

Wakis o residents struggle Water shortage persists

By Michael Odeng

For the second month running, hundreds of residents in Wakiso district are struggling after the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) failed to pump water into pipes connected to their homes.

The residents say persistent water outages have left taps dry in several areas, forcing households to rely on other water sources and expensive vendors to meet their daily needs.

The affected areas include Nabweru, Katooke, Kawanda, Kagoma, Maganjo, Jinja-Kaloli, Matugga, Kiteezi, Namalere, Kiti and Kasangati. According to NWSC field teams, the water shortage has been caused by the dry spell, which has affected water production levels.

When contacted yesterday, NWSC public and corporate affairs manager Sam Apedel



Residents of Wakiso fetching water from a spring well at Nateete business centre due to unstable clean water on taps

admitted that many residents have no water but described the situation as temporary. He assured the affected residents that measures were being implemented to provide a lasting solution for areas that

do not receive adequate water. "There is a problem of capacity and distance but serious work is ongoing to address the situation permanently," Apedel said. He said technical teams are

working to stabilise supply, especially in affected areas, where residents have reported the most severe shortages. Apedel said such areas are served under a rationing system, a reason residents

KATOSI WATER PLANT

During the launch of the Katosi water project, NWSC managing director Eng. Silver Mugisha said the project would serve residents in Kira, Kasangati, Kanyanya, Gayaza Road, Kitezi, Kawanda, Matugga, Kawempe, Nansana, Mutungo, Bweyogerere, and other urban centers in Wakiso. Mugisha said the Katosi plant has the capacity to supply up to 160 million liters of water per day, but only 52% of this was being utilised

experience intermittent water supply.

He said new reservoirs are being constructed in Kanyanya and Kabulengwa in Wakiso to boost the existing water supply.

Apedel disclosed that NWSC has sufficient water in its reservoirs but is undertaking network rationalisation to improve distribution efficiency. Alongside a new network, he said NWSC is constructing a 72-km pipeline to extend water supply to the underserved areas.

He appealed to the public to remain patient as the corporation finalises interventions aimed at improving water distribution across Wakiso district and other parts of the country.

The water shortage comes at a time when NWSC has completed the 212m (sh810.9b) 160-million-liter Katosi water

project, with which the corporation promised to solve the water problem across Kampala

In September 2024, NWSC received a sh373b financial boost to advance the Kampala mega water project aimed at transforming the city's water infrastructure. The contract to improve the infrastructure was awarded to Sogea-Satom.

Sogea-Satom, a subsidiary of the Vinci Group, brings experience from its previous water project in Uganda, worth \$7m.

This development, was expected to increase water production and improve supply reliability.

This project is called Kampala network rationalisation, Apedel said. He told *New Vision* then that the water shortage was caused by repairs on their infrastructure line.