



Greater Bushenyi NWSC area manager Kateeba interacting with MPs Mwijukye (center) and Koyekyenga after the meeting on Monday. Photo by Chris Mugasha

Work together to save nature, experts advise

BUSHENYI

By Chris Mugsha

Local leaders should intensify the campaign against environmental degradation to save water sources from drying up, experts have warned.

The Mitooma district chairman, Benon Karyaija, warned politicians and other leaders, saying by 2050 there will be no more politics of building health centres, schools and roads but politics of water and food.

"There is a problem. We need to start early and make our economy green," Karyaija warned. "We must conserve the environment if we want water and food," he said.

Karyaija was on Monday speaking during the Greater Bushenyi region National Water and Sewerage corporation (NWSC) water review meeting with leaders and other stakeholders from the districts of Bushenyi, Buhweju, Mitooma, Rubirizi and Sheema at Western Meridian Hotel in Bushenyi town.

The Buhweju MP, Francis Mwijukye and the district woman MP, Olive Koyekyenga,

"The need for clean water in our constituencies has no political party, religion and colour." Mwijukye.

who attended the meeting said MPs across the country are facing pressure from the electorates, with all villages wanting to have access to safe and clean water.

"There is no MP who does not need water in his constituency and water has no political party, religion, colour," said Mwijukye.

The St. Kagwa Primary School head teacher, Celestine Twinomugisha, said last year, educational institutions were forced to close in second term prematurely due to a severe shortage of water in the entire region that resulted from a long drought.

He said they reached the extent of begging Police to help schools by using fire-fighting trucks to fetch water from long distances.

"You called us to help you with water but we could not do so since all the water sources had dried up," said

the Bushenyi district Police commander, Damiano Katwesiime.

The NWSC Greater Bushenyi area manager, Francis Kateeba said the issue of protecting swamps should not be left to the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), and the Government alone.

"Water is going to dry and it has become a security issue. The earlier we address it, the better for the country's security," Kateeba warned.

He urged Parliament to increase funding for water, saying the demand is high due to the increased population.

The Rubirizi district chairman Silvester Agubashongoreire, asked NWSC to protect the water sources and take charge of the gravity flow schemes in the districts.

Koyekyenga urged NWSC to revise its tariffs so that people can afford to pay for water.