

# Uganda Water and Environment Week



Ministry of Water and Environment

## The Water Front

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### THEME:

Water and Environment a strategic driver in attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030.

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### KEY THEMES OF UWEWK 2019

- Water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus
- Water, environment and Society
- Green growth
- Blue economy and SDGs
- Financing Sustainable Development

President Yoweri Museveni will open the Uganda Water and Environment Week. Government is mandated to ensure sustainable water and environment resources

## Uganda Water and Environment Week is back, bigger, better

THE second edition of the Uganda Water and Environment Week has started, with the theme: Water and Environment a strategic driver in attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030. The goal of UWEWK 2019 is to improve understanding of the centrality of water and environment resources in attainment of SDGs by 2030.

Starting on Monday 18th March, the event is expected to attract nearly 1000 participants, representing a wide range of water and environment stakeholders, including policy makers, technical specialists, academicians, public and private sector institutions, Civil Society Organizations

(CSOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other members of the public.

A wide range of activities have been planned for the week including high level panel discussions, keynote addresses, paper presentations, side events, practical training, exhibitions, excursions and community activities.

The panel discussions will comprise a mix of prominent leaders and personalities including: Right Hon Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda; Ow'ekitibwa Charles Peter Mayiga, Katikiro of Buganda Kingdom. Others are Bishop George Bagamuhunda of Kigezi

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# UWEWK 2019, bigger and better

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Diocese and Mr Patrick Bitature Chairman, Private Sector Foundation among others.

Reflecting on the exponential growth of the event only in its second year, Dr Callist Tindimugaya attributed all the success to the unrelenting support of partners. “Last year we had 350 participants, but this year we are expecting about 1000 participants. This shows that Ugandans have already picked interest in the event. For the first time we have sponsors reaching out and asking if they can join us but last year we were the ones looking for them,” Tindimugaya said.

He said the organizing committee had held preparatory meetings since October 2018 and had attracted over 35 partners. He also said that the organizing committee had received over 140 abstracts from interested participants, and these had all contributed to the rich content to be delivered during the 2019 UWEWK. “We listened to a wide range of stakeholders who exchanged views and ideas on how to develop the event. We listened to researchers, academics, government partners, CSOs.”

During the 2018 UWEWK, the Ministry of Water and Environment launched the Water Resources Institute (WRI), which has since conducted over 18 training sessions, benefitting over 700 people and covering a wide range of topics on water and environment – like sector financing, water source protection, ground water development, borehole drilling, water in emergency situations, IWRM, climate change. The main beneficiaries of the training have so far been private sector actors, MWE staff in decentralised structures, NGOs, government agencies like National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC). “Starting this year we want to open up and offer training beyond our immediate sector partners. The institute is now going to expand its reach beyond the sector



actors, to more people who would like to undertake training in all areas around water and environment,” Tindimugaya said.

