NWSC partners with Police to fight water theft

**Kampala Thursday August 14** - National Water and Sewerage Corporation and the Uganda Police Force have launched a joint Water Loss Prevention Unit (WALOPU) to fight water theft and illegal water use in the Kampala Water supply area and other towns in Uganda.

NWSC is a State owned Public Utility whose mandate is to operate and provide water and sewerage services in areas entrusted to it on a sound commercial and viable basis.

The Corporation currently operates in 66 towns. The Corporation has embarked on an aggressive expansion drive that will see the Corporation extend 908kms of water pipes and 31kms of sewer pipelines across the country in the Financial Year 2014/2015.

In the six months January to June 2014 the corporation extended 460 kms of water mains across the country. This rapid expansion far exceeds the average 80kms the corporation used to extend every year.

The expansion is in line with the Corporation’s 5 year Strategic Direction (2013-2018) launched in November 2013. The objective of the Strategic Direction is to ensure that NWSC meets the escalating growth in demand for services, coupled with the increasing policy expectations of Government.

One of the key policy expectations from Government is the need to attain 100% coverage for the urban centers of Uganda.

Whereas NWSC is committed to 100% service expansion, increased geographical expansion and infrastructure development, cases of water theft and illegal use are affecting the delivery of water to customers within the NWSC service areas.

Some of the water crimes include illegal connections and reconnections, meter bypass, vandalism, meter tampering, and meter reversals among others.

It is against this background that NWSC has in conjunction with the Police established the Water Loss Prevention Unit whose mandate is to stem loss of revenue by fighting illegal water use within our operational towns

Mitigation of these crimes has largely depended on the NWSC security offices, however the manpower and investigative skills of the security officers is not enough to curb water theft in all 66 towns.

Investigations have remained on a small scale, limiting the reach of the security department and its effectiveness. There is thus a need to equip security officers with up to date investigative skills, and provide professional police support to increase their effectiveness. Police support shall also have a deterrent impact on would be offenders which will go a long way in reducing water theft.

As a result of the above, NWSC has sought collaboration with the Uganda Police in the fight against illegal water use. The Uganda Police Service will extend strategic support to the Corporation’s efforts to fight illegal water use while creating an environment that is supportive for community policing as is the theme for the Police Centenary Celebrations.

NWSC remains focused on 100% service coverage, geographical expansion to cover more towns in Uganda, expansion of water infrastructure, water supply reliability and water quality improvement and engagement with stakeholders and customers.

The customer is the reason we exist.