

The 80MW Regional Rusumo Power Project Delivers 66 Million KWh to three Countries, has Capacity to Operate at 105 percent, says PM



A SECTION OF THE POWER HOUSE AND COMPLETED POWER INTAKE SECTION OF THE RUSUMO PROJECT SHOWING THE RADIAL GATES AND HEAD RACE TUNNEL (PARTLY OBSCURED) INSET 01: THE RUSUMO PROJECT MANAGER ADDRESSING JOURNALISTS FROM SEVEN NILE EQUATORIAL LAKES COUNTRIES WHO HAD VISITED THE PLANT ON 31ST JANUARY 2024. INSET 02: A SECTION OF THE POWERHOUSE

Between November 3rd 2023 and January 31st, 2024, the 80MW Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project delivered a total of 66 million KWh of electricity to three countries, with Burundi receiving the highest allocation of 22 million KWh while Rwanda and Tanzania both received 21 million KWh. The Rusumo Project Manager (PM) Eng. Alloyce Oduor revealed this on February 1st 2024.

“After completing all required tests, NELSAP has signed the certificates of completion and handed over two of the three turbines to the Rusumo Power Company Limited (RPCL) the special purpose vehicle formed by the three countries to manage the plant on their behalf, after completion and handover from NELSAP,” said Eng. Dr. Isaac Alukwe, NELSAP-CU Regional Coordinator. The Rusumo plant has three

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Lukole Health Centre, Brings Quality Health Services Closer to the People of Kasulo, Ngara, Tanzania



DR. FREDRICK NYAGUSIA MEDICAL OFFICER IN CHARGE OF LUKOLE HEALTH CENTRE SHOWS A SECTION OF THE NEWLY EQUIPPED NEONATAL NURSERY

“Had this hospital (Lukole Health Centre) not been here with required facilities, I feel my unborn baby and I would not have made it alive,” says Imani Ngw’ale. Imani, 34 is from Benako Village, Kasulo Division of Ngara, Northern Tanzania. At the time of this interview (February 1st, 2024), Imani had just given birth to a pre-term baby (baby born before the 37th week of pregnancy). Imani has other health conditions. At that time, her baby was in an incubator, under the care of nurses at the newly equipped neonatal nursery. We met Imani inside the newly equipped maternity room at the Lukole Health Centre.

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THE RUSUMO PROJECT MANAGER (PM) ENG. ALLOYCE ODUOR SHOWS JOURNALISTS OPERATIONS AT THE CONTROL ROOM INSIDE THE RUSUMO POWERHOUSE FROM WHERE OPERATIONS OF THE ENTIRE PLANT ARE MONITORED REMOTELY

The 80MW Rusumo Power Project Delivers 66 Million KWh to Countries, has capacity to operate at 105 percent, says PM

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turbines, each with installed capacity of 27MW.

“All three turbines have been tested and each has the capacity to individually operate at 105%,” said Eng. Alloyce Oduor. The Project Manager said this while addressing journalists from seven (7) NEL countries that visited the plant on January 31st 2024. Final tests on the third turbine are ongoing and once engineers complete the tests, NELSAP and RPCL will sign a final hand over certificate ahead of official inauguration by the heads of States of the three countries, planned for April 2024.

“Burundi’s peak power demand is averagely 90MW and so if the country gets 27MW from Rusumo, it will represent a significant percentage of lower cost power. Rwanda has a peak power demand of average 250MW and an additional 27MW is technically substantial. Tanzania on the other hand has peak power demand of over 1,000MW. Whereas an additional 27MW may look relatively small, it is significant because it will stabilize the voltage level of the Northern and North-Western parts of the country and make quality of power in that region better and more reliable,” added Eng. Oduor. He explained that key causes of power outages are imbalance between generation and uptake and added that these two must