### UWEWK2019 key themes

- **Water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus:**

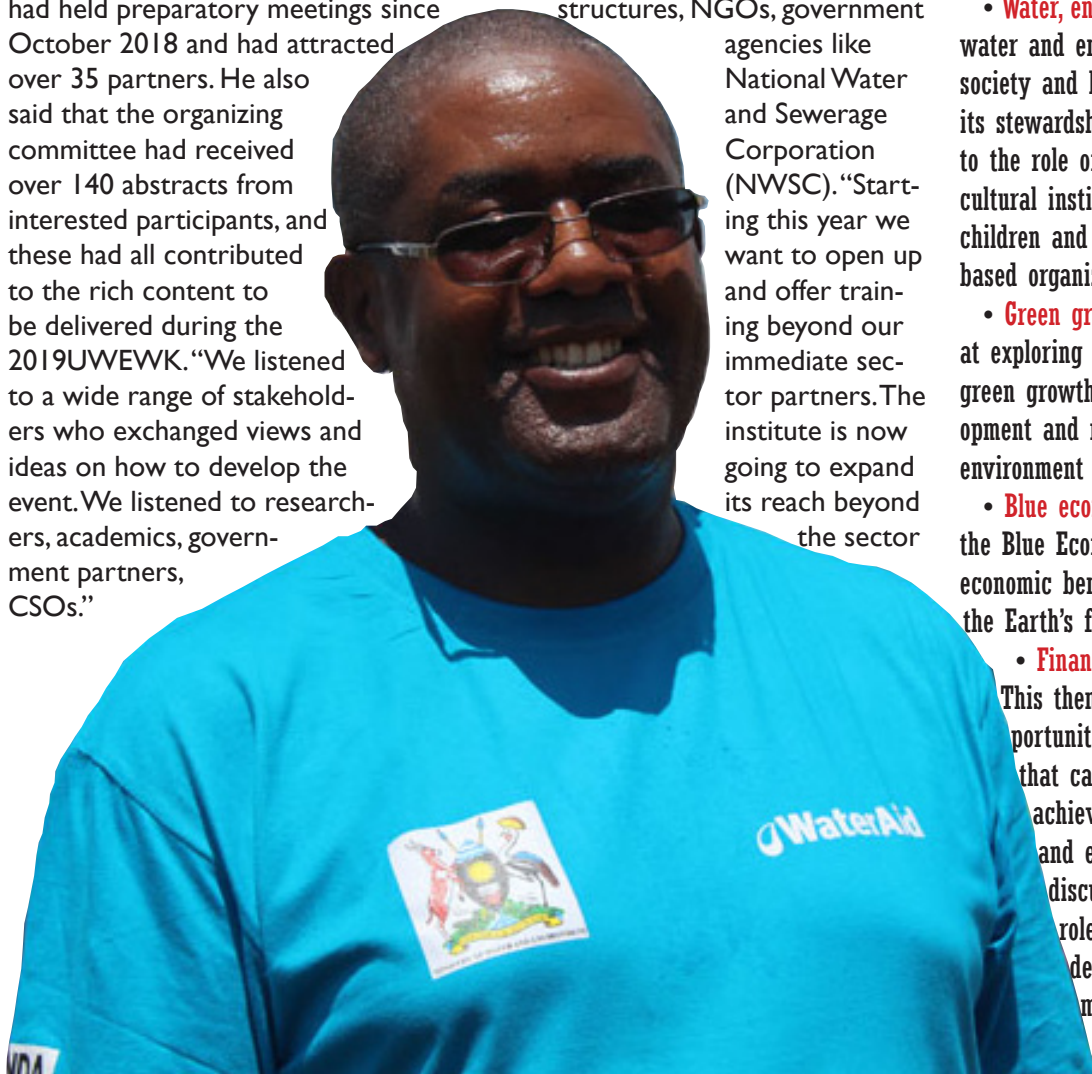
This will focus on the inseparable link between water, energy, food and ecosystems which underpins sustainable economies and human well-being.

- **Water, environment and Society:** How water and environment contribute to society and how society can enhance its stewardship role. Focus will be given to the role of faith-based organisations, cultural institutions, the private sector, children and youth, as well as community-based organizations.

- **Green growth:** The theme will aim at exploring opportunities for achieving green growth through sustainable development and management of water and environment resources.

- **Blue economy and SDGs:** Introducing the Blue Economy concept, which refers to economic benefits and value realised from the Earth's freshwater environment.

- **Financing Sustainable Development:** This theme will focus on funding opportunities and investment initiatives that can support national efforts to achieve the SDGs related to water and environment. It will also discuss the current and potential roles of the private sector in delivery of water and environment services.



Dr Callist Tindimugaya, Commissioner, Water Resources Planning and Regulation





Mayor De Paul Kayanja addresses the public at Kiwafu Primary School, Kitooro

# Entebbe Mayor decries high water prices, environmental degradation

PRESIDENT Yoweri Museveni is today expected to officially commission the Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) organized by the Ministry of Water and Environment, Dr Callist Tindimugaya, Commissioner, Water Resources Planning and Regulation has explained.

The 2019 UWEWK is celebrated under the theme: Water and Environment strategic driver in attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030. It will be open to the public, sector line ministries, political leaders at different levels, donors, academia, civil society organizations, the media public and private sectors.

Addressing the media during the launch of the week on Saturday at Kiwafu, Entebbe Kitooro, Tindimugaya told the residents that they need to maintain surface and ground resources, if Uganda is to attain SDGs 6.

