

Kiryandongo commissions Shs470m water projects

BY ISMAIL BATEGEKA

KIRYANDONGO. Leaders in Kiryandongo District have commissioned water projects worth Shs477.5 million to boost access to safe and clean water in some of the most stressed communities.

The newly launched facilities include production wells at Kirwala, Isunga and Diima, as well as deep boreholes drilled in Palee, Lamogi, Kawiti East, Kisaranda, Kitaleba, Kiruli-Kibura, Wakisanyi-Kabungo, Nyamalebe, Kamusenene and Bedmot A villages.

District authorities said the projects form part of ongoing efforts to attain 100 per cent safe water coverage and improve public health standards across the district.

Speaking during the commissioning ceremony, the district chairperson,

Ms Edith Aliguma Adyeeri, urged residents to take collective responsibility for maintaining the new facilities.

"The government has invested heavily in providing safe water to our communities. It is now the duty of residents to protect and properly use these facilities so that they can serve us for many years," Ms Aliguma said.

She noted that improved access to clean water would significantly reduce cases of water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea and other infections, which remain prevalent in areas where households rely on unsafe water sources.

Local leaders welcomed the development but emphasised the need for more sustainable solutions to match the district's growing population.

Ms Salim Jacan, the chairperson of Nyakatiiti II village, said although residents appreciate the additional water points, a piped water system would pro-

vide a more reliable long-term solution.

"We are grateful for the boreholes because they have eased the immediate challenge. But with the increasing population, piped water would be more stable, especially during the dry season when some sources dry up," she said.

Mr Venencio Zunga said the new water sources would reduce the burden on women and children, who have long borne the responsibility of fetching wa-

ter from distant and sometimes unsafe sources. "For years, women and children have walked long distances to wells and ponds shared with animals. With these new facilities, we expect children to have more time for school and women to focus on productive activities," he said.

Ms Piracel Scovia, a resident of Nyakatiiti Village, said the commissioning of a second borehole had eased congestion at the only existing water point. "Previously, we would line up until late in the night and wake up as early as 4am to fetch water," she said.

Mboira Sub-county chairperson Jean Watumbe commended the district leadership for extending government services closer to communities, noting that improved water access complements other development programmes.

WATER ACCESS

According to district data, access to safe water stands at between 88 percent in Kiryandongo Sub-county and 95 percent in Mutunda Sub-county. The district has 1,014 domestic water points.