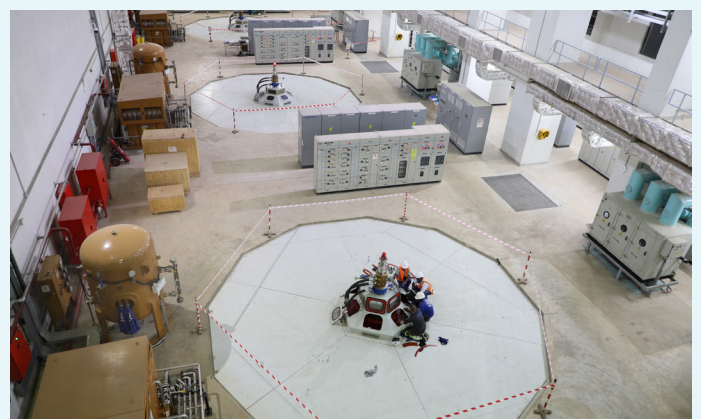
« All three turbines have been tested and each has capacity to individually operate at 105%. Final tests on the third turbine are ongoing and once complete, NELSAP and RPCL will sign a final hand over certificate ahead of official inauguration »

match on second-by-second basis and if at any point they don’t match, disturbances can occur.

The World Bank funded 80MW Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Power Project is a low-cost renewable energy source that will lower the cost of power in the countries and stabilize the voltage levels. Once power from the plant enters the grid of a country, it allows the utilities to switch off expensive fossil-fuel generated energy sources. The utilities will then pass these lower costs to end users. The Rusumo Power project is a notable example of benefits of transboundary collaboration, and it holds great promise for economies and people of the three countries. It will spur industrialization, improve delivery of services like water, health, and education, support economic activities like manufacturing and improve the lives of people through access to lower cost electricity.



THE RUSUMO PROJECT MANAGER WITH JOURNALISTS NEAR THE RADIAL GATES AND HEAD RACE TUNNEL



A SECTION OF THE RUSUMO POWER HOUSE



DR. FREDRICK NYAGUSIA MEDICAL OFFICER, IN CHARGE OF LUKOLE HEALTH CENTRE SHOWS SOME OF THE NEW EQUIPMENT AT THE HEALTH FACILITY. INSET. PATIENTS AND THEIR CARE GIVERS WAIT OUTSIDE THE THEATRE AND NEW MATERNAL WARD

Lukole Health Centre, bringing quality health services closer to the people of Kasulo, Ngara, Tanzania

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tre, in Kasulo Division. Imani was at the facility with her mother, Editha Ngw'ale. Editha, explained that previously (in 2018) her daughter delivered in the neighboring country, Burundi, due to lack of facilities at her nearest health facilities. She says because of that, the family spent over TZSh one million (USD 400) and stayed in Burundi for 14 days.

The Local Area Development Projects (LADP) component, operating under NELSAP (80MW Regional Rusumo Hydroelectric Project), constructed / rehabilitated Lukole Health Centre as part of extended benefits of the power project to local communities. Lukole, is one of eight health facilities that NELSAP has constructed or rehabilitated. Others are Kigina Health Centre in Kirehe, Rwanda serving over 10,000 people, Bugoma and Mugano Health Centres in Giteranyi - Burundi, and Kyenda and Rusumo health centres in Tanzania. LADP Projects are funded by the World Bank.

The facility has a new surgery theatre, maternity ward with incubators for pre-term babies, pharmacy, laboratory, mortuary, administration block and an out-patient department (OPD) all provided through NELSAP LADP project.

Dr. Fredrick Nyagusia Medical Officer, in charge of Lukole Health Centre says that support from NELSAP (LADP) program has enabled the facility to improve its capacity to deliver services.

“Before NELSAP support, which begun in 2020, we could only take in about 700 outpatient visits per month, however presently (January 2024) we are handling about 1,300 outpatients. We began to offer surgery services in October 2023 and from that time to present we have successfully done one hundred (100) surgeries. Further, we previously did not have a laboratory to do microbiology culture tests but now we have an equipped one and through it we even offer kidney tests and blood transfusion services,” explains Dr. Fredrick. He adds that due to availability of boarding facilities, admissions for hospitalization have increased from 55 per month in 2020 to 350 per month in 2024.

