

Namisindwa residents get piped water

Beneficiaries. The scheme will serve three districts of Namisindwa, Manafwa and Tororo.

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KAMPALA. Residents of Namisindwa and neighbouring districts, who have been trekking long distances to access safe and clean water, can now breathe a sigh of relief following the commissioning of the Shs36 billion gravity water scheme.

The construction of Lirima Gravity Water Scheme started in March, 2010. The launch comes in handy since residents in some areas within Bugisu Sub-region draw water from contaminated water sources and swamps.

The scheme has its source at Soono Village in Bukokha Sub-county on River Lwakaka with more than 900 connections, 387 in Tororo and 533 in Manafwa. The first phase will benefit 16 sub-counties.

"We have been waiting for this day when things will change for good. Moving down the hill in search of water has been a tedious routine to us. We go through a lot of pain but we thank God, we will be able to access water at our doorsteps," Ms Judith Nandudu, a resident of Bumwoni, one of the areas hit by water scarcity, said.



CAPACITY

The scheme has a capacity of 1,296 cubic metres of treated water per day with the population design of more than 500 households.

Commissioned.

President Museveni (in hat) with ministers and district leaders, inspect Lirima Gravity Scheme Treatment Plant in Namisindwa District before commissioning last week.

PHOTO BY LEONARD MUKOOLI

Mr James Mukooli, another resident said it has always been their desire to access clean and safe water for domestic and commercial use.

Funding

The scheme, with the first phase complete, is funded by central government in partnership with the African Development Bank. It has a capacity of 1,296 cubic metres of treated water per day with the population design of more than 500 households.

While commissioning the project last Saturday, President Museveni

said district leaders should mobilise the residents to ensure that they use the water for irrigation to increase crop production in their households, especially during the dry season.

"You cannot have this water for only drinking. But it can be used for irrigation in your gardens because the engineering is so good that you don't need a lot of money to channel water to boost your agriculture production," Mr Museveni said.

He urged the farmers to create channels and small trenches to divert the water to their gardens to have

constant food throughout the year.

Mr Museveni said the construction of one of the largest schemes with a capacity of serving three districts of Manafwa, Namisindwa and Tororo, was one of his pledges he made years back.

Mr Sam Cheptoris, the minister of Water and Environment, said residents should desist from vandalising water pipes on the scheme.

Mr John Musila, the LC5 chairperson of Manafwa District, said the scheme is a relief to the community members.