

# PERSISTENT WATER SHORTAGE HITS KAMPALA, WAKISO

By Isaac Nuwagaba  
and Rhyman Agaba

A water shortage has hit several parts of Kampala and Wakiso districts following a dry spell that has lasted for over two weeks.

As a result, National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) has started rationing water supply in the Kampala metropolitan area, saying the demand is too high.

In Wakiso district, residents of areas such as Kira, Kasangati, Kanyanya, Gayaza, Kitezi, Kawanda, Kitezi, Matugga, and Nansana are experiencing a water supply crisis, with some having gone for over two weeks without a single drop flowing in the tap.

In Kampala, the shortage has been noticed in Nakawa division (Mbuya and Kinawataka) and Makindye division (Kibuli and Kabalagala) as well as Kawempe division.

James Makumbi, a resident



Youth fetching water from a spring at Nateete business centre in Kampala due to shortages of piped water

of Kawanda-Kanyogoga, said that the water supply has been intermittent since last year. Residents have resorted to digging wells and drawing water from unsafe sources.

"With this dry season, a

jerrycan of water now costs between sh500 and sh1,000 from those who fill their tanks with water trucks or have dug underground wells," said Makumbi.

NWSC managing director

## POWER OUTAGES, ROAD WORKS

The National Water director of public relations and communication, Samuel Apedel, disclosed that Kampala's water crisis is being exacerbated by municipal road works and power outages, causing significant supply disruptions.

"Power outages, particularly at the Ggaba water treatment plant, have also affected water production, pumping stations and supply schedules. The plant uses 10 megawatts of power per day, and any outage greatly impacts operations," he said.

The shortages have led to increased costs for residents, with some areas experiencing water scarcity and others having to rely on private water bowser operators, which are expensive.

"NWSC is working to address the issue with projects like the water distribution improvement project that was allocated sh374b aimed at improving water distribution in affected areas," he stated.

Dr. Silver Mugisha attributed the water supply challenges to extreme weather conditions, which have increased demand while water sources dry up.

"In some areas, we are affected by old distribution networks prone to leaks and bursts but NWSC is installing

higher-capacity pumps and implementing bulk rationing to serve water-stressed areas," he assured.

The recently commissioned Katosi Water Treatment Plant, with a capacity of 240 million litres, is expected to alleviate the shortage. However, distribution

challenges persist, with less than 55% of the plant's capacity being utilised due to inadequate infrastructure.

According to NWSC director public relations and communication, Samuel Apedel, the demand for water in Kampala stands at 400 million litres per day, while the current supply is approximately 300 million litres, leading to shortages.

"NWSC decided to start rationing water supply due to the ongoing construction of the primary network pipelines project and extension of the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area (GKMA) water supply network, which is currently under construction," he said.

Currently, Apedel added, there is insufficient water distribution capacity to reach more customers of the GKMA and a number of previously water stressed areas.

However, the rationing does not reach many parts that are supposed to receive water.