

Sh16b project to protect L. Victoria launched

MPIGI

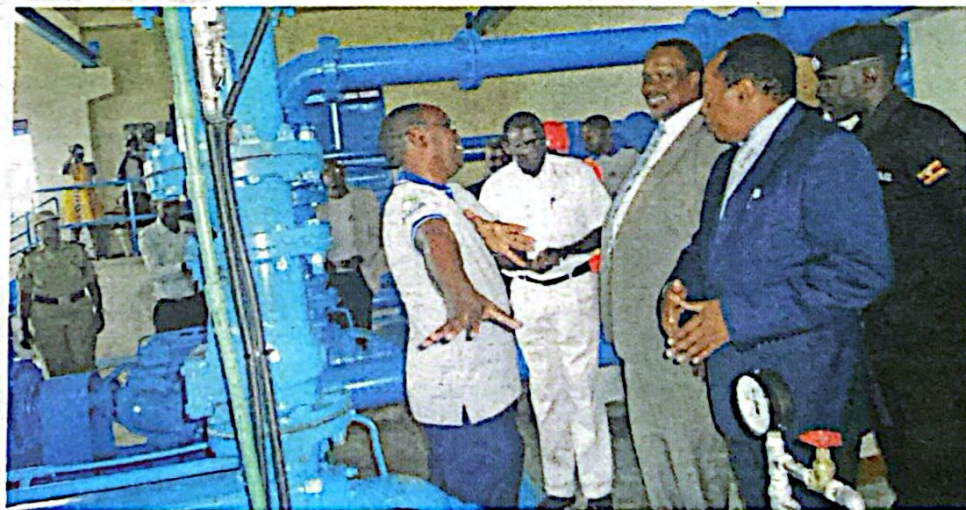
By Agnes Nantambi

A sh16b project, aimed at reducing pollution on Lake Victoria has been launched. The Buwama-Kayabwe water supply and sanitation project, implemented under the Regional Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Project (LVWATSAN) will increase water supply, promote hygiene and sanitation, protect catchments, manage faecal sludge and solid waste systems.

Speaking during the launch at Buwama sub-county offices in Mpigi district recently, the officer in charge of the African Development Bank (ADB) country office in Uganda, Sebastian Okeke, pledged continued support towards projects aimed at saving Lake Victoria.

The project, which involved faecal sludge and solid waste disposal facilities, public and institutional toilets, tractors, garbage skips, faecal sludge exhauster truck and two sludge vacuums, was designed to benefit 28,332 people up to 2030.

Okeke said the bank has prioritised water to be among the key sectors for intervention in the new country strategy paper 2017/2020 and has set aside enough resources for the



The project co-ordinator, Eng. Nuwamanya, explaining to the water minister, Sam Cheptoris, how the water is pumped. Photos by Agnes Nantambi

interventions.

"It is important that the sector maintains a high level of performance on the current portfolio as a prerequisite for accessing new funding under the ADB 14 lending cycle," he said.

He said the people of Buwama-Kayabwe and the neighbouring areas will not only benefit from improved access to water, but also direct economic and social benefits including an improved enrolment and retention of girls in school.

"I urge the district leadership to sensitise and mobilise the

BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ Nuwamanya advised the locals to own the project and work towards its sustainability.

community to support and embrace the programme and ensure a high willingness to pay for the service rendered," he added.

Okeke said sustainability of such systems is of importance to the bank since they address the 10-year strategy objective of improved quality of life through

job creation and broadening of economic opportunities for women and youth.

Dr Ali-Saidi Matano, the executive secretary of the East African Community Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), said ADB provided a grant of \$107.93m for the entire East African Community member states through the LVBC, with partner states contributing \$13.25m as counterpart funding.

The total project cost for Uganda was \$19.09 with ADB contributing \$16.46m (86.2%) and Bank of Uganda contributing \$2.63m (13.8%).

"The LVBC is exploring diverse options towards the replication of the project in other deserving secondary towns in the basin," he said.

The vice-chairperson of Buwama sub-county, Lawrence Mwanja, noted that Buwama and Kayabwe are densely populated towns, where people relied on boreholes as a source of water, but they are now dysfunctional. He said their hope is now in the sustainability of the project.

Eng. Herbert Nuwamanya, the project co-ordinator, applauded the bank for the funds extended to Uganda. He advised the locals to own the project and work towards its sustainability.

He said Buwama-Kayabwe was among the five benefiting towns from phase two of LVWATSAN project in Uganda along with Mayuge, Bukakata, and Ntungamo. He said efforts are under way to lobby the bank to increase support for similar projects, since water is a key driver for wealth creation if well utilised.

The water minister, Sam Cheptoris, while officiating at the function said the completion of the project was a milestone towards realising the dream of delivering safe water and good sanitation to Ugandans.

"I salute all of you who have

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Peter Kiyonga, resident of Sanga:

We used to fetch water from long distances, but our time is now saved for other things.



Eva Nakajja:

We need transparency in National Water so that we can all get connected.



Resty Nanyunja:

I used to spend much of my money on water, but I can now save some for other necessities.



contributed to the success of the project. My ministry is grateful to the LVBC for co-ordinating the EAC project and greatly appreciates ADB for the financial support," he said.