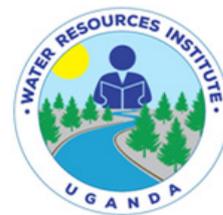


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UGANDA
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WEEK



THE WATER FRONT

Newsletter

UWEWK 2020 closes

The 3rd UWEWK 2020 has come to an end. The weeklong event began on Sunday, September 13th, 2020 with the President of Uganda opening ceremony. UWEWK 2020 was organized by Ministry of Water and Environment and its partners under the theme *Water and environment resources for inclusive growth, employment and wealth creation*.

The closing ceremony was a two-hour event broadcasted on Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBCTV), NBS TV and via Zoom. It included a panel discussion with remarks by key high profile guests, including Mr. Ronald Kaggwa, Manager, Trade, Tourism and Planning at the National Planning Authority and Mr. Patrick Kahangire, the Presidential Advisor on water issues and Former Director, Directorate of Water Development at Ministry of Water and Environment. Other panelists included, Mr. Andrew Masaba, Principal Economist at Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFPED), Eng. Amayo Johnson, Deputy Managing Director, National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), Ms. Jane Mselle Sembuche, Country Director at WaterAid Uganda and Dr. Anthony Mugeere a Research fellow at ACODE representing Dr. Bainomugisha the Executive Director.

Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, the Prime Minister of Uganda was the Guest of Honor during the closing ceremony. The session moderators were Mr. Maurice Mugisha, the Deputy Managing Director UBC TV and Ms. Mildred Tuhaise from NBS TV.

The closing ceremony was limited to few key participants due to the current guidelines on Covid-19 aimed at curbing the spread of the disease in Uganda.



National Organising Committee and participants cutting a cake during the closing of the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2020

Water, environment and natural resources are absolute necessities for people, planet and prosperity

Uganda is largely dependent on water, environmental and natural resources. "Most sectors of the economy such as agriculture, energy and industry rely on the water, environmental and natural resource goods and services to enhance their productivity, provide the necessary raw materials, and reduce the cost of public expenditure for providing the services in those sectors," said Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, the Prime



Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda

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Minister of Uganda.

His speech was read during the closing ceremony of the UWEWK 2020 by Mr. Alfred Okot Okidi, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water and Environment.

"Water, environment and natural resources are absolute necessities for people, planet and prosperity, are at the very core of sustainable development. Safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene are pillars of human health and well-being," said the Prime Minister.

The Sustainable Development Goal on Water and Sanitation (SDG6) sets out to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

"With water at the very core of sustainable development, SDG 6 does not only have strong linkages to all of the goals, it also underpins them. Therefore, meeting SDG 6 would go a long way towards achieving much of the 2030 Agenda," said Hon. Rugunda.

Similarly, environment underlies each of the SDG's- from eliminating hunger to reducing inequalities to building sustainable communities around the world.

Hon. Rugunda mentioned that Uganda development is guided by the National Development Plan which aims at increasing the average Ugandan household's incomes and improve the quality of life of citizens through industrialization.

He mentioned that although the water,

environment and natural resources are at the core of sustainable development, they are under increasing pressure from degradation due to factors such as increased demand for agricultural land, settlement and infrastructure development. "The continued loss and degradation of wetlands, forests and river banks affects livelihoods and our ability to mitigate Climate Change impacts. This is therefore a call for more efforts in ensuring that these resources are sustainably managed for the present and future generations," Hon. Rugunda said.

Hon. Rugunda called for the need to prioritize securing of the boundaries of wetlands, river banks and forests. There is also a need to protect and restore water catchments especially those that have been degraded, removing pressure from wetlands, river banks and forests by creating alternative livelihood options that are economically viable," he said.

He said that provision of water for domestic and industrial use remain a challenge. "A lot of effort therefore needs to be put into provision of water and sanitation services to reduce the disease burden, enable women and youth to be spared time for collecting water and promote production hence employment and wealth creation." He said.

Hon. Rugunda noted that since Uganda's water resources are shared with other countries, the protection and conservation of water catchments is critical and should be promoted. He said that the 3rd UWEWK will no doubt make significant contributions to enabling Uganda attain the NDP III targets.

Outcomes from 3rd UWEWK will revolutionize the Water and Environment sector

Speaking during the closing ceremony, the State Minister of Water, Hon. Ronald Kibuule said that the 3rd UWEWK demonstrated that the Water and Environment sector is key to Uganda's economy. Hon. Kibuule's remarks were read by Dr. Florence Grace Adongo, the Director of Directorate of Water Resources Management (DWRM) during the closing ceremony.

