

Water purifying pilot project inaugurated

BY ROBEL YOHANNES

BURAYU -- A water purifying pilot project aimed at providing safe drinking water was inaugurated in Burayou Town of Oromia Special Zone Friday.

Japanese government funded water treatment project uses simple and effective water purification technology called Poly-Glu technology, which was invented by a Japanese MSE Company Poly-Glu Social Business Co.Ltd. Company Chairman and CEO Kanetoshi Oda said the Poly-Glu Drinking Water System is very simple and aims to enhance access to drinking water for Ethiopians at affordable cost while demonstrating the purification process to the audience present at the trial operation ceremony.

Introducing the system, Oda said that at least 50,000 people can get health benefit while 300 people can earn a living from the water facility.

He said that the system was implemented in Bangladesh, India, Somalia, Tanzania before launching its first pilot project in Ethiopia.

Water, Irrigation and Energy State Minister Kebede Gerba said the project creates job to micro and small enterprises given that the facility can be installed from locally manufactured parts in addition to providing clean water at low cost.

He also noted that there is a rise in water demand and such projects are important as the demand cannot be met with the sole doing of the government. Furthermore, he stated his expectation that similar projects will be expanded to other parts of the country.

"I was fascinated the first time I saw the experiment back in Tokyo and I wanted him to start installation here [in Ethiopia]," said Japanese Ambassador to Ethiopia Kazuhiro Suzuki. He also said that the facility provides a very easy, cheap and quick way to create safe drinking water and he expects the project to be a success here just like the aforementioned countries.

A Tanzanian expert Telesphory Lufathe said that the project has created job opportunities for many young people, who sell the water to other areas, and there have been a lot of improvements in water and sanitation.

On the occasion, residents of the town have expressed their appreciation and satisfaction to what the facility bring to their lives while also earmarking their responsibility in maintaining the facility as owner of the project.