

Lack of water affecting Luuka schools

LUUKA

By Jackie Nambogga

Pupils from 59 government-aided primary schools in Luuka district do not wash their hands after visiting the latrines.

According to the district engineer, Yahaya Makinabu, of the 88 government-aided primary schools, only 29 have water sources on their premises.

Makinabu said the 29 schools have boreholes, while the rest do not, which poses a health risk to the pupils.

To address the challenge, the area woman legislator, Esther Mbayo, has embarked on a campaign geared at extending safe and clean water in all water-stressed primary schools and selected communities.

Mbayo, who is also the Minister for the Presidency, said the majority of the schools in the area do not have water sources on their premises. She said as a result, pupils trek long distances to collect water for school use, which affects

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their study schedule and concentration in classes.

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Through her organisation, Safe Future Limited, the minister has so far extended

water to two schools of Lambaala and Ikonya in Irongo and Nawampiti sub-counties by sinking two boreholes. The boreholes were constructed by well-wishers from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through Bena Association for Culture and Development in Uganda.

The third borehole was sank at Bukooma village in Bukooma sub-county. The facilities were handed over by Uganda’s ambassador to the Middle East, Dr Rashid

Yahya Ssemuddu, together with the funders from Saudi Arabia, led by Sameer Al-Najjar recently.

George Muduuli, headteacher of Bukooma Primary School, said pupils had been walking 5km to fetch water.

Rebecca Nankwanga, one of the residents, said for the last 20 years, she has been spending three hours trekking up for water and sometimes would go to the swamp in order to save time for her domestic activities.

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