

# Low milk output leaves govt plants idle

**NGORA**

By Paul Watala

Low milk production has rendered three multi-billion milk coolers idle for the last five years, Ngora district leaders have revealed.

Ngora district engineer and the project support officer, Richard Okiror, made the revelation on Friday during a public accountability forum at Mukura sub-county headquarters.

The meeting, which was organised by the Council for African Policy, was aimed at tasking district leaders with accounting for government programmes.

The coolers are located in Kobuin sub-county, Agule sub-county in Pallisa district and Bukedea town.

The projects were constructed under Community Agriculture Infrastructural Programme (CAIP 2) by the agriculture ministry in collaboration with the local governments.

According to Okiror, the milk coolers have never been operational, adding that some of them have been turned into havens for thieves.

He said the plant in Kobuin was constructed at a cost of over sh150m and expressed concern that the building was growing old yet some of the machines were being vandalised.

"The milk needed for this machine to run is 3,000 litres daily, but we cannot even raise 150 litres of milk," Okiror said.

He also noted that cattle rustlers who raided animals in the Teso sub-region in early 1980s and small-scale milk dealers who buy milk and take to Mbale town, have also contributed to the low quantities of milk.

Nicholas Omoding, resident of Mukura, appealed to the Government to continue with its restocking programme so that locals can have enough animals that will produce enough milk to feed the plants.



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