

BIOFUEL IS ONE OF NATIONAL WATER'S FOUR-YEAR CORPORATE PLAN

# Water body to make briquettes from sludge

By Betty Amamukirori

The sewer sludge, which is killing aquatic life on the shores of Lake Victoria at Luzira, will be no more if the proposed plan to support briquettes companies to use it to produce the alternative fuel is implemented.

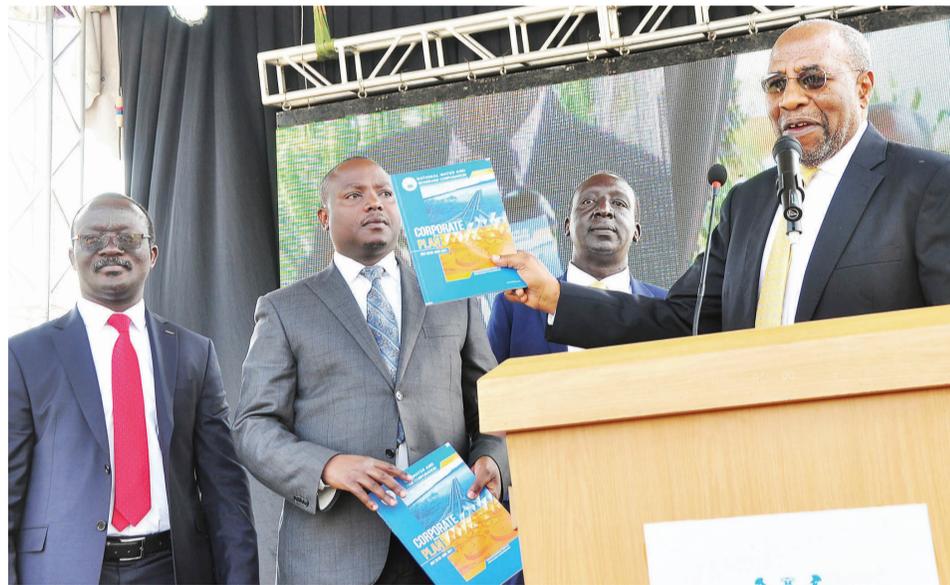
Speaking on Friday at the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) International Resource Centre in Bugolobi, Kampala, Eng. Silver Mugisha, NWSC's managing director, said the production of biofuel using the sludge is one of their key priority areas in the four-year corporate plan.

"We are going to support companies which have taken interest to use sludge to generate briquettes that can be used as an alternative form of fuel," Mugisha said.

Sewer sludge, which has built up along the lake shores, has not only affected the aquatic life, but also posed a danger to Ugandans who use the water for domestic purposes and those who swim in it.

Last year, when the commission of inquiry into land matters visited Luzira, where the Nakivubo Channel empties city waste into the lake, the water had turned green, with a stench emanating from it.

Mugisha said once the sludge is put to use, not only will it generate income, but, there will also be a great improvement in sanitation around the city.



Rugunda (right) launching the National Water and Sewerage Corporation plan on Friday in Bugolobi, as board chairperson Eng. Dr. Christopher Ebal (second-right), state minister for water and environment Ronald Kibuule and Mugisha look on. Photo by Juliet Kasirye

In the new plan, NWSC will also start an in-country assembly of meters to cut on the costs of importation. Mugisha said the company imports about 700 water metres at sh5b per annum.

"We shall make our own prepaid meters and expand our geographical coverage to more than 400 towns," he said.

Launching the new plan, the Prime Minister, Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, described the plan as progressive and that once implemented, NWSC will be able to expand and provide the needed services to Ugandans.

Rugunda also inaugurated the NWSC head office building in Nakasero, next to State House and visited the

## ALTERNATIVE fuel source

Eng. Silver Mugisha, the National Water and Sewerage Corporation managing director, said: "We are going to support companies which have taken interest to use sludge to generate briquettes that can be used as an alternative form of fuel."