He assured the community that the government, through National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), is trying hard to bring affordable safe water closer to the people and revealed that plans are under way to increase the number of public stand pipes at different locations in the community.

The Mayor of Entebbe De Paul Kayanja, called for the protection of water resources. "The first thing we need to do is protect the wetlands and swamps and plant more trees. We need to mitigate the dumping of plastic waste especially the plastic bottles and polythene bags commonly known as kavera which is affecting our environment," Kayanja said.

He encouraged the communities to safely manage household wastewater by installing soak pits at their premises. Kayanja told them to separate bio-degradable

garbage from non-degradable garbage like plastics, and broken glasses. Bio-degradable garbage can be used for manure. He said that there is an ongoing campaign in Entebbe in which all residents are urged required to have a bathroom, toilets and dish stands.

He decried the practice of selling water at exorbitant prices yet the sellers get the water cheaply from NWSC. "Most residents in Entebbe have piped water but those who do not have purchase a jerry can at sh500 from water stands," he said.

The Country Director Water Uganda, Jane Sembuche Mselle, hailed community involvement in the UWEWK activities and said that was crucial to the attainment of SDG targets. "11 years from now we shall have a proper environment if the communities especially the young children and other stakeholder get involved" She said.

Jessy Birungi a Kitooro resident, said that the lake should be protected and people who wash cars, bath in the lake should be stopped. "Our municipality needs to come up with a bye law on this. The law on plastic bags commonly known as kavera should also be implemented," Birungi urged.

Sebwana Charles Kisiriza Chief Busiro county, Buganda Kingdom started this campaign known as Bulungi Bwansi in order to protect our environment, all we need to do as communities is to avoid constructing in the wetlands.

Eron Vello Bubyee, chief of Mutuba Etaano, Busiro Sub county, said, "This is a good move especially for us in Buganda Kingdom, we are moving at the same pace with government, we need more sensitization on protecting the environment."



# Entebbe town cleaned up as 2019 Water and Environment week starts



**CAPTION:**  
These are various moments from the clean-up exercise in Entebbe Kitooro, 16 March. The event attracted staff from DWRM as well as community members. (Photos by Lydia Mirembe and Juliet Waiswa)









# UWEWK2019 scenes from Moroto, Lira, Mbale and Fort-Portal events



**SUMMARY:** From 11th - 15th March, MWE regional offices undertook several activities including: cleaning the main market in Lira district; tree planting at Kyebambe Primary School in Fort Portal Municipality; 2000 seedlings offered to pupils at Kahungabunyonyi primary school for tree planting; and a cleaning exercise in Mbale District at Nkoma area around IUIU with the Town Clerk Mbale as the Chief cleaner. (Photos submitted by Ismail Muyinda)



# Clean-up exercise excites Entebbe Kitooro leaders and residents

POLITICAL and cultural leaders in Entebbe Kitooro have welcomed Ministry of Water and Environment initiative to clean up communities and sensitise people about water, sanitation and the environment.

This was on Saturday 16th March, during a community clean up exercise in Kitooro, which marked the start of the 2019 Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK).

Among the leaders participating in the clean-up were Sebwana Charles Kisiriza, the chief of Busiro County in the Buganda kingdom; Eron Bubyee chief of Mituba Etaano (Division B in Entebbe Municipality); and Dee Paul Kayanja, mayor of Entebbe Municipality.

Sebwana Kisiriza urged people to undertake their own cleaning without waiting for the central government. “You can’t always wait for government to come and collect rubbish. When you get diseases from living in a dirty environment, government will not come to suffer along with you. Please clean your environment,” he urged.

Reflecting the same message, Eron Bubyee urged women to dump garbage responsibly and avoid littering the streets. She observed that the biggest challenge are the blocked drainages. “People dump garbage in the drainage channels. This causes flooding and contamination of water sources and we end up with diseases,” Bubyee said.

Mayor of Entebbe emphasized that poor household sanitation increases the level of poverty in the area. He noted that many people lack facilities like bathrooms, latrines, dish racks. They dispose rubbish and faeces in drainages and they eat from dirty dishes which leaves them sick and poorer.

