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MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT



UGANDA
W&E
WEEK

THE WATERFRONT

Newsletter

UWEWK 2022 launched



Vice-President H.E. Jessica Alupo arriving at the launch of UWEWK2022. She was received by Environment State Minister Hon. Beatrice Anywar, Elsie Attafuah, UNDP Resident Representative and Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, the Commissioner, Water Resources Planning & Regulation Department, Ministry of Water & Environment



Dr. Joseph Shevel, President Galilee International Management Institute giving a keynote address



Hans Von Schroder (left), Deputy Ambassador of Germany to Uganda at the event



Religious leaders at the launch of the UWEWK 2022

Jessica Alupo opens UWEWK 2022



Traditional dancers entertaining guests during the launch of the UWEWK 2022



Vice-President H.E. Jessica Alupo inspecting some of the exhibition stalls

The Vice President Jessica Alupo has opened the 5th Water and Environment Week, with call for all Ugandans to protect the water and environment resources for sustainable development. The six day long event is to take place at Water and Environment Ministry under the theme; “Water and Environment for Peace and Social Economic Transformation of Uganda”. Alupo stressed that water and environment resources are at the core of sustainable development and a critical for socio economic development, healthy ecosystems and for human survival which is key to the attainment of the National Development Plan (NDP III) goal and targets. She noted the without sustainable environment resources the country cannot achieve the targeted Vision 2040, and the middle income status. “There is no doubt that water and environment

resources will be key in the implementation of the Parish Development Model which was launched in February 2022, by President Yoweri Museveni. “These resources support life, and social economic activities. They are central to agriculture which is the main stay of the country’s economy from which, 85% of Uganda derives there incomes and livelihood,” she noted. She added that provision of adequate water for agriculture will spur transformation of the economy through increased productivity for both livestock and crops. “Water is also indispensable input for agro-industrialization,” she added. However, she noted that Uganda water storage capacity in valley tanks and dams is just 42 million cubic meters translating into less than 1 cubic meter per person, stressing that much needs to be done to improve the situation, to

be water secure if the country is to achieve the middle income status. The Vice President, noted that access to safe water in rural and urban areas stands at 69% and 71% respectively while access to basic sanitation in rural and urban areas is at 78% and 89% respectively. She said that even the low access to water supply and sanitation services has brought inequality in service delivery. She stressed that though Uganda is still recognized at the Pearl of Africa with very good scenery, there is an increasing threat to its natural resources base especially on wetland and forests. According to statistics, the forest cover, has declined from 24% of Uganda’s total land area in 1990 to 12.4% currently. All this attributed to biomass fuel cooking with other auxiliary drivers such as expansion of agricultural land, sporadic urbanization, and income poverty,





Vice-President H.E Jessica Alupo, Environment State Minister Beatrice Anywar, UNDP Resident Representative Elsie Attafuah talking to an exhibitor

industrialization and inadequate incentives from private plantation forests. Alupo said 90% of Uganda still use firewood and charcoal for cooking. Statistics also show that the wetland coverage declines from 15.6% in 1994 to 8.9% presently, with an estimate of loss of 846km of wetland land annually. This was attributed to poor farming practices, unplanned urbanization and settlements, excessive water abstraction, poverty, poor intra and inter sectoral coordination with continued issuance of land titles in wetlands, sand mining and industrialization with some of the demarcated business/industrial parks located in wetlands. However, she said the NRM government has made commitments to plant 40million trees annually, translating into 200million trees

over a five year period (2021-2026), aimed at increasing the country's natural resources base particularly in form of forests and trees. She noted that government also commits to protect and preserve the country's ecosystems with a view of utilizing the resources for nature-based tourism, environment and climate mitigation and sustainable use by communities neighbouring protected areas. She noted that due to increased settlements and developments in flood plains, poor agriculture practices and deforestation, have also led to flooding and loss of soil fertility, as a result of bare slopes. Alupo also raised concern over increasing plastic materials which are not dominating the water bodies, with 600 tons of plastic is disposed of daily. She said a number of measures have been put

in place including the review of environmental law (National Environment Act No.5, 2019) in which all plastic carrier bags under 30 microns were banned; imposition of producer extended responsibility as part of polluter pays principle to ensure producers of all materials with potential to pollute have a duty to follow the management of their product through its lifecycle; and imposition of mandatory condition to all plastic manufacturers to establish recycling plants and ensure that they follow their plastic material and take it back to recycling. She said they are also putting more emphasis on national wide multi sectoral multimedia critical environmental literacy campaigns to empower citizens to follow the right waste management hierarchy. The State Minister for Environment, Beatrice Anywar

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Vice-President H.E Jessica Alupo in a group picture with guests



Panel discussion

5th UWEWK 2022 opens

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Anywar said besides domestic water supply, water remains a vital resource and pillar in livestock, industries, hydropower generation, marine transport, fisheries, tourism, and agriculture.

"I hope we are all of us aware that water is a key input in most of socio-economic development processes and there are no activities that can be undertaken where is not involved either as a primary input or a secondary input," she noted. She noted the access to safe water and improved sanitation facilities and practices are a pre-requisite to a health population and has a direct impact on the quality of life and productivity of the population.

