

# Rugunda launches first water resource institute

ENTEBBE

By Vision Reporters

The Prime Minister, Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, has directed the water ministry to outline the contribution of water resources to national development.

Rugunda made the remarks during the commissioning of the Water Resource Institute (WRI) at the directorate of water resources in Entebbe on Wednesday.

He said the discussions about water and environment must involve the public as stakeholders.

Rugunda said the newly created institute would influence the practice and policy for sustainable social and economic development of the country. He said: "The institute will bridge the gap between theory and practice by generating practical solutions to address challenges faced in the water sector."

The prime minister commended the ministry for establishing the institute. He added that the innovation would provide an opportunity to discuss issues affecting the sector.

State minister for water Ronald Kibuule said the ministry wanted sh50b to run the institute for about 10 years.

"We expect funding to come from the Government, tuition from learners in the institute," Kibuule said.

He called on the donor community to fund the institute because its operational benefits would cut across all sectors, including non-water sector actors.

Kibuule said the institute was a major



Rugunda opening the resource institute in Entebbe. Photo by Julius Luwemba

achievement in the water sector, given that it was the first of its kind.

He said the 'water week', which started with a cleaning exercise on Monday, was in collaboration with three other important days: World Water Day, World Meteorological Day and World Forest Day.

Kibuule said the institute, which was constructed with support from The Water Aid Organisation, would be the custodian of information required for the sector. It will be a centre where journalists, researchers and the general public would access information.

The launch of the resource institute was followed by a keynote address by Prof. Edward Kirumira from Makerere

University under the theme, *Uganda's move to middle-income status: Potential role of the water resources institute.*

This followed discussions moderated by the Vision Group CEO, Robert Kabushenga, who urged officials from the different sectors and the general public to invest in understanding how the media operates.

"For example, when there is a flood in Bwaise, it gives me an opportunity as a media person to portray the effects of climate change, not specifically the drama perceived in the situation," Kabushenga said.

Compiled by Julius Luwemba, Agnes Nantambi and Juliet Waiswa

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