

MODERN WATER FACILITY FOR GREATER MASAKA

PHOTO BY DISMUS BUREGYEYA

By Dismus Buregyeya

The Government has started constructing a modern, upgraded water supply facility worth sh122b along the shores of Lake Victoria in Bukakata sub-county, Masaka district, to serve the greater Masaka region, following the failure of the old colonial-era water system at Nabajuzi in Masaka city.

The Nabajuzi Water Supply and Treatment facility, constructed in 1956, has become obsolete and can no longer meet the growing demand for safe and reliable water in the region.

28M LITRES FACILITY

The new water supply system, located at Kaziru landing site in Bukakata, will extract at least 28m litres of water per day from Lake Victoria to serve Masaka city and the neighbouring districts of Lwengo, Kyotera, Kalungu and rural areas of Masaka district, according to the general manager of the National Water and Sewerage



Stakeholders from Masaka city and National water officials during a site visit at Kaziru landing site, Bukakata sub-county in Masaka district

Corporation (NWSC), Eng. Emmanuel Mujuzi.

NWSC has acquired about eight acres of land along the Kaziru lake shore, where construction works have already commenced under the contractor SOGEA Satom.

THE BENEFICIARIES

Speaking during a site visit at Bukakata a fortnight ago, Eng.

Mujuzi said more than 500,000 households are expected to benefit from the upgraded facility, which will pump water from Bukakata to the Kako, Kitovu and Bwala hill tanks in Masaka city.

Other immediate beneficiaries will include communities around Kaziru landing site, Bukakata, Buwanga and Kyanamukaka sub-counties, as

well as Lukaya Town Council in Kalungu district, among others.

He revealed plans to have the Bukakata-Kaziru landing site road tarmacked and electricity extended to support the project.

WATER THEFT IN MASAKA

The other challenges are vandalism of water infrastructure and illegal tapping of water, especially

MASAKA WATER DEMAND

The general manager of the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), Eng. Emmanuel Mujuzi, explained that the decision to construct a new water supply infrastructure at Bukakata was necessitated by the deteriorating state of the Nabajuzi facility, which had become incapacitated in both quality and quantity of water supply.

"Depending on Nabajuzi as a source of water for Masaka city was no longer viable. The infrastructure established in 1956 is worn out, and the cost of treating the black and swampy water had become very high," he said, noting that the plant had also suffered frequent technical breakdowns that affected service delivery.

He further attributed the decline in water quality and quantity to rapid population growth and increased human activities in the Nabajuzi catchment area.

New Vision learnt that NWSC's monthly water treatment costs in Masaka have risen from about sh20m to over sh50m due to encroachment and industrial waste from urban areas, such as Kumbu, Kijabwemi and Kasijagirwa along the Nabajuzi swamp.

in Nyendo suburb in Masaka city. Compensation disputes in areas earmarked for network extension have also affected service expansion and require intervention by Masaka city

authorities.

Mujuzi said NWSC loses about sh300m every month due to water theft through vandalism and illegal connections.