"As Uganda seeks to industrialize and meet its national development goals through among others, the PDM, sustainable management and development of water and environment resources will be key in realizing the set targets," she added.

She says the week long event will to help exchange view, experience, and practices that are key in moving the sector forward.

Anywar called on government give half of the environment levy collected annually to the ministry to restore the demarcation of wetlands and forests, and also protect the water source to deliver clean water.

She also noted the ministry only has 183 police officers for enforcement which is a very small number.

"This is a very small number and policemen also work on orders, yet those who construct on wetlands are well to do people. We need about 600 officers. We need to have funds to recruit out own rangers like the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)," she added.

Anywar noted: "We tasted how expensive it is to have oxygen in the cylinder during the COVID-19. Can't we learn that God-given oxygen is important, and you now want to destroy oxygen?"

She noted that Ugandans are responsible for destroying their own resource and must work to restore them. She thanked the various organizations and agencies including GIZ, WaterAid Uganda, IRC, Water or People, UNDP, UNICEF, IUCN, and Uganda Joint Christian Council among others for supporting the event. The Executive Secretary for Uganda Joint Christian Council, Fr. Constantine Mbonabingi, lashed at people who contract and excavate sand from wetlands, saying it was inhuman. "The issues of excavating sand from the wetlands should stop because wetlands are natural purifiers of water. We need these swamps, please. They really clean our water. I don't know if we need to take back people to class," he said.

He also said the habit of giving forests to the so-called investors should also stop.

"I call them so-called investors because a true investor can't just come and cut-down forests to construct a factors. As religious leaders, we



have said enough is enough. We can't continue watching our water being misused, our swamps are being taken away, and our forests are being cut," he added.

He said it is even very unfortunate that those doing it are the people who "come to church, by the way".

He stressed that the book of Genesis, "it is clearly written that God gave man and woman the mandate to look after the earth. To take care of it, not to destroy it. But it is unfortunate what is happening today".

The UNDP Resident Representative, Elsie Attafua said Uganda is blessed by water and needs to be protected for the socio-economic development.

"18% of the surface of this country is water, but we also get 35% of our water from neighbouring countries which means we have a collective responsibility to make sure that it's protected and also equitable," she added.

She noted that water is not just something that is running but is connected to the economic development of the country in different ways.

"Why do people come to Uganda? They come for many reasons, but water tourism is one of them. The birds and the animals, the wetlands and water are habitats which must be protected," he added.

She pointed out that with 90% of the energy sector of Uganda being hydro, it clearly tells you the importance of protecting our water sources.

"24% of the country's GDP is attributed to

agriculture, close to 70% of our population, their livelihoods, and jobs are linked to agriculture, but we only have less than 1% that is under irrigation," he added.

Attafua noted that the figures clearly show that Uganda is very much dependent on rain-fed.

"But in the face of climate change, if we do not tap into the potential of water and irrigation, social and economic transformation will elude us," he added.

The Deputy Ambassador of Germany to Uganda, Hans Von Schroder, said the importance of safe sanitation can't be emphasized enough, stressing that poor sanitation and hygiene greatly affect the economic development of the country and also the health of learners.

He said given the importance of water, Germany continues support to the water sector to be channelled through entry points such as the program for water supply and sanitation for refugee settlements.

"It's well known and commendable that Uganda is the biggest refugee-hosting country on the continent, and it's implementing one of the most liberal refugee policies globally. The program, Water Supply and Sanitation for Refugee Settlements and host communities, focuses on supporting the implementation of the global compact on refugees in Uganda," he added. Schroder said it is pleasure that "we are today launching the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2022.

Uganda Water and Environment Week 2022 Exhibition kicks off

The Ministry of Water and Environment in collaboration with key Partners has organized an Exhibition during the fifth Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) 2022 that will take place from Sunday 20th to 25th March 2022.

The overall theme of UWEWK 2022 is “Water and environment for peace and socio-economic transformation of Uganda”

The overall goal of the exhibition is to provide a platform to all sector players to showcase new technologies, lesson learnt and best practices, this will help to assess the centrality of water and environment resources in increasing household incomes, improved quality of life of the population and achievement.

For exhibitors, the event will be a valuable networking and information sharing opportunity to showcase water supply, rainwater harvesting, irrigation, groundwater development and environmental resources products and services to UWEWK delegates, guests and the world at large. Some of the Exhibition categories include:

- Water and related services
- Environmental services
- Sanitation
- Waste management
- Renewable energy
- Medical camp

Today the exhibition was graced by the presence of the Vice President of Uganda Jessica Alupo and the State Minister for Environment Beatrice Anywar who visited the different stall and exhibitors. Some of the Exhibitors include: GIZ NatuReS, Water For People, NSI.water, Get Water Limited, Water Compass, InfoNile, Bernoulli Engineering Services, Ministry of Water and Environment (Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Services Department, Directorate of Water Resources Institute) and many others.



Vice-President H.E. Jessica Alupo inspects stall at the launch of the UWEWK 2022



Some of the exhibition stalls



I expect the UWEWK week to...