"Uganda's economy depends heavily on its stock of water, environment and natural resources. As a matter of fact, all the other sectors of the economy rely on the water, environment and natural resources



Hon. Ronald Kibuule

Continued from page 2

to enhance on their productivity," he said.

He noted that because of this, the water, environment and natural resources are key to supporting Uganda to achieve its targets under the 3rd National Development Plan.

In spite of this, Uganda continues to face increasing challenges to sustainable water, environmental and natural resources management.

He said that this calls for greater efforts to ensure that these resources are sustainably managed for the present and future generations.

"The theme of the UWEWK is meant to call for action on the need to sustainably develop water, environment and natural resources for the

benefit of all Ugandans," said Hon. Kibuule.

He thanked the National Organizing Committee and other sector partners who have supported the UWEWK 2020.

"Being the first time that UWEWK went virtual, there were some technical glitches and we apologize for that. It will certainly be better next year," he said.

Hon. Kibuule pledged the sector's commitment towards implementing the recommendations from the different plenary sessions with support of sector partners.

"I have no doubt that the outcomes of the 3rd UWEWK will revolutionize the Water and Environment sector and enable it contribute to inclusive growth, wealth creation and employment," he said.

Highlights from the panel discussion

Water and environment sector needs to be positioned to take advantage of opportunities in development plans

Mr. Ronald Kaggwa, representing the Executive Director of National Planning Authority (NPA), said all stakeholders need to realize that the water and environment is well positioned within Uganda's constitutional framework, but only has a 3% share in the national budget.

"There are many questions on why the Government of Uganda does not allocate more resources to the water and environment sector," Mr. Kaggwa said. "The sector also has the biggest number of ongoing projects in the country, but they remain relatively small."

Mr. Kaggwa was speaking as one of the panelists at the closing of UWEWK 2020 on Friday.

"To attract more funds, the water and environment sector needs to make a strong case that the sector is critical to national development and security. It is critical to all levels of development," Mr. Kaggwa added.

He expressed that the UWEWK 2020 had given the water and environment sector leverage.

"The challenge is to sustain this momentum, how far we go in actualizing the key messages and inputs from the different stakeholders will be key," Mr. Kaggwa advised.



Mr. Ronald Kaggwa

He added that all stakeholders need to identify and harness the opportunities that the programmes within the National Development Plan III offer the water and environment sector.

Speaking on the same panel, via Zoom, Mr. Andrew Masaba from the Ministry of Finance, agreed

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that there are opportunities for the water and environment sector to attract more funding.

“The water and environment sector are indispensable, so it is good that the Ministry of Finance and NPA are speaking the same language,”

Mr. Masaba said, adding: “Yes, there is an allocation to water and environment in the budget but Government cannot do everything on its own. We need to bring in more players from outside Government.”

“With collaboration and coordination, we can

use optimize the available funds,” Mr. Masaba said.

