

WATER SCARCITY BITES AS JUBA TAPS RUN DRY

Poverty Alfred Taban

Acute water shortage within Juba town has left residents pondering their next move despite the general impression by the Urban Water Corporation that the commodity is in plenty.



Bicycle instead of water tanks

But reality about the hard hitting water scarcity situation that residents have to contend with is clearly explained by the low water supply coupled by frequent delays, sometimes 4 days in a week.

Some residents say that they continue paying as much as the 1000 Sudanese pounds on a monthly basis regardless of water supply situation.

Mr. Mading Cienggan, a senior engineer for urban water cooperation blames the low supply of water in Juba on low power to supply to the city, use of old water filters and the increase of supply areas which were not included in the beginning.

Mr. Mading said "We are looking forward to improve and replace the old pipes and filters with new ones that will be done early January next year by JICA (Japanese International Cooperation Agency) which have already started survey in the whole of Juba".

According to Mading those who cannot afford to pay are considered and they get water but the issue is on the limited filters that need maintenance and also if the power goes off we use generator which is expensive to sustain in terms of fuel cost.

"The reason of restricting the citizens from getting water from the Nile directly is to reduce the risks of getting typhoid which had been on increase last year as an effect of this unclean water". Mading says.

Currently the water corporation uses pipes and the filters some of which trace their manufacturing dates to 1945 and so remain unworthy and very weak to supply adequate volumes of

the commodity to the clients.

Mading however appeals to residents to understand the state of affairs at the corporation insisting that plans were underway to sort ensure the situation resumed normalcy.

Christina Kaku is a resident Konyakonyo a local market cannot afford to foot the bills of clean water supplied by the urban water corporation.

Kaku who hosts an old woman and five young children in her makeshift shack located besides the grave yard concedes that she too like any other ordinary resident, cannot afford to buy clean drinking water.

To Kaku just like majority of poor people living in her neighbourhood, poverty continues craving its ugly neck to define who owns what and who drinks clean water.

The compounding situation has compelled her to literally source for her domestic water supply from the untreated River Nile just to save her extra coin for something other than water.

The government should at least drill more bore holes to allow us the poor to access the clean water to reduce the risk of being involved in diseases like diarrhea which expose us the poor to risks of contacting the other diseases". Kaku says

Mr. George Gadi is the secretary of Kator payam water tape and just like majority of Juba town residents, wonders the next move out of the water scarcity situation.

"Without water how can we survive since water is life? They should supply, supervise the water flow and

consider our complains of paying and getting insufficient water. "George says. Most of us depend on water business to sustain their families", if there is no supply and we pay money every month, what shall we get or benefit.

He insists that the commodity can only be made affordable to everyone if cost implications and the people's living standards are put into considerations.

"We pay 1000 Sudanese pounds each month but we only recover 700 Sudanese pounds which remains unaffordable to most families who have to survive on such kind of businesses.

Mr. Mahamed Mogga resident of Malakia said that there is no equal supply of water in Juba because some of the areas get full and constant water supply.

He says that the selective system of water distribution used by the

corporation had drawn a major poverty line between the rich and the poor and called for fairness if any tangible development was to be realized for the common good of all.

"The government restricts us from getting water directly from the Nile and if they still cannot supply, where are we going to get the water from since some of us cannot afford to pay the price given?". Mogga says.

Mr. Rimam Morero a resident of Kator said that, he had been selling water in Juba for the last four months but faced major threats of attacks by marauding youth who targeted water vendors by grabbing away their hard gotten money.

Ramadan advises the youth to play a leading role community development by engaging in economically constructive and especially money generating activities. ■



Water tanks queue for water