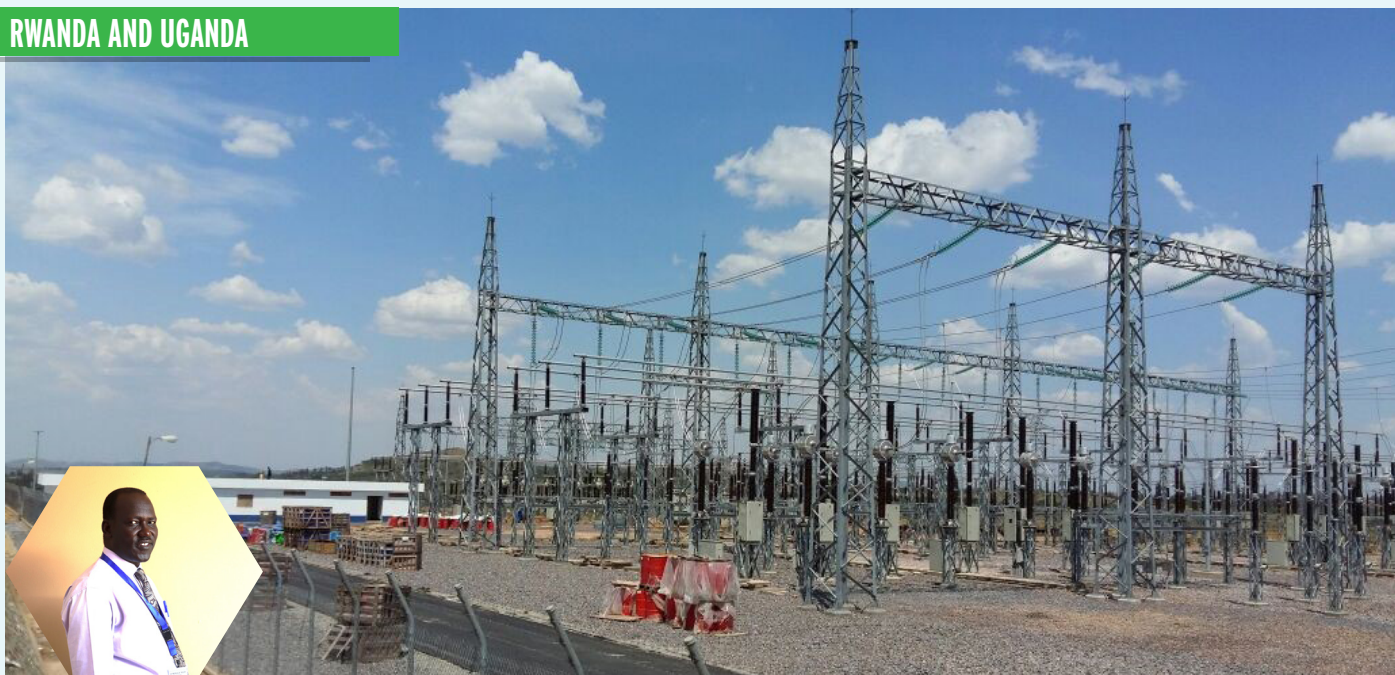
« Before the NELSAP support we could only take in 700 outpatient visits per month, now we are handling 1,300. We began to offer surgery services in October 2023 and so far, we have successfully done 100 surgeries. Due to availability of boarding facilities, admissions for hospitalization have increased from 55 in 2020 to 350 per month in 2024 »

Ms. Sundi Fede is the Assistant Medical Officer in charge of Lukole Health Centre. She manages the delivery unit, which has a neonatal Intensive Care Unit with two incubators. She says that out of one hundred (100) surgeries done at the facility so far, seventy have been related to safe delivery of babies and all went smoothly for both mothers and babies.

