

Uganda Water and Environment Week



Ministry of Water and Environment

The Water Front

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UGANDA
W&E
WEEK

THEME:

Water and Environment, catalyst for achieving Middle Income Status 2020

UWEWK LINKED TO NDP II

The Uganda Water and Environment Week is linked to the National Development Plan II (NDP II), which focuses on achieving structural transformation through increased industrial activity, with emphasis on manufacturing and value addition in agro-processing.

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IRC
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WaterAid



Rugunda being shown water equipment at the exhibition in Entebbe

Rugunda applauds water ministry for resources institute

Uganda's Prime Minister Dr Ruhakana Rugunda has applauded the Ministry of Water and Environment for establishing an institute that will help bridge the gap between theory and practice and also generate practical solutions to address the challenges in the water and environment sector.

"I request the leadership of the Ministry of water and Environment and other relevant stakeholders to use the water resources institute to profile the central position of water resources in national development with a vision of ensuring that Uganda's water resources are utilized optimally," Rugunda said.

Rugunda made the remarks as he officially



opened the Water Resources Institute in Entebbe on Wednesday. The event was one of the highlights of the Uganda Water and Environment Week, March 17 to March 23.

He observed that discussion of water and environment issues need to get out of cocoons of water and environment sectors and involve other stakeholders such as politicians, students, the private sector, development partners, academicians, the media and the general public.

"This is because water affects us all, there is a need to increase sharing of experience, new concepts, innovations and practices in water and environment related issues," PM Rugunda said.

Continued on page 2

Rugunda opens water Institute

From page 1

Rugunda added that “The institute therefore should be able to influence the practice and policy for sustainable social economic development of the country.”

The Prime Minister observed the need for the institute to provide space for various stakeholders to contribute to innovative solutions that meet a broad range of individuals, sectorial and national needs.

On agriculture production, Dr Rugunda revealed that government is in the final stages of adopting a national irrigation policy and is committed to investing in water for irrigation infrastructure to boost commercial farming.

“Against growing threats of climate change and associated negative impacts to the Uganda economy, climate-resilient irrigation schemes are seen as the only way to provide reliable and sustainable water solutions for Ugandan farmers,” he said.

Participants welcomed the opening of the institute as it provides an opportunity for many knowledgeable people who have retired from civil service to share their knowledge and experience.

The institute will be used as a research and training centre and will utilise services of retired senior water officers who will train young water officers.

The PM also said that the institute will enable government to cut down on costs of sending staff for training abroad.

“This institute will truly revolutionise the water sector,” Rugunda said.

Water Week PICTORIAL



Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda unveils the foundation stone for the Water Resources Institute on Wednesday. He later planted a tree in commemoration of the Institute. Rugunda said the institute would revolutionise the water and environment sector.



Water For People Project Engineer, Dian Keesiga has recommended the wide adoption of water safety planning as an approach to prevent the consumption of contaminated water. She was training selected participants on water safety planning during the ongoing Uganda Water and Environment week. Keesiga said that developing water safety plans would ensure involvement of water users in maintaining their water sources.



LEFT: Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda and State Minister for Water Ronald Kibuule toured the exhibitions at the Uganda Water and Environment week.

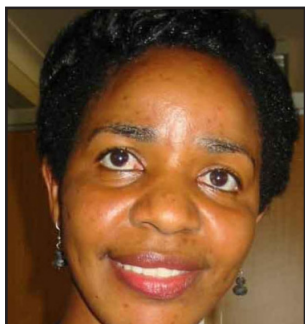
BELOW LEFT: Water and Environment sector members pose for a photo with the Prime Minister.

BELOW RIGHT: Team members of the Albert Water Management Zone



ABOVE: Sector actors enjoy a light moment with Dr Silver Mugisha, MD National Water and Sewerage Corporation
RIGHT: Dr Ruhakana Rugunda tours more exhibition stalls at the Uganda Water and Environment week.

Reactions after training on Forest landscape restoration



Rose Mugabe

I learnt that it's every body's business to protect the forests, not only National Forestry Authority. There is high population growth in Uganda which has led to high demand for food and land for cultivation. It is everyone's responsibility to get alternative sources of firewood rather than resorting to cutting trees for energy.



*Cortilda Nakyeyune
Senior Programs Officer
International Union for
Conservation of Nature*

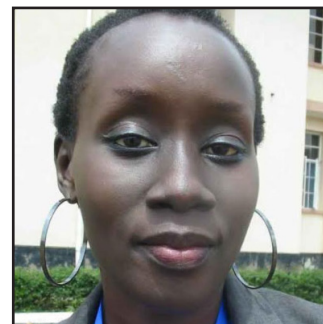
We need to do a lot more work to create awareness to let people know where the problem is and how they can participate in reversing deforestation. I have also learnt that a number of people are not aware of what we are doing as experts about all these environmental challenges.

Reactions after training on role of wetlands



*Mukiibi Jackson, A
trainee with Directo-
rate of Water Resources
Management*

The training has given me confidence since we are preparing for restoration of Lubigi swamp soon. I will go with confidence. I have appreciated that the wetlands degradation is real not a myth. Wetlands are getting degraded at an alarming rate.



Anna Odul

This training has been important in bringing out the purpose for restoring the wetlands. The training has given me an insight and homework to do. My knowledge gap has been bridged. We have heard people giving experiences from the field and case studies. It was really helpful. We need water back in the wetlands for springs and wells to function.

Prof Kirumira: Water is an equalizer

Professor Edward Kirumira has reiterated the message that water and environment resources will be critical to the attainment of Uganda's development goals as expressed in the National Development Plan. Kirumira, who is also the Principal School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Makerere University, was delivering a keynote address at the ongoing Uganda Water and Environment Week organized by the Ministry of Water and Environment.

"Achieving middle income status 2020 will depend on well-coordinated strategic and policy interventions in demographic transition, income growth acceleration and exchange depreciation. In all these considerations water and environment are critical enablers and drivers," he said.

Kirumira said that water and environment are especially important because they are equalizing resources, shared by every Ugandan. "If you focus on industrialization only



the investors and entrepreneurs will benefit; if you invest in education only the few who can afford it will benefit; but if you invest in water and environment every Ugandan will benefit because everyone is affected by those resources," he argued.

He further noted that water and environment resources drive expenditure patterns downwards as people spend

less on health complications and government avoids costly interventions meant to mitigate environmental degradation.

Referring to the newly commissioned Water Resources Institute, Professor Kirumira noted that the institute will contribute to national development goals by being the vehicle for the implementation of water sector reforms and a centre of excellence for water resources management and development.