

Kaberamaido gets sh276m valley dam

KABERAMAIDO

By Michael Onyinge

A valley dam worth sh276m is being dug in Oyimai village, Kamuda parish, Kalaki sub-county in Kaberamaido district.

The regional manager of water for production in charge of eastern Uganda in the Ministry of Water and Environment, Patrick Okotel, said government officials were monitoring the progress of the valley dam.

Okotel said the valley dam can be used by 2,300 animals for three months even without rain.

He said besides providing water for animals, the valley dam will be used for watering crops that can mature within a period of three months such as vegetables.

Okotel said they would install a solar-powered pump system to serve people who are far away from the dam.

He said President Yoweri Museveni has directed the water ministry to have about 500 valley dams dug up in different districts to ease irrigation by 2020.

Some of the leaders that were present during the monitoring of the progress included the resident district commissioner, Jimmy Ssegawa Ebil, the chief administrative officer, Grandfield Oryono Omonda, the Woman Member of Parliament, Maria Gorretti Ajilo, the LC3 chairperson of Kalaki, Richard Ojupa and the district vice-chairperson, Samuel Okello.

The people were happy with the project. One of the residents who offered land for the valley dam, Richard Engoru, said he was no longer afraid of the dry spell.

"Whether there is rain or not, I will be irrigating my crops since I am close to the dam," Engoru said.

Simon Esaru, another resident, said Kalaki sub-county views relief with the construction of the dam.

He said they were lucky to have a dam to provide water for their animals during the dry season.

Drought also affects cattle rearing since it makes it hard to have water and pasture.

Esaru said during the dry season, it had been difficult to water animals since they had to walk for about 13km to find water.

He said some of their animals have been getting stuck in wet and muddy places and they sometimes end up getting lost.

Omonda said he was going to engage the water department office to ensure that the valley dam project in the district is successful.

He said the district still had more dams that needed to be de-silted such as those in the sub-counties of Ocheru, Kaberamaido, Alwa and Otuboi.

Ebil said the government would continue digging up more valley dams in more districts.

Okello said they would ensure that nothing hinders the government programmes that are meant to improve the lives of people.