



Eng. Joseph Eriono Eyatu Commissioner RWSD (L) with Ms. Florence Grace Adong, Director Directorate of Water Resources Management (R)

Mobile lab addresses water challenges in Albert Water Management Zone

With all its endowment from natural resources, Uganda has continued to grapple with contamination of its water resources from a number of different substances.

This does not only concern stakeholders but it calls for an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) with an aim to de-concentrate water resources management at the Water Management Zone and catchment levels.

Water resources support key sectors of the economy namely hydropower generation, agriculture, fisheries, domestic water supply, industry, and navigation.

However, efficiency and sustainability of intervention under these sectors has recently been a concern in Uganda mainly due to inadequate sectoral collaboration in planning and implementation leading to increasing frequency of floods, droughts, environmental degradation and pollution of water resources.

Thanks to the Ministry of Water and Environment for coming up with Catchment Based Water Resources Management (CBWRM) through formulation of different management zones.

Albert Water Management Zone being one of them, was first launched in 2007 and has been evolving.



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With its home situated in Fort Portal, the Zone has now managed to come up with an administration block and a regional laboratory block.

“We have also managed to procure a regional mobile laboratory Van which can reach any area of concern and we do water quality sampling and analysis to address water quality issues.

Because the region was identified with water quality issues being paramount, with the mobile Laboratory van, we can reach any area, do the sampling, respond and advise immediately the communities, local governments and the private sector on anything concerning water quality issues, “explains Mr. Jackson Kitamirike, the Team Leader Albert Water Management Zone.

He says the Mobile Laboratory Van is also helping in doing monitoring of pollution to enhance timely solutions to the authorities where it is being required.

“In this, we have grown to the relevance of the situation in this climate change era, where we are experiencing many challenges, among them population growth, which is escalating day by day, rising water related diseases, dwindling water resources and the high demand for industrialization.

All these require high level modern tools which can respond in time to address the problems,” adds Mr. Kitamirike.

Facts about the Zone

Albert Water Management Zone is composed of 44 districts in Western Uganda.

It is a Zone which is highly endowed with a lot of natural resources and very big hub for tourism which is the biggest income earner for the side and also the second income earner for the country at large.

It is also, harboring the treasure the country is looking for which is oil production, expected to materialize in the coming two years.

According to Mr. Kitamirike, water resources are usually the recorder of all the activities that go on within the catchment.

“Everything that is done good or bad is recorded in water, so if it is not well managed, water resources are highly compromised and we may lose them.

In the Albert Water Management Zone, we are managing water resources basing on the catchments and in this way, we are doing the planning of these catchments through the Catchment Management Plans.

Right now, we have developed four management plans for River Mpanga, River Semuriki, River Kiha and River Ruhezanyenda.

We have started planning for other six catchments to make a total of ten catchments planned. Through that way, am confidently sure that the whole zone will be planned awaiting implementation,” he says.

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