Councilor Yusuf Katulla, the elected representative of Kasulo Ward says that through NELSAP support, health services at his ward have improved, and so has supply of electricity. He says that since NELSAP constructed staff houses within Lukole Health Centre, patients to the facility receive services 24 hours a day. The health facility has a total of twenty-nine staff, with twenty paid by the government while the rest are under the hospital board.



DR. FREDRICK NYAGUSIA MEDICAL OFFICER IN CHARGE OF LUKOLE HEALTH CENTRE SHOWS A SECTION OF THE NEWLY EQUIPPED SURGERY THEATRE



A SECTION OF THE NEW MBARARA SUBSTATION IN UGANDA.

INSET: THE NELSAP-CU REGIONAL POWER PROGRAM OFFICER FOR POWER AND TRADE ENG. JACOB MANYUN DENG

Rwanda and Uganda Commence Power Trade Through the 220kV 172 km Shango - Mbarara Power Interconnection

Following completion of interconnection and synchronization of the power grids of Rwanda and Uganda in June 2023 through 220kV 172 km Shango – Mbarara Interconnection, the two nations commenced trading of power in October 2023. The NELSAP-CU Regional Power Program Officer for Power and Trade Eng. Jacob Manyun Deng revealed that because of this interconnection, Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited (UETCL) receives an average of USD 1.5 million per month from Rwanda.

“In November 2023, Uganda exported 6.6 million KWh of power to Rwanda while in December it exported 9.4 million KWh. The average registered power export to Rwanda is 27.1 MW, while the maximum power transmitted to Rwanda was 37.6MW,” explained Eng. Deng. The Shango – Mbarara interconnection was first conceived under the Northern Corridor Integration Infrastructure Projects. The project was taken up under NELSAP-CU led Interconnection of Power Grids of NEL Countries project, which aimed to interconnect the power grids of five countries (Burundi, D.R Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda) through a 946km 220kV and 400kV Overhead Transmission Lines (OHTLs) and 17 associate substations. NELSAP-CU conducted Feasibility Studies and provided technical support during construction and synchronization of Rwanda-Uganda power interconnection. To facilitate completion and commissioning of this project NELSAP-CU, the East Africa Power Pool (EAPP), and the two countries, put into place working groups that consisted of planning, dispatching, protection and telecommunications engineers from the countries. Rwanda and Uganda, through their national utilities Rwanda Energy Group (REG) and Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited (UETCL) then signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) to guide this power exchange process.

“The aim of NELSAP-CU power interconnection projects is to improve access to electricity in NEL countries, lower electricity costs to consumers, stabilize power networks, promote bi-directional (two-way) cross-border trade of energy and power, increase

competition among energy generating countries leading to lower prices for consumers and support clean energy generation projects,” said Eng. Dr. Isaac Alukwe, NELSAP-CU Regional Coordinator.

“NELSAP-CU together with East Africa Power Pool (EAPP) with support from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) supported modalities for preparation for coordinated and smooth synchronized operation of interconnected power grid system between Rwanda and Uganda. Key areas that were addressed are protection schemes, outage requests, fault detection and clearing, synchronization of voltages and frequencies, dispatch and operational procedures, coordination of maintenance schedules and regional power trade as per EAPP Interconnection Code,” explained Eng. Deng. Construction of this transmission line was funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB), JICA, and the Netherlands in the form of loans and grants. Its feasibility was funded by SIDA through a grant to NELSAP.

General Outlook of Power Interconnections in the NEL Region

The electric grids of Kenya and Uganda are in synchronized operation and a second transmission line running from Lessos in Kenya to Tororo and Bujagali is under implementation through NELSAP-CU. Rwanda-DRC interconnection has been in operation for six years through Gisenyi-Goma line. The grids of Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania have been connected through the 80MW Rusumo Hydroelectric Power Project. Kenya and Tanzania are connected through ZTK Interconnection that runs from Isinya in Kenya to Arusha and Singida in Tanzania and onwards to Kabwe in Zambia. NELSAP-CU completed feasibility for ZTK Interconnection in 2017 and organized a donor's conference for its funding. The interconnection between Rwanda and Uganda was one of key missing links, whose commissioning has realized an integration of the electric grids of the five countries namely, Burundi, D.R Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda. Currently Feasibility studies are ongoing through NELSAP-CU for interconnection between DRC-Uganda and South Sudan-Uganda.