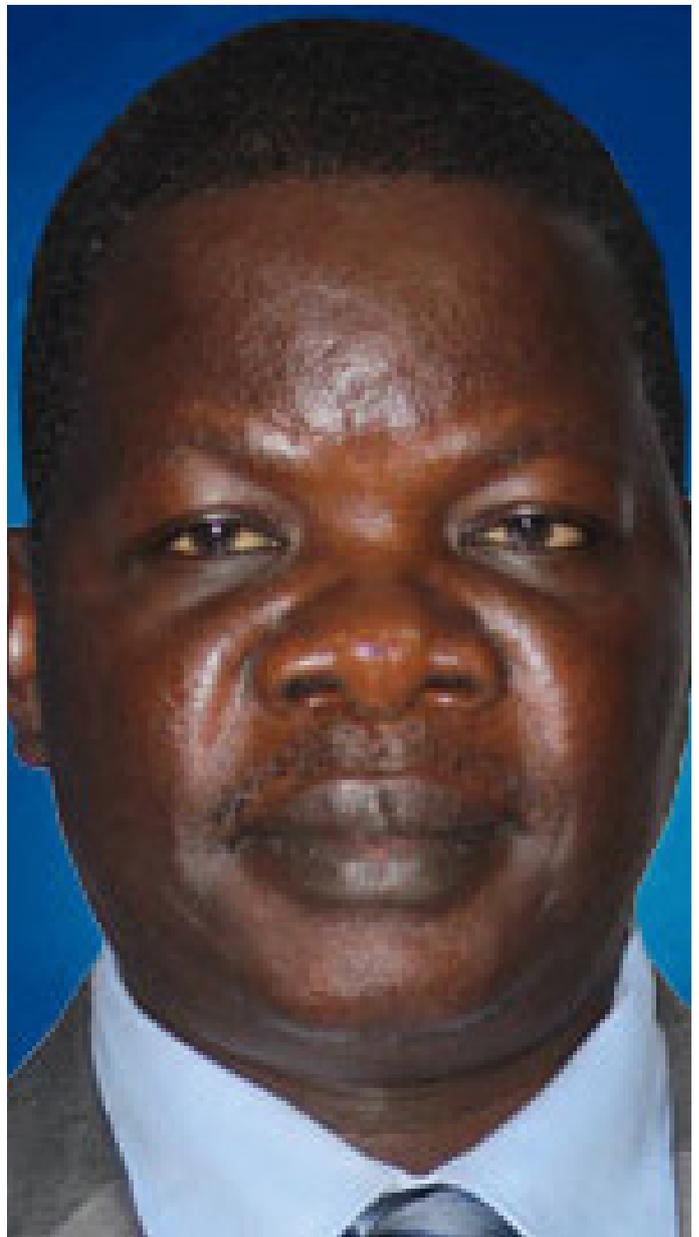
He added that the sector achievements and success stories must be better told for visibility so that they can have a competitive advantage in pitching for increased funding.

There are also more opportunities in the next Financial Year (2021/22) once the framework guidelines for the sector are finalized.

Mr. Masaba said with partnerships from the private sector, the water and environment sector can build a stronger case for more funding through action plans developed at fora such as UWEWK 2020.

Government cannot do the work alone

The Deputy Managing Director – Technical Services at the National Water and Sewerage Corporation, Engineer Johnson Amayo, reiterated sentiments that the Water and Environment sector investment needs cannot be fully met by Government funding. “Even in the donor world, trends show that funds are decreasing. We must look to innovative financing to be able to attract more funding to the sector. How do we get the private sector on board? What incentives can we give the private sector to motivate them to invest in the water and environment sector?” Eng. Amayo asked. He added that there are opportunities for investment in Kampala, for example, where there is a need for improved water infrastructure. The sector can also look at the option of blending financial help from the Government with funding from private players. The key thing is to get the water sector to compete favorably with other sectors like energy for funds. Eng. Amayo posed a question: “How loud have we been in showing the issues like climate change that affect all the sectors?” On resource allocation and management in the sector, Eng. Amayo said there are opportunities for home grown innovation. “We encourage home grown innovations and solutions especially in Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) sectors. We even created a fund to reward these innovations. We also have a running partnership with Makerere University to do research on improved technologies. The results of this research help us improve our operations,” Eng. Amayo said.



Engineer Johnson Amayo

Involve the vulnerable groups from project conception to implementation

“Our mantra at WaterAid is ‘everyone everywhere having access to safe water,’” said Jane Sembuche Mselle, the Country Director of WaterAid Uganda. “We ensure this through our programming, working along the Ministry of Water and Environment and players like the Water Resource Institute to foster effective water resource management.”

Speaking via Zoom during a panel discussion at the closing of UWEWK 2020, Ms. Mselle added that with continued partnerships, there are real results on the ground. She noted that while we acknowledge the gains made in the water and environment sector to ensure availability and sustainability of safe water for production and at

household level, we must be cognizant to include the vulnerable groups like women and children.

“We must empower them and we can do that by including them, not just at implementation level, but bring them to the table at the conception stage of programmes and put into consideration their views.” Ms Mselle added that they also want to see the Water Resources Institute become autonomous so that decision making is faster and more effective.

“More importantly, how do we advance and influence the recommendations and ideas that have been advanced during the water week to put the water and environment sector high up on the Government’s agenda,” Ms Mselle said.

Make use of experts

One of the challenges that the Water and Environment sector faces is how to make use of available knowledge through experts. There is a need for current processes to seek the advice of experts with years of experience in the Water and Environment sector to help better position the sector. “Involve us in the different processes, call on us for help and input,” said Patrick Kahangire, the Presidential Advisor on Water Issues and retired Director, Directorate of Water and Environment at Ministry of Water and Environment.

