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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT
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20th November, 2026

OFFICIAL CLARIFICATION ON RWEBIMUNYU VALLEY TANK KASHONGI, KIRUHURA DISTRICT

The Ministry of Water and Environment wishes to respond to the observations, statements and public concerns raised during the visit to Rwebimunyu Valley Tank in Kashongi Sub-county, Kiruhura District by the Minister of Local Government; Hon. Barugahara Balaam Ateenyi, and other Local Leaders.

Following the event, the Ministry, through the Department of Multipurpose and Bulk Water Development, Regional Centre-West, conducted a field verification to establish the facility's history, its current status and probable interventions.

Upon site inspection, the Ministry Technical Team observed that the facility is a Valley tank (ekidiba) and not a dam (ebbibiro/ekiziba).

According to the LC1 Secretary for Defence, Mr. Nathan Kabogoza, and other community members consulted during the exercise, the Valley Tank was constructed in the 1970s, more than 50 years ago. This was well before the Ministry of Water and Environment was established in 2007. The facility was therefore not a Ministry project, and the Ministry bears no responsibility for it. The Ministry further states and clarifies that no funds have ever been planned and allocated for the development or rehabilitation of Rwebimunyu Valley Tank, in Kashongi Sub-county, Kiruhura District.

In addition, the Ministry has also not hitherto been requested to support restoration of the above Valley Tank either by the District Local Government, or otherwise.

Community members indicated that the tank remained in use until 1999, when farmers gradually shifted to private Valley Tanks, partly as a measure to manage livestock diseases. Since then, the facility has remained largely unused, and its management structures are reportedly no longer functional.

The land on which the facility sits is now privately owned.

Way forward

During the community engagement, residents appealed for the rehabilitation and possible repurposing of the facility to support agricultural production. However, securing unrestricted access to the Valley Tank from the private land owner is the first step that the community leaders shall address.

This appeal aligns with the Department's core mandate of expanding bulk water provision for multipurpose use. The Ministry will therefore assess the feasibility of potential interventions, working with communities and relevant stakeholders to identify sustainable opportunities that strengthen water for production, climate resilience and livelihoods across Western Uganda.

The Ministry welcomes accountability efforts and public interest in the performance of water infrastructure and remains committed to engaging communities and addressing concerns on the basis of accurate, verified information.

MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

Uganda Vision 2040