THE NELSAP-CU REGIONAL COORDINATOR ENG. DR. ISAAC ALUKWE TOGETHER WITH THE NEW NILE EQUATORIAL LAKES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NELTAC) CHAIR, MRS. JACQUELINE NYIRAKAMANA PRESENTING AN AWARD TO THE OUTGOING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ENG. SYLVESTER ANTHONY MATEMU. INSET, THE INCOMING NBI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DR. FLORENCE GRACE ADONGO

NBI Executive Director Dr. Florence Grace Adongo Promises to Facilitate Dialogue and Hydro diplomacy, Support Countries to Pursue their Development Priorities

The Nile Basin Executive Director (E.D) Dr, Florence Grace Adongo has promised to facilitate dialogue and hydro diplomacy and support countries to pursue their development priorities in an equitable manner. The new E.D said this while addressing the media in Kampala Uganda as she assumed office on 1st November 2023.

“My mission is to maintain Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) as a vibrant platform for all the 10 Basin countries to come together, share knowledge, experience and dialogue so that we can have solutions to our common challenges and at the same time facilitate NBI countries to pursue their development priorities while sustainably harnessing the resources of Nile River Basin for their development needs,” said Dr. Florence Grace Adongo, the new Executive Director.

While welcoming the new Executive Director, NELSAP-CU Regional Coordinator Eng. Dr. Isaac Alukwe thanked outgoing Executive Director Eng. Sylvester Anthony Matemú who served NBI from August 2021 to October 31st, 2023, for his exemplary service to the institution and promised to work hand in hand with the new Executive Director of NBI. Eng. Dr. Alukwe said NELSAP-CU is contributing to the overall NBI agenda by resource mobilization for projects on behalf of the countries and bringing countries together to jointly implement transboundary water and energy projects.

Dr. Florence Grace Adongo said that NBI has a common shared vision and a 10-year strategy that guides this vision and that her work will be to implement the strategy and all the directives and decisions of the Council of Ministers and guide the sustainability of the institution. She added that her focus will be on core functions of the NBI which is to facilitate dialogue, hydro diplomacy and build negotiation and mediation and communication skills around Nile

« My mission is to maintain NBI as a vibrant platform for all basin countries to share knowledge, experience and dialogue, have solutions to our common challenges and facilitate the countries to pursue their development priorities while sustainably harnessing the resources of the Nile River Basin for their development needs »

water resources so that the Basin gets a pool of experts with technical knowledge to carry forward the agenda of the Nile in an amicable way. She said the NBI Centers (NELSAP and ENTRO) will support the identification of priority investments that will improve the livelihoods of the people of the basin while addressing effects of climate change and at the same time promoting peaceful coexistence.

The Executive Director said that NBI, together with the national experts from NBI countries are developing a framework that will enable the Basin to manage disasters and reduce risks of disasters caused by climate change. The framework includes systems for real time information that can be relayed and communicated in time so that actions can be taken before disasters occur, backed by network of technologies that can analyze data, translate, and relay the information to the respective countries.

Dr. Florence Grace Adongo is the immediate former Director of Water Resources Management, in the Ministry of Water and Environment of Uganda. She was a Commissioner at the Ministry of Water and Environment and a long serving member of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for both NELSAP-CU and NileSEC.



A SECTION OF THE RUSUMO-BUGESERA-SHANGO OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINE THAT RUNS FROM RUSUMO. THE BURUNDI AND RWANDA POWER GRIDS ARE PRESENTLY CONNECTED THROUGH THE 'RUSUMO INTERCONNECTION'

Power grids of Burundi, Rwanda, and Tanzania to be Interconnected and synchronized Through the Rusumo Project, in March 2024

The Power Grids of Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania will be fully interconnected in March 2024 through the 80MW Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project, NELSAP has revealed.