Mr. Kahangire was speaking at the closing session of UWEWK 2020. He reiterated what has been said again and again during the conference – that water and environment issues are central to the security of the country. He cited the different treaties which Uganda is a signatory to with other countries along the Nile Basin. “These linkages make it easy for countries to work well together for the sustainable use of water,” he said.

Key messages from the 3rd UWEWK

Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, the Commissioner Water Resources Planning and Regulation at Ministry of Water and Environment presented the key messages from the 3rd UWEWK during the closing ceremony.

1. Water and environment resources are Uganda’s strategic security resource.
2. Many wealth creation and employment opportunities that have been established are based on water, environment and natural resources. There is need to integrate and coordinate with other sectors and stakeholders involved in the management and development of these resources. “There is need to collaborate with other sectors and stakeholders to create water and environment business incubation hubs focusing on the youth and women for jobs and wealth creation,” said Dr. Callist Tindimugaya.
3. The Water and Environment sector should make a strong business case for itself. There is need to reach out, engage, create awareness and partnerships with other stakeholders outside the Water and Environment sector.
4. The Water and Environment sector needs to create allies and partnerships with other stakeholders.
5. The Water and Environment should position water and environment resources as products that can promote investment and get the private sector to play key roles in the management and development of these resources.
6. There is need for more investments in innovation and technology development around water and environment as well as human resources development to protect, develop and manage water resources.

Composition of UWEWK 2020

1. Four dialogues on the main theme and subthemes were held
 2. Four keynote addresses were made
 3. 21 panelists were involved in the panel discussions held between September 13th – 18th, 2020.
 4. Five (05) trainings were held namely; training on SDG 6, turning waste to wealth, natural resources based enterprise, catchment based implementation of IWRM solar pumping and micro-irrigation, approaches to Climate Change
 5. Sixty (60) scientific, policy and practice paper presenters made
 6. One (01) Career talk for young water and environment professionals held
 7. One (01) Water security conference held
 8. One (01) side event on adaption to Climate Change was held
- Dr. Callist also gave a brief background to the 3rd UWEWK and mentioned that pre-event activities were held at regional and national level.



Participants attending the closing of the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2020



Participants interacting after the closing of the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2020



National Organising Committee and participants cutting a cake during the closing of the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2020



Mr. Joseph Eritu and Dr Callist Tindimugaya Commissioner Ministry of Water and Environment during the closing of the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2020



The communications officer Mministry of Water and Environment, Mathew Atwiine Kariisa (right) with Stacey Natukunda (centre) after the closing of the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2020



The Director of Water Resources Management Dr Florence Grace Adongo and Dr Callist Tindimugaya Commissioner Ministry of Water and Environment during the closing of the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2020.



Francis Kizito from Ministry of Water and Environment with hosts Maurice Mugisha (right) and Mildred Tuhaise (centre)



National Organising Committee at the closing of the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2020



Mr. Joseph Epitu (left) and the Presidential advisor on Water issues, Patrick Kahangire



A participant picks a drink after the closing ceremony of the UWEWK 2020

Parallel session: Water and Environment security for inclusive growth

Adaptation to the impact of climate change; experiences from the EURECCA project

The Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Water and Environment's Directorate of Water Resources Management (DWRM) received funding from Adaptation Fund and Sahara and Sahel Observatory to implement the Enhancing Resilience of Communities to Climate Change (EURECCA) project. The overall goal of the project is to increase the resilience of communities to the risk of floods and landslides in Maziba, Aswa and Awoja catchments through promoting catchment based integrated, equitable and sustainable management of water and related resources.

Implementation of the project began in 2017 and will run up to 2021. During a session at the UWEWK 2020, the Ministry of Water and Environment shared experiences of the EURECCA project. Success stories of impact were aired through a video presentation.

Panelists who included Hon. David Ebong, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of EEE Limited, Ms. Pamela Nyamutoka Katoro, Africa Regional Director and Country Director of International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR), Mr. Julius Mukunda, Country Director of Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), Henry Rugamba, Managing Partner at Songa Communications, Mr. Zeru Obukha, Director Land Matter under the 3rd National Development Plan (NDP III) Programme and Focal Point Officer for Water and Environment Operation Wealth Creation. The session moderator was Ms. Cate Zziwa Nimanya, Country Director, Water For People.

Hon. Ebong called for wider dissemination of findings from the EURECCA project to ensure replication of the best practices and case studies to other parts of the country.

