

OPEN MANHOLES FEARE THREE
Residents of Anaa town are complaining over the many open manholes on the streets of the town. So far, three people have reportedly sustained broken legs after falling into the manholes at night. The manholes were left open by Dett Services Limited, who are constructing water and sewerage lines in the town. [Felix Warom Okello]



Idle. Some of the abandoned drying fish ponds at Aqua Culture Research Development Centre in Gulu Town. PHOTO BY JULIUS OCUNGI

Shs1.5b govt fisheries project lies idle after for eight years

Abandoned. The project site has overgrown grass, while the hatchery, standby generator, water heating system, among other facilities, largely remain unutilised.

BY JULIUS OCUNGI
editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

GULU. A government fisheries project in Laliya Parish, Laroo Division in Gulu District meant to benefit fish farmers in northern Uganda is lying idle.

In 2008, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, with funding from African Development Bank (ADB) sunk Shs1.5 billion for the construction of Aqua Culture Research Development Centre, but it has been nonfunctional more than eight years after it was established.

The site, formerly called Laliya Fish

Fry, has 24 fish ponds and a modern hatchery.

It was established to promote fisheries and research in aquaculture in the sub-region.

The Gulu District chairperson, Mr Martin Ojara Mapenduzi, told *Daily Monitor* in an interview that the centre is not functioning due to negligence by the Agriculture ministry.

He said the contractors meant to refurbish the centre abandoned the site prematurely.

The latest contractor to abandon the site is P&D Traders and Contractors LTD that was contracted in July 2015.

"The completion of the project has taken long for it to start benefiting the local fish farmers in the region. We have written several letters to the Minister for Agriculture, including the former minister Ruth Nankabirura

THE PROJECT

Aqua Culture Research Development Centre, formerly called Laliya Fish Fry, has 24 fish ponds and a modern hatchery. It was established to promote fisheries and research in aquaculture in the sub-region.

but we haven't got any response," Mr Mapenduzi said.

He said fish farmers in the sub-region are greatly being affected by the non-functionality of the aqua centre.

"This site should have been a learning centre for fish farmers to enable them improve on fish farming but it's not happening. Fish farming is no longer doing well in this region as anticipated," Mr Mapenduzi said.

He tasked the government to intervene and complete the project to improve fish farming in northern Uganda.

The Gulu Resident District Commissioner, Capt Santos Okot, said the project is a waste of government money since it is redundant.

"Government injected Shs1.5 billion in the project but it is just lying

briefly

Students fined

AMURU: Students of St Mary's College Lacor in Lamogi Sub-county in Amuru District have been ordered each to pay Shs132,000 as fine for the damage caused to school property following their strike early this month. The students went on strike and destroyed properties worth Shs90m. During the strike, students broke window glasses, desktop computers, among other property. The strike followed a student night roll call after some students had reportedly escaped for a night disco at the nearby trading centre. [James Owich]

Residents get safe water

GULU: Watoto Church, Gulu branch, has donated a well worth Shs3.5m to the community of Pece Lukung village, Pece Division in Gulu Municipality. Speaking during the commissioning of the well recently, Pastor Victor Obina urged residents to take good care of the well. The Lukung village chairperson, Mr Jimmy Ociti, said the safe water point is a relief to the residents who have been consuming unsafe waters over the years. "We applaud Watoto Church for the initiative and we promise to protect the