“Interconnection and Synchronization of power grids of Rwanda and Burundi have been completed already and preparations are ongoing to finalize synchronization of Tanzania into the mix and create a unified pool,” said the Rusumo Project Manager Eng. Alloyce Oduor. The Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania ‘Rusumo network’ consists of 372 km of 220 kV Overhead Transmission Lines (OHTLs). The Transmission Lines for Burundi is 160 km and runs from Rusumo to Musinga and onwards to Gitega. For Rwanda, the OHTL is 118km and it runs from Rusumo to Bugesera onwards to Shango, while that of Tanzania is 94km and runs from Rusumo to Nyakanazi. All Rusumo Transmission Lines and substations have been completed and commissioned and from November 3rd, 2023, to January 31st, 2024, the Transmission Lines transmitted 66 million KWh energy (see separate story on pg. 1). This interconnection was funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB) to the tune of USD 120 million.

“When completed, this interconnection will present the countries with an opportunity to trade power among themselves and even to neighboring countries through a power ‘wheeling’ agreement,” explained Eng. Jacob Manyon Deng, the NELSAP-CU Regional Programs Officer for Power and Trade. A ‘wheeling’ agreement allows two countries that do not share a border, to trade power through a third country network at a fee. The power utilities of the three countries executing the Transmission Lines, Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO), Régie de Distribution d’Eau (REGIDESO) of

Burundi and Rwanda Energy Group (REG-EUCL) signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Rusumo Power Company Limited (RPCL) on various dates in 2023. REGIDESO signed the PPA on June 21st, 2023, TANESCO signed on September 30th, 2023, while REG-EUCL signed on 1st December 2023. The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) is a contractual agreement between energy buyers and sellers and through it the parties come together and agree how they will buy and sell energy.

Take or Pay Model

The power purchase agreement signed between the Rusumo Project and the utilities of the three countries operates on a ‘take or pay model.’ Through this model, RPCL declares availability of power, then based on that availability, countries, through the utilities, place their orders for power. From that point the order becomes a ‘dispatch instruction.’ At this initial point, utilities place an order not exceeding the countries’ agreed allocation of 27MW. In case a utility places an order less than the agreed allocation (27MW), RPCL enters discussion with the other two utilities to take up the surplus. If the other two facilities fail to take up the extra power, the original utility must pay for its full allocation of 27MW. Once RPCL and the utilities have reached a ‘dispatch agreement,’ RPCL has an obligation to supply the agreed power, and the countries also have an obligation to take the availed power. Any party that fails to meet its obligation (buyer or seller) is penalized.

Benefits of Interconnection

With connection to multiple buyers of power, Rusumo project has a bigger market to sell its power, meaning the plant has longer running hours that makes it economical. Once the company clears loans used to construct it, it can offer power at an even cheaper rate.



THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (AFDB) IN CHARGE OF POWER, ENERGY, CLIMATE AND GREEN GROWTH, DR. KEVIN K. KARIUKI AND HIS TEAM OF EXPERTS MEETING WITH A TEAM FROM NELSAP-CU IN KIGALI RWANDA ON JANUARY 26TH, 2024, TO DISCUSS THE AFDB FUNDED POWER TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE NILE BASIN REGION. INSET: THE AFDB VICE PRESIDENT DR. KEVIN K. KARIUKI

Vice President of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and NELSAP-CU Discuss Power Trade and Development in the Nile Basin Region

The Vice President of the African Development Bank (AfDB) in charge of Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth, Dr. Kevin K. Kariuki and his team of experts met with a team from NELSAP-CU in Kigali January 26th, 2024, to discuss AfDB funded Power Trade and Development projects in the Nile Basin Region.

