

'Factories establishment must respect natural water sources'

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A statement from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, in addition to directing all people, businesses and industries that have trespassed onto various water sources to be evicted out, also called upon the private sector to be involved in safeguarding natural water sources.

Launching the 'Pangani Basin Multi-Sectoral Water Resources Management Forum,' at the Ngurudoto Mountain Lodge, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Prof Kitila Mkumbo pointed out that, while water is important in running development projects such as factories, the productive plants need first to respect its conservation before usage.

"Water flows into practically everything, health, education, transport and productive sectors; the resource is engine to development; unfortunately however, while the needs for water increases, the supplies have been falling short," said Prof Mkumbo.

According to the Permanent Secretary, when it comes to the resource; Tanzania is caught between a mirth inducing derision; "It is the country with highest number of natural water sources while at the same time, it is also the place experiencing acute water shortage," he said.

"But the problem here is that, all water sources have been invaded by people who conduct destructive human activities such that the same water producing springs have become sources of conflicts, environment destruction and other hazards," maintained Mkumbo.

For his part the Forum chairperson, Engineer Mbogo Futakamba, said despite abundant water sources found within the country, making proper use of the resources while maintaining their natural forms remain a challenge.

"Sometime the quest for speedier industrial development takes great toll to natural resources including water, it is high time we come up with a policy that safeguard responsible forms of investments," stated Eng Futakamba.

The Arusha Regional Water Engineer, Joseph Makaidi said the rural parts of Arusha get better water supplies than the urban parts. "People in villages are covered by 60.25 percent, even though the water is not treated while the townsfolk get around 40 percent," he explained adding that fluorine contamination is the biggest challenge here.

An official from the Pangani Water Basin, Mtoi Kanyawanah, said the availability of water in the Northern Zone's largest dams; Hale and Nyumba-ya-Mungu depends on rainfall at particular times.

The Pangani Basin Multi-Sectoral Water Resources Management Forum was organised in association with the International Water Stewardship Programme (IWaSP), German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) and UK Aid Direct.