Joy as Nabumali High School gets Shs700m water project

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BY PHOEBE MASONGOLE & FRED WAMBEDE

There was excitement at Nabumali High School in Mbale District last Friday after the school commissioned a new water project expected to supply 110,000 litres of clean and safe water, ending years of water shortages that had forced learners to rely on unreliable and sometimes unsafe sources.

The groundwater system was implemented by Nexus, with support from the Nabumali Old Students Association (NOSA) in partnership with the Ministry of Water and Environment at a cost of Shs700 million.

School administrators say the project will significantly improve hygiene, sanitation and the overall learning environment for thousands of students at the historic institution.

The system was completed within six weeks and restores a service the school had lost decades ago.

Daily Monitor understands that Nabumali High School previously had a water system installed in 1957. However, the infrastructure was vandalised over time and eventually stopped functioning, leaving the school to depend on unreliable sources. Speaking during the commissioning ceremony, the school head teacher, Ms Margaret Nabudde, described the development as a major milestone for the institution.

The stakeholders during the commissioning of the water project at the school on Friday. PHOTO/FRED WAMBEDE

"This is a very big milestone for Nabumali High School. For years, access to water has been one of our biggest challenges. Having a reliable water source means improved sanitation, better health for our learners and more time for students to focus on their studies," she said.

She added: "Many generations of students have passed through Nabumali while struggling with water shortages. Today, we are restoring something very fundamental for the school community."

Mr Collins Matovu Wasswa, the patron of NOSA, said the alumni association prioritised the project after recognising the urgent need for clean and reliable water at the school.

"As old students, we carry the values and memories of Nabumali wherever we go. When we learnt that the school was struggling with water, we knew we had to act," he said.

Mbale District Water Supply Officer Simon Peter Wandera commended the partnership behind the initiative, noting that access to clean water remains central to improving education outcomes.

"Projects like this directly support government efforts to improve water access in institutions," he said.

The initiative was partly supported through international financing arrangements, including assistance linked to UK export finance, which helped accelerate the installation of the modern groundwater system.

AT A GLANCE

Nabumali High School is one of the oldest secondary schools in eastern Uganda and has produced several prominent leaders and professionals over the years. Founded in 1926, the school has grown into a major centre of learning in the Bugisu sub-region, attracting students from across the country.