

# THE AVERAGE SAFE WATER COVERAGE IN THE DISTRICT STANDS AT 79%

## KIBAALE RESIDENTS GET SH939M SAFE WATER PROJECT

PHOTO BY ANDREW MUSINGUZI

By Andrew Musinguzi

A sh939m gravity water project expected to benefit more than 5,000 residents from eight villages of Kaisekenkere parish, Matala sub-county in Kibaale district has been commissioned.

The solar-powered water supply system, located at Hakasaraba trading centre in Matala sub-county, was commissioned on Tuesday by the water ministry in conjunction with Kibaale district local government under the Mid-western Umbrella of Water and Sanitation.

Kibaale district water officer Ben Sekuye said more than 5,000 people from over eight villages, including Busesa A and B, Hakasaraba, Kajuna, Kigoma, Kajuma, Kaikara,

Nsonga, Kigorwa and Kakimbara, are expected to benefit from the project.

Sekuye said only one borehole had been serving the growing population at various trading centres in Matala, necessitating the provision of clean and safe water to the population. The three-year project, whose construction started in 2023, was undertaken by Kanejo Investments Ltd and Ms Karukana Enterprise Ltd for sh939m.

"A total of 735 households in eight villages have benefited from the safe and clean gravity water. The safe water coverage in Matala stood at about 46% before the gravity water system, but it now stands at 66%, which is still below the national safe water coverage of



**Kugonza collecting water from the commissioned gravity water tap at Hakasaraba trading centre in Kibaale**

72%," Sekuye said.

He added that the average safe water coverage in the district stands at 79% across its villages. He listed the water-stressed areas as Kisojo, Rusenke, Ruguuza, Kacu, Kabuhuna, Kyakazihire, Buhhira and Buhumuro, in the sub-counties of Nyamarwa, Matala and Kyebando.

"Residents in these areas have endured chronic water scarcity, forcing them to share contaminated water from swamps, dams and ponds with animals from the Kangombe

Central Forest Reserve. To combat this, the Government, in partnership with the water ministry, LIFE-AR and the Mid-Western Umbrella of Water and Sanitation, has installed solar-powered mini water schemes and deep boreholes in Kyebando, Nyamarwa and Matala," Sekuye said.

Speaking as the chief guest, Buyanja East County MP Dr Emely Kugonza urged the beneficiaries to make proper use of the water facilities and focus on growing high-value crops such as coffee and cocoa,

as well as establishing piggery and dairy cattle enterprises for income generation.

Kibaale resident district commissioner Steven Byaruhanga decried the increasing vandalism of government facilities and corruption.

Mid-Western Umbrella of Water and Sanitation spokesperson Samson Mwebesa reiterated the need for residents to regard the water source as a valuable asset. He added that a jerrycan of water will be sold at only sh200 for the maintenance

### WHAT BENEFICIARIES SAY

**TEDDY ABIGABA, A RESIDENT OF BUSES A**  
We laud the Government for providing safe water at a subsidised price, as we used to buy a jerrycan of water at sh1,000. However, we still face challenges of electricity, access roads and health centres, with residents trekking about 5km to access health services.

**SYLVIA KUGONZA, KAJUMA VILLAGE**  
We have been sharing water with domestic animals and buying a jerrycan of safe water at sh1,000. We, therefore, thank the Government for this water.

**AGNES ASIMWE, KAKIMBARA VILLAGE**  
It is good that my school, where I serve as headteacher, now has access to safe water.

and operation of the water facility.  
"The installed water tank has about 50,000lts of storage, with a pump house on site for security," Mwebesa said.