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Terrain causing poor water supply

KABALE

By Job Namanya

A section of residents in Kabale municipality has decried the inconsistency in the water supply in the area.

Some residents of Butobere ward, Kirigime, Mwanjari and Ruhita said they spent the festive season without water.

According to Simon Byamukama, a businessman in Mwanjari, they had it rough during the festive season because of the unreliable supply of water.

"We had to resort to the neighbouring streams, whose water is not safe for our lives since it is contaminated," said Byamukama.

Jasper Kiconco, another resident of Butobere, said due to the unreliability of the national water sources, residents have resorted to the using springs.

Julius Mbabazi, another resident, said for over a week now, they have not received any water from the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC).

Challenges

According to Lenny Nelson Otai, the Kabale area NWSC manager, the inconsistent supply of water is attributed to the ongoing road construction in the municipality.

"At times our pipes broke down during the construction," said Otai.

He also attributed the problem to the inconsistent supply of power in the municipality, especially during the rainy season.

"Most of the highland areas do not access our water boosters and thus depend on electricity to have water pumped to them," said Otai.

The degradation of the water catchment area also leads to the reduction of water levels from the existing water sources.

Coverage

Otai said NWSC currently supplies water to about 60,000 people in Kabale, with water coverage of about 80% and sewerage coverage of 16%. The area has an intake at Bunyonyi, treatment works at Kiyooro, a mini-treatment plant at Kachwekano and seven booster stations at Kachwekano, Kagarama, Bubaare, Rugarama, Makanga and Rushoroza to deliver water to the high level areas. The area also has a sewerage lifting station and sewerage treatment bonds at Kigongi.

Plans

According to Otai, NWSC plans to boost water supply through the SCAP 100 project that shall see every village access a public water source at the beginning of the next financial year.

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