

Kibaale, Hoima get sh5b for piped water

HOIMA

By Agnes Nantambi

The Government, with support from the African Development Bank (AfDB), has availed sh5.3b for the supply of water in the oil areas of Kibaale and Hoima districts.

The project, codenamed Kabwoya-Kyakatwanga-Nymarwa piped water system, will supply water to Kabwoya town and other trading centres of Buboogo, Kihooko, Kitooke, Kitaana, Rwentai and Kabaganda along Kyangwari road.

According to Eng. David Kahwa Amooti, the project was designed to benefit about 7,785 people up to 2040.

Speaking during the breaking-of-the-ground ceremony in Kabwoya town on Thursday, the acting Hoima district chairman, Stephen Bulyaika Kamugisha, said the district has many sub-counties without piped water. He said the project would end the suffering of the people.

"This project has come as a result of concerted efforts among the residents, district and Kabwoya sub-county, which provided the land for the project infrastructure," he said.

Kamugisha applauded the Ministry of Water and Environment for ensuring that Kabwoya also benefits. He said if the project was left to the district, it would take several years to be implemented, given its budgetary allocation. "Everyday, I see school-going children looking for water at night. We have been trying as a district, but it had become a burden for us," he said.

Kamugisha observed that the district has a number of sub-counties which are developing rapidly and need more water.

"We have complained a lot, but now that they have brought us this project, it is our responsibility to ensure that it is a success," he said.

The branch manager of Water and Sanitation Development Facility Central



Officials from the water ministry and AfDB laying a pipe. Photo by Agnes Nantambi

WHAT RESIDENTS SAY

Henry Byange, teacher

People have been suffering a lot due to lack of water since the available water source is located 3km away.



Saloon Mbabazi,

Our children dropped out of school because of fetching water, but now that we have piped water, this will promote school retention.



Augustine

Byakagaba

We have lost our children to waterborne diseases. This problem has been worrying us, but we are now happy.



Rose Tumusiime

We consumed unsafe water daily. Recently, we had started to feel the impact through increased cases of diarrhoea. We thank the Government for this project.



taps and 10 stand post connections.

Others are a three-phase power extension, water office and flush public toilet.

The chairman of Kabwoya sub-county, Vincent Alpha, noted that the project will increase the district water coverage, which currently stands at 60%.

"Such projects help in improving coverage. Therefore, we have to commit our total support to ensure its a success. It will be absurd to see the project failing when it has just been commissioned," he said.

Alpha noted that since Hoima is located in the Albertine region, which is now an oil region, it needs more consideration in order to realise uniform development.

Andrew Mbiro, a water and sanitation specialist at AfDB, pledged more support for the water and sanitation sub-sector, saying it is one of the bank's priorities.

"This kind of support is aimed at promoting sustainable development which is in line with the country's vision 2040," he said.

(WSDF-C), a subsection of the water ministry in the central region, Felix Twinomucunguzi, said the population within the oil graben area keeps increasing, requiring the constant provision of water.

"Many people have been attracted to these places and rural areas have been transformed, which has

increased the cost of water," he said.

Twinomucunguzi said with the project, people's expenditures will reduce since many will have piped water.

The project consists of pumping stations, a transmission main from the two production wells, one concrete reservoir tank, a distribution main, 100 yard

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