Nakivubo sewerage treatment plant, which is almost complete.

The plant, which costs euros 100m (about sh437.5b) will be launched in September this year. Eng. Alex Gisagara, the director of engineering services at NWSC, said the plant was 80% complete.

Gisagara said the modern plant would offer a full treatment process for city waste on Nakivubo Channel and towns around the city. The plant will treat 45,000m<sup>3</sup> per day and will generate 630KW of electricity, which will be used for lighting.

Government funded 50% of the construction and the remaining portion was funded by the African Development Bank, the European Union and Germany, through KfW Bank.

## Best performing child and maternal care units to get aid

By Vivian Agaba

The Government, through the Ministry of Health, has come up with a new initiative, where it will give financial incentives to health facilities which provide both quantity and quality maternal and child care services.

The model, dubbed 'Results-based financing', seeks to, among other things, improve reproductive health and strengthen the health systems for better health outcomes, improve productivity and quality services, promote accountability, transparency and value for money.

The initiative was revealed by a senior medical officer at the health ministry, during a dialogue on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) workshop, which took place at the Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala, on Thursday.

The state minister of health in charge of general duties, Sarah Opendi, confirmed the development, saying the financial incentives would be given to health facilities which provided the best maternal and child care services, such as those that attract and attend to more expectant women for antenatal care, following the mothers up to ensure they never miss all the eight recommended visits, providing quality delivery services by ensuring mothers deliver from a safe and clean environment, as well as attracting parents to bring their children below the age of five years for immunisation, among

others. She said the financing would be effected with a grant from the Global Financing Facility.

"We have had challenges of absenteeism and negligence at some health facilities, where an expectant mother comes for delivery, but does not find any health workers to attend to her, which, in some incidences, has resulted to death," Opendi said.

"We hope that through this initiative, health workers will be motivated to perform better in reducing maternal and child health challenges," the minister added.

According to recent statistics, Uganda has made progress in reducing maternal and child mortality rates. However, more efforts are needed to reduce the numbers even further.

According to the Uganda Demographics Health Survey (UDHS) report 2016, maternal mortality reduced from 438 deaths per 100,000 live births registered in the 2011 report to the current 336 deaths per 100,000 live births, while infant mortality rate declined from 54 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2011, to 43 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2016.

The meeting was organised by World Vision in partnership with the health ministry. Sources in the health ministry said the implementation of the project will start before the year ends and will be carried out in 20 districts, targeting hospitals, health centre IV and III.

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## IN LOVING MEMORY

**Paul B. Gutambaki**  
31 July 1969 – 24 July 2017

It has been one year since you left us to be with the Lord, we thank God for all the lovely memories. In all situation we give thanks to the Lord and seek his guidance.

Till we meet again, Rest in the arms of Jesus.

We will have a memorial Mass at Home in Mbarara Nyamitanga on Saturday the 28th July 2018, starting at Mid-day.



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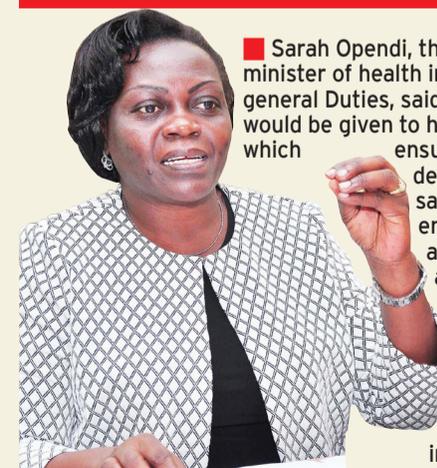
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## QUALITY SERVICES



Sarah Opendi, the state minister of health in charge of general Duties, said the incentives would be given to health facilities, which ensure mothers deliver from a safe and clean environment, as well as attracting parents to bring their children below the age of five years for immunisation.