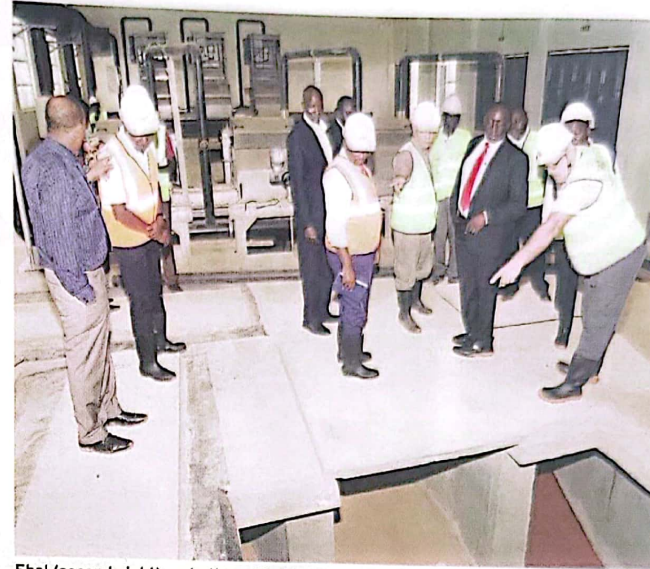




The scanning building and intake from Nakivubo Channel. Photos by Richard Sanya



Ebal (second-right) and other officials listen to the project manager of Lake Victoria protection project phase 2, Klaus Buchholz, during the tour of the Nakivubo waste water treatment plant at Bugolobi in Kampala

By Taddeo Bwambale
and Juliet Waiswa

When a new sh420b sewage treatment plant opens in Kampala in January next year, it will not only filter much of the city's waste, but also produce electricity.

The construction of the facility in Bugolobi, a Kampala suburb, is almost complete. The plant will be the largest in East and Central Africa, treating 45 million litres of waste water per day.

The plant is expected to serve over 380,000 people and double the capacity of all existing treatment plants across Kampala. The waste water will be treated and discharged into Lake Victoria.

The new sewage treatment plant will generate over 630kw of power from biogas, enough to power half a dozen small and medium industries.

The facility will also be looking to install solar panels on major buildings to generate power for lighting and alarm systems, among several other uses.

Sewage plant to produce electricity opens January

The new facility complements the four existing sewage treatment plants built at Bugolobi, Kinawataka, Lubigi and Nalukolongo, all in Kampala.

The project includes 31km of sewer lines, a state-of-the-art treatment plant in Bugolobi, a sewage pre-treatment plant in Kinawataka and pumping station in Kibiria.

The project is being funded by the African Development Bank, funding agencies from Germany and France and the Government of Uganda.

A team of officials from the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) toured the project site on Friday, to assess progress of works.

COMPLETION

According to the contractor, about 85% of the project work has been done with most of the civil and electromechanical works due to be completed by the end of the year.

The committee was led by the board chairman, Eng Dr Christopher Ebal, the vice-chairperson, Ruth Kanyaruiju and Eng. Aaron Kabirizi (a member).

They were accompanied to the site by the NWSC deputy managing director in charge of technical services, Eng.

Johnson Amayo, Eng Alex Gisagara and Eng. Kasirikale who is the project manager.

Ebal thanked the contractor and consultant for work done so far, but warned against delays.

"This is a state-of-the-art project, but do not compromise on timelines or quality," he told the team.

According to the contractor, about 85% of the project work has been done, with most of the civil and electromechanical works due to be completed by end of the year.

At the site, workers are putting final touches to concrete bases, while others erecting steel structures ahead of major installations to ensure

the project is completed on time.

The first part of the project straddles several city suburbs, from the area behind Kisekka Market to Kololo, city centre, Naguru, Ntinda, Kinawataka and Banda.

The second part of the project, a 12.5m pre-treatment plant, is also nearing completion, but more funding is needed to compensate claimants along the route.

Sam Apedel, the corporation's public relations manager, explained that the new plant would employ odourless technology through which bio-filters remove smell associated with waste treatment.

The project employs at least

400 Ugandans working as masons, carpenters, welders, joiners or porters at all its major sites.

Lake Victoria

According to the design, the new sewage treatment facility will have a link to the often polluted Nakivubo Channel and treat the water, before it is discharged into Lake Victoria.

Lake Victoria is the world's second-largest fresh water lake by surface area, but increasing human activity and disposal of solid waste matter into it has compromised its serenity.

With major wetlands that previously filtered waste matter getting into the lake degraded, all kinds of waste and refuse from communities and factories end up polluting the lake, raising the costs of water treatment.

The plant is expected to save the Government some of the escalating costs of water treatment. Five years ago, National Water spent sh475m monthly on water treatment, but the costs have since risen to sh800m.