

Mayuge cries for safe water

MAYUGE

By Betty Angatai

Over 50,000 residents in Mayuge district hardly get enough water to prepare a meal.

The affected areas are Bukabooli, Bakatube, Malongo, Jaguzi and Kityerera sub-counties.

According to Mayuge LC5 chairperson, Omar Bongo, the areas have always had a water shortage. He said most residents collect water from Lake Victoria and valley tanks, which is unsafe for drinking. He added that in most cases, the tanks dry up during dry season.

He said several attempts have been made by the district for residents to access safe water, but the catastrophe has proved to be natural.

"We have tried to construct boreholes in Bukabooli, but unfortunately, there is no water," Bongo said. He added that there is a large rock underneath covering most of the area.

Bunya East MP Waira Kiwalabye Majegere said there is an urgent need for safe water.

Ausi Maganda, a resident of Kitumbezi, said they are sometimes forced to walk 10km to draw water from Lake Victoria. He said other affected areas are Nabyama, Busitema, Gayaza, Namakoko, Kinawambuzi, Mbale road, Buyugu, Luwanda, Minyanzi, Kakoge and Musubi.

Ruth Achieng, a resident of Minyanzi village, said they sometimes spend long hours in a queue in search of water, which has caused a number of problems.

Achieng said: "Some women have been raped and girls defiled when returning from distant water sources during late hours."

She added that water shortage has also led to a number of girls dropping out of school due early pregnancies and shame after being defiled.