

Minakulu residents vandalise water project

OYAM

By Agnes Nantambi

Residents of Minakulu town council in Oyam district have vandalised a water project, putting themselves at the risk of not accessing clean and safe water.

The government-funded project was constructed to serve a population of 800 people for 20 years, but has been vandalised because of an unresolved land conflict.

"This project was handed over in 2010. It is hardly eight years yet it is almost down," said Frank Kweronda, the assistant commissioner of regulations and utilities in the water ministry.

"I have seen that the bulk meters are not working. This is causing poor water balancing," he said.

Kweronda said there was need to acquire land before the implementation of the projects to avoid the repercussions.

"We always get land issues during operation and maintenance stage. People always claim the land on which



Kweronda (in blue T-shirt) and his team inspecting the metering system of Minakulu water project. Photo by Agnes Nantambi

the projects sit. They resort to vandalism like what we are seeing at Minakulu. The land ownership issues must be addressed before we start the implementation," he said.

Kweronda asked the Northern Umbrella of Water and Sanitation to support the

operator on the ground on issues of metering and fence off the water source, which he said had been taken over by a non-governmental organisation.

"The organisation can work closely with the owner to do tentative fencing as they sort out the land question," he said.

Trust fund

Kweronda also said the Government was looking at having a conditional grant to act as a revolving trust fund to help regional umbrellas carry out rehabilitation of project components such as replacing meters.