

Water boss calls for sanitation clubs

BUSHENYI

By Chris Mugasha

Leaders of both primary and secondary schools have been called upon to facilitate and strengthen water and sanitation clubs in schools, to address issues of water, hygiene and environment.

The National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) managing director, Dr Silver Mugisha, said the hygiene in most schools and communities is not good, stressing that few people wash their hands after visiting the toilet, which he said leaves many at the risk of catching faeces-related diseases, such as typhoid.

Mugisha was addressing students and teachers of Kyabugimbi Secondary School and residents of Kyabugimbi sub-county at Kyabugimbi Health Centre IV, during the medical camp, which was organised by Bushenyi NWSC. He also commissioned a water office in the area.

"Teachers, don't just teach



Staff of National Water and Sewerage Corporation Bushenyi presenting a play to residents of Kyabugimbi.
Photo by Chris Mugasha

students to pass exams, but empower them to be change agents in their communities," he said.

Mugisha noted that having water and sanitation clubs in schools will also promote the management of water and the environment.

He said natural resources,

especially wetlands, have been abused and nobody is bothered.

"I can assure you that your children will have nothing to eat if you continue to abuse the environment," Mugisha warned.

He added: "Concerning issues of addressing climate

change, we should use students to champion this cause because they can change the mindset of the society," Mugisha proposed.

He said he had realised there is goodwill from the population to change their attitude towards conserving the environment.

He proposed that people should plant trees on the days they celebrate their birthdays and on Valentine's Day, instead of exchanging flowers.

Pius Murabirizi, the Kyabugimbi LC1 chairperson, said there is need to extend safe water to villages to save people from fetching water from streams. Murabirizi also urged NWSC to introduce selective billing for villages and urban areas.

Responding to Murabirizi's concern, Mugisha said NWSC is planning to open public tap stands, so that people can access water easily.

The Bushenyi district chairperson, Jaffari Bassajjabalaba, urged people to work together, to reinstate wetlands, which have been destroyed, to secure the supply of water in their community.