Ned Morgan, Water Compass

We hope to be able to meet all the actors in the water sector and to improve water supply.



Christine Nuwamanya, Ministry of Water and Environment

I hope for promotion of sustainable models for operation and maintenance of sanitation services

Ronald Nsubuga Balimwezo, Member of Parliament, Nakawa West

At the end of this week, we should be able to resettle people at the peripheral of Lake Victoria to vacate. The development partners and the Ministry should assist KCCA to resolve the issue of garbage collection in the city.



Michael Ariku, WAGTECH Environmental

We will showcase some of the products that we manufacture. We expect to get a platform to create awareness about our products.



Abdu Kirya, Bernouli Engineering Solutions

We will showcase our products which will result into more customers reaching out to us.



Ivan Kamukama, MWE

The public to know the issue of climate change and increase resilience to climate change, also informing development partners and government to commit more funds to Water and Environment sector.



Evaristo Asimwe, Ministry of Water and Environment

At the end of the week, we expect to see the public getting to know more about the different players in the Water and Environment sector



Alis Okonji, InfoNile

We are excited to be part of this years Water week celebration. We hope this will be a platform for the public and development partners to embrace our objectives. We will also meet likeminded people to scale out our work.

Reflections on the opening session

Listening to the plenary opening session for UWEWK2022 live on UBC, it was interesting to learn how ministry is partnering with religious leaders, cultural kingdoms and youths to promote safe use of water and environment.

Religious leaders are determined to use their structures in promoting environmental management while Buganda Kingdom has developed projects that aim at restoration of wetlands and water resources. And for the youth, the ministry resolved to have youth member representatives on all Boards in the ministry to increase the level of involvement of youths and also capture youth needs and innovation at the strategic level.

The key note address made by Dr. Joseph Shevel was good music to my ears. It enabled my wide imagination into a world of plenty. He emphasized that the challenge is “water management” and indicated the need for water reuse other than new extractions. He cited a live example of Israel that reuses 90% of its water for computerised irrigation. The presentation gave an interesting ray of hope that its possible in Uganda and some agreements had been reached between Ministry of Finance, planning and Economic Development and the Galilee Water Management Institute on how to realise this imagination into reality.



Another key highlight was the request from the Minister of State for Environment, Hon. Beatrice Anywar for at least 50% of the environmental levy to be used in the management of the environment. Although there was no response made to the request by the Vice-President, there is hope that the request would be forwarded further to realisation.

Thanks to the organisers of the event. We look forward to the week ahead.

Rosemary Nakaggwa, Thematic Coordinator for Water GIZ - Civil Society in Uganda Support



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Buganda exists with environment - Owek. Mayanja

Owek. Mariam Mayanja Nkalubo, Minister for Lands, Agriculture, Cooperatives, Trade, Community Development and Environment She explained that Buganda kingdom co-exists with the Environment. And understands that collective effort is the best approach to preserve Water and Environment resources. Adding that, it is the one reason the community service “Bulungi Bwansi” is still vibrant.

Tuning the focus to young generation grooming is the other initiative that the kingdom is working out.

“We are working handy with individuals, church leaders and school heads to re-enforce environment conservation in Buganda. We recently introduced tree naming and marking buffers in Lubigi and Kitubulu in Kampala and Entebbe respectively.”

Father Constantine Mbonabingi, the Executive secretary UJCC

He said that as religious leaders, they are tasked with reconciling the communities in conflicts. And most of conflicts are brought about by the scramble for the few Water and Environment resources.

“We have set up reconciliation offices in areas such as Kasese where two groups were fighting over water resources for cattle and irrigation.” The Reverend Canon Captain William Ogeng, the Provincial Secretary Church of Uganda Stated that Water is a gift to mankind the

reason it was what God made before any other creations. Adding that human beings are tasked by God to be custodians over Water and Environment.

“We are responsible for protecting the Water and Environment resources so that we can pass it on to the next generation. This is why we encourage the Environment and Water protection component in all the 37 Church of Uganda dioceses.”

He added that, “Before you bring your child for baptism, you come along with a tree to be planted in the Church compound. The same way with those Christians being confirmed with good deeds.”

Mr. Alfred Okidi, Permanent Secretary Minister of Water and Environment

He noted that the Ministry has positioned the Water and Environment resources in line with most of the existing laws and policies.

“For example, the Parish Development model has its pillars suiting very well. We have the Lake Victoria Basin Initiative and Nile Basin Initiative where resources are collectively managed to optimize them for the future generation.”

Ms. Rhoda Tumusiime, Former Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture at African Union Commission

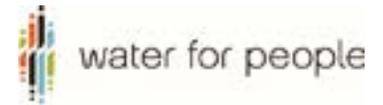
She highlighted the need to put to action the existing laws and regulations in enforcing collective effort in Environment and Water

protection.

“We realize that we have to live for the future. We have the laws and regulations, lets adhere to the rules of the game. People must appreciate because this is where we get food and water for irrigation. Let’s ensure to guard what we have.”



Owek. Nkalubo Mayanja



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