

Kikuube electorates ask MP aspirants to tackle electricity, water, education issues

By Peter Abaanabasazi

Residents of Kyangwali sub-county in Kikuube district have appealed to the parliamentary candidates to prioritise electricity, clean water and road improvements if they expect to win their support.

The electorate said the lack of access to safe water, poor service delivery and land grabbing remain their biggest concerns.

The residents were speaking to the NRM flag-bearer and incumbent Woman MP, Florence Natumanya, in Mahamba village, Kyangwali sub-county on Tuesday.

Topher Bigira, the chairperson of Katoma village, said accessing clean water "is a nightmare", noting that the village, with hundreds of people, relies on a single borehole located in Kyarujumba village.

He said as a result, many residents fetch water from Katoma swamp.

Gerard Kusemerwa said the crisis worsens during the dry season, making life very difficult for the residents.

He reported cases of chest pain and incidents where some girls are raped

on their way to fetch water.

Kusemerwa said sharing water sources with wild animals, such as foxes, monkeys, baboons and livestock, exposes communities to typhoid, malaria and cholera.

LACK OF ELECTRICITY

Olivia Tumusiime, a maize farmer from Mahamba village, said the absence of power has left several agricultural processing machines idle.

She said Action Against Hunger constructed stores and installed maize milling machines for Kikora and Mahamba Farmers' Co-operative Society in 2018, but "today, the facilities have not even got a kilogramme of maize".

Tumusiime said the organisation agreed with the co-operative members to raise money to connect electricity, but "the farmers failed because it requires a lot of money".

Karori Karuru, the chairperson of Hanga I village, and Vajelina Kobusinge from Butoole village said the Government has constructed schools, but teacher shortages persist. She said the gap forces school managers to collect money



Natumanya



Kyomuhendo

LAND GRABBING

The Kyangwali sub-county chairperson, Emmanuel Bisemeza, said land grabbing is the biggest challenge that the residents face.

He said most disputed land titles "were just processed recently" and last year, he submitted a list of 14 alleged illegal titles to Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja, who promised to follow up, "but to date, nothing has been done".

Bisemeza said the fear of eviction prevents residents from developing land or growing crops such as coffee and cocoa.

from parents to hire private teachers, despite the President's directive that no fees be charged in Universal Primary Education schools.

Karuru argued that the inadequate number of teachers contributes to poor performance.

Recent statistics from the Kikuube education office indicate that while the standard classroom capacity is 53 learners, Kikuube accommodates 92 learners per classroom.

The district needs 1,297 teachers but currently has only 658.

INSECURITY ON LAKE ALBERT

The Kyangwali sub-county chairperson, Emmanuel Bisemeza, also urged the candidates to address the increasing insecurity on Lake Albert. He said armed groups from DR Congo often invade Ugandan waters, attacking fishermen.

The issue was recently presented to Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja by the resident district commissioner, Godwin Agaria Kasigwa, who said it needs urgent attention.

Independent candidate Joan Kyomuhendo, who lost the NRM primaries with 6,161 votes (13.6%) against Natumanya (25,857), said she will focus on improving education, health and youth empowerment.

Dan Muhirwe, contesting for the Buhaguzi constituency, pledged to improve service delivery, citing clean water, teacher recruitment, better school structures and strengthened land rights.

Incumbent Buhaguzi MP Francis Kazini highlighted the achievements including water projects in Ngogoli A and B, Mahamba and Katoma. On electricity-related matters he blamed the delays on power distribution.