"In addressing catchment management, there is need for other stakeholders in other parts of the country to learn from this project. We need to replicate a market-based approach that can address livelihood issues," he said.

Ms. Pamela Nyamutoka Katoro, Africa Regional

Director and Country Director of International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) said the EURECCA project addresses the critical needs in the community like eco-system restoration, floods, landslides and livelihood options through providing credit financing.

"Providing livelihood options, capacity building, knowledge and innovations to the communities was key to the success of the EURECCA project. Engagement of different stakeholders at different levels was key to ensure that the project achieve its targets," Ms. Katoro observed.

She said that there is more that can be done to ensure sustainability of the project successes after the end of the project in 2021.

Mr. Henry Rugamba, the Managing Partner at Songa Communications called for the use of radio drama to facilitate understanding of messages by the communities. "through radio drama, you are able to facilitate dialogues in the communities in the key issues," he said.

Mr. Rugamba called for the use of institutional and religious leaders to ensure that the project successes are sustainable.

Mr. Julius Mukunda, the Country Director of CSBAG commended Ministry of Water and Environment on the successes of the project. "As civil society, we are shocked that government can also do such things and achieve such successes. To have projects that successfully change people's mind-sets is really commendable.

He called for the involvement of communities in designing and implementation of projects to ensure sustainability.

Mr. Zeru Obukha, Director Land Matter under the 3rd National Development Plan (NDP III) Programme and Focal Point Officer for Water and Environment Operation Wealth Creation called for strengthening coordination between government programs that improve livelihoods.

"Let us bring together all the government Ministries that influence the Water and Environment sector to avoid replication of services and encourage learning," he said.

Improving Sanitation and Hygiene in communities

This presentation was made by Mr. David Azoora, Area Program Manager, Lifewater International, Kakumiro District

The initiative aims for all households within the program area to achieve healthy home status and all target villages achieve open defecation free status.

What are the qualities of a healthy home?

- Safe drinking water
- Hand washing equipment like tippy taps

- Has and uses community-based water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities
- A drying rack for dishes – elevated off the ground.

- Good/improved latrine structures

Some of the initiatives that Lifewater International has undertaken to help improve WASH in the district include the rehabilitation of 9 boreholes, drilled 17 new boreholes and filling of 3 production wells.

Application of integrated environment management strategies towards sustainable water and sewerage services

The presentation was made by Innocent Twesigye, Planning and Capital Development Department, National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC)

Some of the impacts of environmental degradation on NWSC operations include pollution from poor waste water handling, pollution due to poor solid waste management, water Stress during the dry spell, loss of appropriate quantity/inadequacy of water, siltation during the wet season (damage to intake pumps, replacements by static plant) and high quantities of chemicals used in water treatment.

Some of the ways NWSC is trying to solve these problems is through partnering with NGOs which have water resource management as part of their programs. NWSC also works with public institutions like the National Environment Authority in district environmental offices and the Directorate of Water Resources Management. The other initiatives NWSC has undertaken include micro-catchment restoration, environmental management within the catchments that provide raw water, community sensitization campaigns towards waste management and land use within the catchments and in-built environmental management in infrastructure design.

These continued partnerships will realize better water resource and waste management to better the lives of people.

NWSC also needs commitment from the Government of Uganda to allocate a budget towards environmental management.

Spatial Vulnerability Assessment of River Mitano Catchment to Degradation at Uganda-Congo border

The presentation was made by Dr. Patrick Musinguzi (PhD), Makerere University

He said Highland based catchments area are the most vulnerable landscapes due to human population, high demand for water, food, fuel, fibre, fodder and income. This pressure has negatively impacted on water resources, ecosystem health and the people's livelihood. There is evidence to hotspot zones within the River Mitano Catchment area where massive land degradation is impacting on the environment. This has left most catchments vulnerable to degradation.

Thus, there is need for sound policies that support catchment management plans and sustainable land use systems.

Role of Uganda's national hydrological service in inclusive growth

The presentation was made by Mr. David Kataratambi. A National Hydrological Service (NHS) is an institution whose core business is provision of hydrological information about the status of a country's water resources. Hydrological information deals with the distribution, conservation and use of water.

The Directorate of Water Resources Management (DWRM) represents Uganda's NHS which collects, processes and disseminates data (information) useful to all sectors of the economy. The NHS has over 100 water monitoring stations from which data is captured.

