

Water prices up tenfold

BUGIRI

Moses Bikala

A severe water shortage has hit Bugiri municipal council and the surrounding areas following the prolonged dry spell.

A jerrycan of water from vendors now costs sh1,000, up from sh100.

According to one of the water vendors, Mohammed Isangala, they have been forced to increase the price of water after realising that there is usually a long queue at the only well in Mukuba village, which serves the entire population of 34,000 people in the municipal council.

Isangala said people start lining up to fetch water as early as 4:00am and some, in most cases,

end up being frustrated.

"The weak ones return home empty-handed, while those who can withstand the fracas fetch water later in the day," he said

Washington Isiko, a resident of Nkusi zone, said the Government should consider constructing more boreholes in the area to reduce the problem of water shortage.

Many boreholes in the district have run dry.

The town clerk, Ayoub Kisubi, said plans are underway to construct protected spring wells in every village to reduce on congestion at the well.

Kisubi urged residents to use water sparingly as the matter is being handled.

The district water officer, Peter Ogwang said water shortage has been worsened.