauchi town) lack access to adequate water services, and only about 17,000 people have household connections out of a population of almost 600,000. The USAID-supported urban water project, the Sustainable Water and Sanitation in Africa (SUWASA) supports the Bauchi State Water Board (BSWB) to achieve financial self-sufficiency and implement policies necessary for improving water sector operations. It has achieved some milestones in just one year. With technical assistance from Sustainable Water and Sanitation in Africa, the Bauchi State Water Board formed revenue improvement task teams to use water more efficiently and improve revenue collection. For the first time, high-volume consumers are metered and pay for what they consume, resulting in increased revenues and improved efficiency in water use by these consumers.

The state's Water and Sanitation Policy was approved by the state Executive Council and signed in November 2011.

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