

News

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Japan supports Rwanda targets



SUPPORT: This water system (Gatore2) which is under Phase 2 of the grant project supplies water to over 6,894 households and a population of over 31,252 people currently.

KIGALI, RWANDA - The Japanese government, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), will continue to support Rwanda's ambitions of 100% coverage for access to water by year 2018.

"We aim at supporting Rwandans stand on their own feet and be able to support themselves," the Japanese Ambassador to Rwanda, Kiyokazu Ota said last week. JICA has several water and sanitation schemes mainly in the Eastern Province, an area regarded as one with a lesser population with access to water compared to other provinces.

Providing clean drinking water closer to the people in this province caused much excitement among the communities living here, mainly in Kirehe district. Residents said this has reduced the long distances they used to make to get such clean water and also has improved their livelihoods.

"We are happy we now have clean water closer to us at even a cheaper price compared to how much we used to buy a jerrican of water before. This is quite a good development activity in our area," Merdi Nkurunziza a resident of Rutoma 1 Village, Rwabutazi cell, Gatore sector in Kirehe district said during an organized media tour by JICA to the Eastern province recently.

According to Takahiro Moriya, the JICA Chief Representative, they want to construct new water supply systems and rehabilitate existing ones for improving access to safe drinking water.

"We aim at providing necessary equipment for operation and maintenance for the systems, Moriya said.

JICA looks at providing continuous support on improving accessibility for safe water in the Eastern province plus the agency has a new initiative for water supply in Kigali.

"We will continue with this good partnership we have with Rwanda so that we can help the government reach its target of bringing 100% of the Rwandan population with access to water as per its targets under the EDPRS2 (Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy2)," Amb. Ota said. This area is under the Rural Water Supply Project Phase II of JICA part of it managed by Ayateke Star Company Ltd. The whole Phase 2 Project that covers mainly Kirehe and Ngoma district targets over 55,000 people and was constructed with over Rwf8.3billion

Before JICA bringing the clean drinking water closer to people, one jelly can of water, from a distance of about 2km was bought at Rwf100 but currently it is sold at Rwf30, a price the residents say is quite good and more bearable for them.

The residents however say the Rwf30 is still high for them hence requested the Ayateke Star Company Ltd which supplies them with water and the district leadership to find ways of reducing this cost to about Rwf15.

By Agnes Bateta, Sunday, October 25th, 2015