“If your sanitation is lacking, your family will get diseases; you will spend a lot of time and money visiting clinics and health centres, which will entrench poverty in your home,” Mayor Kayanja said.

Community members joined in the exercise and cleaned with enthusiasm. In the Kitooro market, elderly Miriam Nalwegayo joined in, as she praised the ministry for having such a good community relations programme. “We really want to work in a clean place, but the space is too small you can’t clean well,” she said.



Her neighbor Zalwabo Mariam, said that garbage collection comes at a cost and some market vendors don't want to eat into their profit just for garbage collection. “Is there a way that council can make it cheaper and easier for us to manage waste?” she asked.

Both community leaders and residents decried the rampant destruction of swamps and wetlands, irresponsible dumping of polythene bags and plastics. A resident Jussy Birungi lamented that government had failed to enforce the ban on kaveera and this has caused to environmental degradation. “Government should enforce the laws regarding environmental protection. Washing bays are contaminating the swamps and wetlands; people are constructing huge houses in wetlands; rubbish is everywhere...but there are no laws to punish the offenders,” Birungi said.

**TOP RIGHT: Sebwana Charles Kisiriza carries garbage from Kitooro market**

**MIDDLE: Civil Aviation Police members attended the event**

**BOTTOM: Dr Tindimugaya addresses the public**



# Kicwamba sub-county residents and leaders commit to monthly clean-up exercises

POLITICAL and technical leaders in Kicwamba sub-county, Kabarole District have resolved to conduct monthly clean-up exercises as a way of promoting sanitation and improving public health among citizens. This was after a series of activities implemented to mark the 2019 Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) at regional level.

The regional activities in Kabarole district were organized by the Albert Water Management Zone (AWMZ) in conjunction with the District WASH Task Team which is led by the Secretary, Works and Technical Committee.

In addition to monthly clean-up, leaders resolved to engage the sub county chief, the Community Development Officers and the Health Assistant, urging them to put more effort in promoting household sanitation and hygiene in the area. They also resolved to produce a list of homes without latrines, summon them to the sub county, and compel them to offer written commitments to install sanitation facilities in their homes. Those who fail to live up to their commitment should have their premises locked up.

The sanitation promotion activities leading up to these resolutions were particularly undertaken in Karago and Kihondo Town Councils, where sanitation conditions were described as appalling. It was found that the market tenderer in Karago TC was not providing sanitation facilities. It was resolved that the LC3 authorities compel the tenderer to construct sanitation facilities as soon as possible.

During the home improvement campaigns in Karago, 88 households were visited, out of which 45 had no latrines. The LCIII chairman of



Cleaning up Karago Town Council in Kicwamba, 12 March (Photos by Doreen Mukyala)

Kicwamba led the operation to demolish latrines that were in very poor and dangerous condition.

In Kihondo Town Council, the UWEWK campaign attracted many community members who participated in the desilting and removal of plastic bags and bottles from River Mpanga. They also unclogged trenches, swept streets and collected rubbish for proper disposal. In addition to cleaning up, there were public sensitization messages calling upon residents to stop polluting River Mpanga with faeces and solid waste. Citizens were urged to construct improved latrines in their households. Two model homes received a reward of UGX75000 each, to motivate the community to prioritize good sanitation and hygiene.

Away from Karago and Kihondo, the UWEWK regional campaign was also taken to schools where pupils were sensitized about sanitation and hygiene, as well as management of

environmental resources and tree-planting. Particularly in Kyebambe and Kahungabunyonyi Primary Schools, children were offered seedlings to take home and plant with their parents. NRDl offered 5000 seedlings and demonstrated to the pupils how to plant and take care of the trees.

The activities attracted a wide range of stakeholders including staff from the Lake Edward and Albert Fisheries Project (LEAFII), Technical Support Unit Six (TSU6), Mid-Western Umbrella Organisation. Civil Society Organisations included Joint Effort to Save the Environment (JESE), Health through Water and Sanitation (HEWASA), NRDl, Protos and IRC – International Water and Sanitation Centre. They were joined by Local Council leaders at all levels in Kicwamba sub county, local leaders from Karago Town Council and community members.