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NEWSLETTER

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UMUSHYIKIRANO 2023: RUBAVU RESIDENT 'MUNGAMURINDE' COMMENDS HIS EXCELLENCY KAGAME FOR SEBEYA PROJECT IMPACTS



During Umushyikirano 2023, Mungamurinde Jeanne d'Arc has commended His Excellency for Sebeya Project impacts | Image: RTV

28th February 2023: Mungamurinde Jeanne d'Arc, a resident of Rubavu District in the Western Province of Rwanda has expressed special gratitude to the President of Rwanda Paul Kagame for the positive impacts brought by the Sebeya Landscape Restoration Pilot Project (SLLPP) – Embedding Integrated Water Resources Management Programme (EWRM).

The project is implemented by the Government of Rwanda through the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) in partnership with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV), and Rwanda Rural Rehabilitation Initiative (RWARRI) through community approach across Rubavu, Rutsiro, Nyabihu and Ngororero Districts in Western Province. It was funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Currently, various activities are in place to combat floods as well as soil erosion. They include flood mitigation structures such as

retaining walls, diversion channels, dykes, terraces, agroforestry, afforestation and supporting measures such as cows, small livestock, rainwater harvesting, cooking stoves to households and schools, kitchen gardens, and Community Environment Conservation Fund (CECF) through Village Saving and Loan Associations.

In her tribute to President Kagame, Mungamurinde who spoke at Umushyikirano 2023 today from Rubavu District said “I am a resident of Nyundo sector, one of the sectors that have been facing the flooding problems caused by the Sebeya river.”

“During the rainy season, Sebeya would flood, destroy people’s houses, wash away their crops, kill domestic animals, and kill people. The Overflowing of the river also damaged infrastructure, business houses, schools, clinics, the Nyundo Genocide Memorial, among others,”

Ms. Mungamurinde reminded “When you

visited our Rubavu District, Your Excellency President of the Republic, and saw the seriousness of the problem, you promised us a lasting solution.”

“Through the Sebeya Project, water channels have been constructed, radical terraces have been built, trees have been planted along the banks of the Sebeya River to preserve the soil

and the river, and walls have been raised to prevent water from overflowing into the community’s crops.”

“We, the residents of the Sebeya Catchment and all others affected by the river flooding, are safe, we are happy, we thank you and we promise to continue to maintain all the activities and works that have been done to avoid the danger from the river Sebeya,” she concluded.

[Umushyikirano 2023 Live](#)

800+ WATER USE PERMITS ISSUED TO WATER USERS



Prior to issuing every water user's permit, RWB conducts an assessment and later inspects its use by visiting the user's activities | Image: Remy Niyingize

25th February 2022: 807 water use permits have been issued by the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) to various water users across the country.

According to the 2018 Water Use Law, in its Article 36, any person who uses water or carries out a water-related activity without a water use permit as required, commits an offense.

All water users apply for their permits through the [Water Permit System](#), and prior to issuing every user's permit, RWB conducts an assessment and later inspects its use by visiting the user's activities.

Vital Munyandinda, the Water Use Permits Division Manager at Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), says that businesses that do not have water use permits risk losing their water share, abstraction sites as well as their concession areas.

“Water use permits are critical as businesses without them are not recognized for water allocation and planning and also risk losing their water share,” he states.

Additionally, he explains that the water resources are under increasing pressure, emphasizing the need for using them efficiently

and effectively so as to ensure sustainable use for future generations.

“There are approximately 2,200 big water users, and more than 1,500 businesses are using water without permits. Hence, they face penalties as well as imprisonment,”

“Upon conviction, the suspect is liable to imprisonment for a term of not less than two

months and not more than three months and a fine of Rwf500,000 or only one of the penalties.”

Munyandinda reminds all water users that using water resources without permits triggers difficulties in managing water resources, and ineffective and inefficient water resources management, which could have an impact on effect the country’s socio-economic development.



RWB during its assessment for water users who applied for their water use permits in Huye District, Southern Province | Image: Remy Niyingize

WATER USERS REACT

Adolphe Niragira, a farm manager at Garden Fresh Ltd in Nyagatare District, requested a water extraction permit to irrigate crops with sprinklers that extract water from the District’s marshland.

He explains that having a water permit is critical so that the user does not run into any problems.

“During the dry season, we face drought challenges and when you do not possess the water permit, you encounter losses. Again, the lack of a water permit leads to illegal operations

as well as conflicts among water users engaged in various activities such as agriculture and fishing, among others,” he explains.

Christopher Rudaseswa, an agriculture and fishing technician in Rwamagana District, stated that water users with water permits understand the importance of environmental protection.

“Water users with water permits are free to operate. They are likely to receive assistance from industry experts. They are also taught how to use water resources while protecting the environment.” [Read a full story](#)

RWB PROBES WATER POLLUTION IN URBAN CITIES



RWB's technical team carrying out probation of water pollution sources in Karongi District | Image: Anastase Niyigaba

22nd February 2022: The Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) has kicked off a fifteen-day probation of water pollution in urban cities in order to identify water bodies that are prone to pollution from domestic and industrial discharges, as well as other polluting sources.

