

Excitement as charity flows tap water into Adjumani

ADJUMANI

By Arnest Tumwesige

Refugees of Maaji III settlement camp and the host communities of Okusijoni sub-county in Adjumani district finally have access to safe water. World Vision Uganda, a charity organisation, commissioned the water project worth sh2.5b.

The project, whose work started in January this year, is a motorised-solar water scheme covering a radius of 5km and operates 32 taps, with a 30,000-litre capacity reservoir tank.

Equally, three new boreholes were dug, four rehabilitated and 60 inclusive latrines for persons with special needs constructed.

Joska Adong, 20, who has been in Maaji III since April last year, when she arrived from Aruu Junction in South Sudan, said she is relieved to have access to water.

With only one borehole within the area, Adong said it would take about five hours to get water.

The water project that was supported by the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the United States, is expected to benefit 18,000 refugees and 4,500 members of the host community.

Gilbert Kamanga, the national director of World Vision Uganda, said with refugees now hitting one million, the need for water in the host communities is paramount.

Kamanga added that while it is good to have boreholes, they are not inclusive in



Woynicki with other officials and residents, during the commissioning of the water project. Photo by Arnest Tumwesige

nature, to cater for persons with disabilities and children because they cannot pump them.

He said the Danish Refugee Council will do the maintenance of the facility once there is need to replace an expensive part.

Jean Woynicki, the regional refugee co-

ordinator in the US Department of State, re-echoed the commitment from the US government to increase funding for refugee-related activities.

Woynicki commended the generosity of Ugandans in hosting refugees and advised the refugees to use their time productively.