

Western Extra

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SCHOOL NEEDS SHS2B FOR FACELIFT

The headmaster of Kigezi High School, Mr Stephen Mugume, has said the school needs Shs2 billion to renovate the dilapidated structures. Mr Mugume was on Sunday speaking at the commissioning of a dormitory that was recently renovated by the old students of the school at a cost of Shs15 million. In the photo, former Kabale District Woman MP Rona Ritah Ninsiima (second right) together with school and other officials, commissions the dormitory. [Robert Muhereza]



Idle. The faecal sludge that was built under the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation project has not been used since November last year. PHOTO BY PEREZ RUMANZI

Ntungamo leaders query Shs12b sanitation project

Falling. The ADB-funded sanitation project was implemented by Ministry of Water and Environment in 2014.

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NTUNGAMO. Local leaders have raised concern over the Shs12.7 billion sanitation project in Ntungamo Municipality saying it has failed to take off.

The project involved constructing improved pit latrines at three schools (Kikoni SDA, Mato and Rukindo primary schools) and toilets at Ntungamo Municipal Council offices, Ntungamo Central Market, Main Matooke Market, Bus Park and Taxi Park, according to the district leaders.

Other works included construction of six boreholes, a faecal sludge and

installing garbage skips in Ntungamo Town.

The council also received three tractors, a cesspool emptier and tipper lorry.

The project was implemented by Ministry of Water and Environment in 2014 under the East Africa Community Commission conservation arm with funding from Africa Development Bank (ADB). It was completed and handed over in 2016.

The leaders have particularly raised concern about the vehicles, toilets and the water system that they say are not operational.

Three of the eight flush system toilets (two in the Bus Park and one in the Taxi Park) no longer operate. All the vehicles including tractors no longer move while the cesspool emptier is grounded.

The faecal sludge has apparently

KEY ISSUE

The Ntungamo mayor, Mr Jacob Kafureka, says some aspects of the project, including the water scheme and faecal sludge were handed over to the municipality before completion.

not been in use since November last year. The troughs have been covered by weed.

"The challenge we had with the project was planning. They brought things from the central government before sensitising the beneficiaries," says Mr Elias Kacafu, the chairperson finance committee Ntungamo Municipal Council.

He adds: "All the times we tried to inquire, they would tell us that if we do not want the project and they can take it elsewhere; that is why most of the things are failing."

The pump boreholes facility was handed over to the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) for management.

NWSC manager Ntungamo cluster Innocent Sande, however, says they

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briefly

RDC warns encroachers

KAMWENGE: The Kamwenge Resident District Commissioner, Mr Elijah Biryabarema, has asked wetland encroachers in the area to vacate. He said those who resist will be forcefully evicted and arrested. Mr Biryabarema said he has been telling encroachers to vacate wetlands but they have decline claiming the land belongs to them. He said some encroachers have since planted eucalyptus trees in the wetlands. [Fednand Tuhame]

2 school heads arrested

KIBAALE: Two head teachers of private schools in Kibaale District have been arrested for allegedly stealing books. The suspects were arrested on the orders of Kibaale Resident District Commissioner, Mr Samuel Kiseemba Araali on Tuesday. The duo was fou with textbooks meant to be used in government-aided schools. Also five private schools in Nyamarwa and Ma sub-counties were closed for operation without licences. The district inspector of schools, Mr Lawrence Kadindi, the affected schools were not following the Education ministry guidelines. [Alex Tumuhimbise]

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Voices

"We protested the commissioning but the contractor and the ministry promised us that the things that had not been completed would be fixed, they never returned to fix them. We talked to them but they were aloof and instead they accused us of wanting money from the project. I think there was connivance between the contractors and the ministry, which we did not anticipate."

JACOB KAFUREKA,
NTUNGAMO TOWN
MAYOR

"We completed everything that was in the contract and our works were approved and our employer, African Development Bank certified us. We did our job and I think our employer is not complaining."

DIDAS NDAMIRA,
PROJECT CONTRACTOR

"Everything we handed over was in good state. What may have occurred is breakdown and I think that is a matter of repair."

EMMEX TURYATUNGA,
MINISTRY OF WATER
AND ENVIRONMENT
PROJECT ENGINEER

took over a system with serious challenges of semi operational pumps, which suffered constant breakdowns and were dependent on intermittent power supply.

"We have had challenges with water quality, which we are still treating. The pumps have not been working but we are now repairing our major pump, which was also handed over under the project. We have procured a new generator to help pump water when there is no power," says Ms Sande.

She says out of the six boreholes they received, only three were fully functional and one broke down shortly after and they are trying to repair it.

Not used

The chairperson Ntungamo Taxi Drivers and Owners Cooperative Union, Mr Sulait Amany, says the VIP toilets at the taxi park have never been used since commissioning.

"There is no one who has ever used the toilets. They are all full of water. We are using a toilet constructed in 1990, which was recommended for demolition in 2004, but it's better than the new one, which can't flush, there was no value for money," says Mr Amany.

The Ntungamo Town clerk, Mr Christopher Ahimbisibwe, says: "Everything done within the project requires fixing all the time, the vehicles, the toilets... we are spending much money on repairing. But as the municipality we appreciate the project only that we say it would have been done better," says Mr Ahimbisibwe.

Appropriate Revival for Strategic Empowerment (ARISE), a local NGO that was, together with Network for Water and Sanitation, contracted to educate communities on sanitation and hygiene promotion before and after the handover of the project shares the same view.

"Our role was to teach the communities on how to use the project and how it can benefit the municipality and the residents. But it seems much of what was handed over after the completion of the project were not like that of Kyamate," says Mr Dan Mugizi, the chief executive officer of ARISE.

briefly

Parents advised on children

IBANDA: Rev Roland Aineyoona, the chaplain of Kibura Girls Secondary School has advised parents to always take care of their children, including those at institutions of higher learning in the country. Delivering his maiden sermon to Christians of St Paul Cathedral in Ankole Diocese, Ibanda District recently, Rev Aineyoona said many parents are caring much about their young children while abandoning those studying in schools and colleges.

Head teachers

KUMIRO: Secondary school head teachers in Kumi District are facing a shortage of students. The district has a population of more than 1 million. The head teachers raised the concern during a meeting at Uganda.