Groundwater in shallow aquifer in Kawempe contaminated

A case of Kawempe division on the impact of abstraction on the quality and quantity of groundwater was presented by Mr Thaddeus Matovu the Hydrogeologist, Water and Sanitation Specialist.

The presentation highlighted that the extent of contamination of the deep aquifer is however unknown.

Presenting a case study, Mr Matovu said in Kawempe, the shallow aquifer is contaminated yet it is integrated to the deep aquifer. "The extent of contamination of deep aquifer is poorly understood. A need to study how abstraction impacts to groundwater quality and quantity in deep aquifer contributes to better management of the risks to pollution of the shallow and deep aquifer," he advised.

Groundwater supplies 70% of urban water. With Uganda's high population of 42 million means high water demand in urban areas.

It was also observed that there is lack of a reliable predictive tool to predict the effect of abstraction.

"Abstraction is causing reduction of 1.5%-5.8% to groundwater based on rain fed recharge rate of 5.1%," Mr. Matovu said

It was recommended that abstraction in the dry season should be controlled to avoid ingress of contaminants and that data on groundwater quality and quantity should to be generated monthly.

A collaborative resource-recovery game to enhance urban sanitation planning

The RECLAIM GAME is developed as part of the deliverables of the Sanitation Planning for Alternative Nutrient-recovery Systems -SPANS project.

The project explores how new technologies and ways of planning can improve the recovery and reuse of important fertilizing nutrients from wastewater.

A collaborative resource-recovery game to enhance urban sanitation planning was presented by Charles Niwagaba Makerere University, Jennifer McConville from Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Monica Billger Chalmers University of Technology and Jaan-Henrik Kain Chalmers University of Technology.

The project objectives was to investigate the technical and market readiness of nutrient-recovery technologies, study the readiness of society to accept alternative systems and to evaluate alternative planning techniques for promoting innovation.

Research has shown serious games to be effective for motivating learning and problem-solving whereby it improves decision-making and analytical skills, in addition it stimulates creativity.

The game aims to share knowledge about nutrient resource recovery from sanitation and supports attitude-change and collaboration between players.

Other aims of the game include, increase understanding of the need for sanitation, increase understanding of other stakeholder perspectives, collaboration between actors and inform about new technologies.

The concepts included in the game are potential benefits of safe reuse which included fertilizers and link to food production.

Others are potential negative consequences: like water pollution and disease. Different roles within sanitation chain like housing, treatment, farming, private contractor, unexpected event cards.



National Water and Sewerage Corporation grapples with problems like poor solid waste disposal

Bacteriological quality of portable borehole water in a peri-urban area – A case study from Iriiri, Napak District

Research carried out by Ms. Sharon Longora, S. Kizza and R. Tayebwa from the Faculty of Engineering and Environment; Uganda Christian University, highlighted that sub counties in Napak are affected by diarrheal diseases.

Ms. Longora who presented on behalf of the team attributed this to poor sanitation and hygiene caused by the increased population and migrations from neighboring districts.

“Despite the fact that borehole water is rendered to be fit for drinking, the quality of water collected could be interrupted by poor sanitary practices. This research on bacteriological quality of stored drinkable water collected prior to use in households, was carried out by methods of sampling, laboratory analysis and data analysis,” Ms. Longora noted.

The research carried out during school term when majority of the young were active.

The participants of the study were between the ages of 25 to 49 years. The Females were 69.92%, and males 30.08% suggesting females were more actively involved in water collection.

The research also found that, “100% of the focused group individuals agreed that the community would adapt to good sanitary practices of boiling the stored water. 87.5% agreed to awareness of use of safe drinking water but 12.5% did not find this practical enough and 75% of the focused group individuals agreed to regular monitoring of water sources; 25% did not find this relevant,” Ms. Longora added.

Assessment of ground water potential in the Upper Nile Water Management Zone

Mr. Daniel Samuel Okurut made the presentation. He said that the Ministry of Water and Environment has a large ground water database that contains; overburden depths, static water levels, main water strikes, borehole depths and yields.

Mr. Okurut’s study utilized the available information to assess the potential available ground water in Lira district.

However, Okurut noted: “The rise in population

has resulted into an increased pressure on the limited water resources available within the district. Nonetheless, the existing groundwater resources have not yet been fully understood. Understanding the groundwater resource in the district can help guide future groundwater developers on which areas have a high potential for resource development. The study can also be useful in allocation of the resource to water users in a regulatory manner.”



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