

West Nile gets solar systems

ZOMBO

By Benedict Okethwengu

After years of erratic power supply that has crippled operations in lower local governments across districts in West Nile, the Japanese government is turning to solar energy to improve electricity supply in the region.

Through Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), solar systems worth over sh111m have been installed in 11 sub-counties across the region to provide sufficient power. The move will also improve the working environment of beneficiary sub-county offices.

Dr Hanatani Atsushi, the chief advisor of the Capacity Development of Local Government for Strengthening Community Resilience in Acholi and West Nile sub-region project, handed the installed equipment to Zombo district leaders recently amidst excitement.

Similar equipment has been installed and handed to the leaders in Nebbi, Koboko, Yumbe and Adjumani districts.

Atsushi said local governments play a vital role in the planning process for better service delivery.

He, however, said due to the challenge of equipment and facilities, this has not



A solar panel installed by JICA at Nyapea sub-county

BETWEEN THE LINES

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been done effectively.

"We are aware that the sub-county must submit their plans electronically, but this has not been easy because of the challenge of accessing power. We, therefore, feel we should contribute to the processes that make them work well," Atsushi said.

Atsushi said he was optimistic the facilities would improve efficiency and service delivery in lower local

government across the region.

"Now that you have been empowered, we do not want to hear an excuse. You have to get to your work and deliver to the citizens of this country," he said.

The installed solar is capable of running four computers, photocopying machines, printers, and lighting, said Misaki Kimura, the project co-ordinator. John Bosco Akaka, the Zombo deputy chief administrative officer, thanked the Japanese government for the support.

He said they have filled a gap the district was grappling with.

"We are delighted by this offer and it will fill the gap we had. We are open to receiving more from other youth and other development partners," he said.