This fieldwork to run from 6th February to 2nd March 2023 entails in-situ measurements of water quality parameters, and its main objective is to have an empirical assessment of the water quality pollution status.

The selected urban cities' sites in the country districts are Gasabo, Nyarugenge and Kicukiro in Kigali City, Muhanga and Huye in Southern Province, Musanze in Northern Province, Rubavu, Karongi and Rusizi in Western Province and Nyagatare in Eastern Province.

“RWB conducts regular Water Quality Monitoring (WQM) campaigns, through the Water Monitoring and Quality Control Division, in accordance with its responsibility of establishing water resource quality and quantity preservation

strategies,”

“RWB’s technical team carries out water pollution investigations in water sampling sites and has extended analysis with potential heavy metal and bacteriological analysis,” notes Remy Norbert Duhuze, the Division Manager.

As a result, RWB anticipates obtaining data on water quality and pollution status for selected sites for the Rwanda Water Portal.

The Rwanda Water Resource Portal is a web platform that stores and makes accessible information about water resources such as water quality, surface water, groundwater, and water laws and policies.

This platform was established so that the water resources of country are protected, conserved, managed and developed in an integrated and sustainable manner to facilitating public to access to information related to water use in Rwanda. [Read a full story](#)

RWB RESUMES GROUNDWATER MAPPING EXERCISE



RWB's technical team carrying out probation of water pollution sources in Karongi District | Image: Anastase Niyigaba

9th February 2022: The Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) has resumed the groundwater mapping exercise in Gisagara District in Southern Province, Bugesera, and Kirehe Districts in Eastern Province on 7th February 2023.

RWB launched groundwater mapping fieldwork on 5th October 2022, involving different water sector partners.

This UNICEF Rwanda-funded initiative tends to identify borehole drilling locations and is a move toward addressing water scarcity in all eight districts identified as having water scarcity, namely Kayonza, Bugesera, Ngoma in Eastern Province and Kamonyi, Ruhango, Gisagara, Nyanza in Southern Province.

It is part of the study titled 'Consultancy to Provide Technical Services for Groundwater Mapping in Rwanda' that will generate a new regional map of groundwater potential to guide the future borehole siting planning and effective development of groundwater-based water supply

projects.

"We identified more than 200 sites with enough groundwater that can help in the establishment of boreholes in the Eastern and Southern provinces, which are more vulnerable to prolonged periods of abnormally low rainfall, resulting in a shortage of water," said Bernard Musana, RWB's Head of the Knowledge and Forecasting Hub Department.

Musana clarified that eight borehole sites with the capacity to supply 1,000 cubic meters per day were found, and it is a potential source of water that can be used for small-scale irrigation on 100 hectares and domestic use, while contributing to Rwanda's ambition of irrigating 102,284 hectares by 2024.

RWB also keeps discussions with various partners to introduce technologies that increase groundwater drilling skills. [Read a full story](#)

WATER PARTNERS GATHER FOR WORKSHOP ON GROUNDWATER SPOT DRILLING

The training participants holding discussions about groundwater spot drilling at the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) headquarters | Image: Remy Niyingize

8th February 2022: Water partners yesterday gathered for a workshop on groundwater spot drilling, which was organized thanks to robust partnership between the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) and UNICEF Rwanda.

The workshop was held at the RWB headquarters from 6th to 7th February 2023, and was in line with the study, which is titled 'Consultancy to Provide Technical Services for Groundwater Mapping in Rwanda funded by UNICEF Rwanda.'

Its goal is to generate a new regional groundwater map that will help guide future borehole siting planning and groundwater-based water supply projects.

Furthermore, this event followed a recent groundwater mapping exercise undertaken in Kirehe and Bugesera Districts in Western Province, as well as Kamonyi and Ruhango Districts in Southern Province. [Read a full story](#)

RWANDA'S TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON DAMS HOLDS ITS FIRST MEETING



Technical Committee during its visit to the Nyabarongo II Multipurpose Dam construction site, which is located between Kamonyi District | Image: Remy Niyingize

2nd February 2023: Members of Rwanda's Technical Committee on Dams have convened for the first time to discuss the country's dam management and future plans.

This committee, which provides advice on the construction and use of dams, was established by Article 30, of Law N° 49/2018 of 13/08/2018 determining the use and management of water resources in Rwanda.

Its first meeting was held on February 2, 2023, at the headquarters of the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), and was chaired by RWB Director General Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo.

"I would like to open this session by firstly reflecting on the Dam Technical Committee in Rwanda on the remarkable progress that the Government of Rwanda has made towards water resources development

and management," remarked Dr. Rukundo.

He noted that this critical meeting's findings will help inform national-level decisions, as well as deliberations among dams' owners, developers,



Members of the Technical Committee during their first meeting | Image: Remy Niyingize

and managers about dam safety.

On the other hand, the Technical Committee's meeting was followed by a visit to the Nyabarongo II Multipurpose Dam construction site, which is located between Kamonyi District

in Southern Province and Gakenke District in Northern Province, in accordance with its responsibilities to examine all dam construction projects.

Rwanda currently has almost forty-eight dams, which are regarded as water storage initiatives that contribute to the country's irrigation, water supply, flood management, hydropower generation, and livestock watering, among others. [Read a full story](#)

Thank you to all our partners