The Vice President Dr. Kevin K. Kariuki, said that the Bank considers NELSAP-CU as a key stakeholder in power trade and development and that the bank is happy to support development of energy projects. He thanked NELSAP-CU for driving the 80MW Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project to completion and for progress on DRC - Uganda power interconnection and South Sudan - Uganda power interconnection studies among others.

The African Development Bank has provided USD 120 million for construction of the Rusumo substation and 350km Overhead Transmission Lines (OHTLs). The Transmission Lines were completed in 2023 and are presently evacuating power to national grids of three countries (Burundi, Rwanda, and Tanzania) and will soon interconnect them. The completed transmission lines from Rusumo to the three countries are 118km Rusumo-Bugesera-Shango OHTL for Rwanda, 160km Rusumo-Muyinga-Gitega OHTL for Burundi and 94km Rusumo-Nyakanazi OHTL for Tanzania.

Present at the AfDB-NELSAP meeting were Alemayehu Wubeshet the Division Manager (East Africa Region), Madam Toure Sarr Aissa, Country Manager (Rwanda) and Konate Ibrahima Regional Operation Manager (North and Central Africa). NELSAP-CU Regional Coordinator Eng. Dr. Isaac Alukwe was re-

presented at the meeting by Eng. Jacob Manyuon Deng, NELSAP-CU Regional Power Program Officer for Power and Trade, Eng. Sami Osman Eltoum NELSAP-CU Program Officer for Water Resources and Development and Mr. Wilfred Ojok, the Senior Economist, M and E Specialist.

The AfDB team tasked NELSAP-CU to fast-track DRC-Uganda Pre-Investment Studies and conclude South Sudan-Uganda Pre-Investment studies to enable the projects to progress to full implementation. The AfDB Vice president informed the meeting that the Bank has extremely high and positive interest to support any power interconnection projects that will enable countries in the region to trade in power and to efficiently develop their energy resources.

African Development Bank (AfDB) has funded most of the power interconnection projects in the Nile Basin Region.



VICE PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (AFDB) IN CHARGE OF POWER, ENERGY, CLIMATE AND GREEN GROWTH, DR. KEVIN K. KARIUKI AND HIS TEAM OF EXPERTS MEETING WITH A TEAM FROM NELSAP-CU



MR AUGUSTIN NGENZIRABONA, GENERAL DIRECTOR OF BURUNDI GEOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE (IGEBU), DELIVERING REMARKS ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK HON. ENG. PROSPER DODIKO, DURING THE 26TH NILE EQUATORIAL LAKES (NEL) AND NILE BASIN (NILE) COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (COM) MEETING HELD ON 14TH OCTOBER 2023 IN MUNYONYO UGANDA

Burundi National Assembly Adopts Law on Ratification of the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA)

The National Assembly of Burundi has adopted the Law on Ratification of the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) on the Nile River Basin. When this process is completed, it will make Burundi the 5th Nile Basin Country to ratify the treaty. Burundi announced this during the 26th Nile Equatorial Lakes (NEL) and Nile Basin (Nile) Council of Ministers (CoM) meeting held on 14th October 2023 in Munyonyo Uganda.

“I take this opportunity to bring to your attention the adoption of the Law on Ratification of the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) by the National Assembly of the Republic of Burundi, on August 23, 2023,” said Hon. Eng. Prosper Dodiko, Burundi Minister for Environment, Agriculture and Livestock who is the country’s representative to the Council of Ministers (CoM).

In a speech delivered on his behalf by Mr Augustin Ngenzirabona, General Director of Burundi Geographic Institute (IGEBU) the hon. minister said that the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) as the main pillar of sustainable development and exchange of experiences in the basin, is a favorable space, privileged to strengthen trust and capacity for cooperation on

the Nile Basin, through a common vision, common response, and through common investment, and actions responding to needs, priorities and guidelines as defined by member countries.

“All actions relating to the security and integrated management of water resources - domestic (drinking, hygiene and sanitation), agricultural (irrigation) and industrial (hydroelectricity) sectors, the efficient management of rainwater, the fight against water pollution, improving nutritional security, sustainability and safeguarding of the environment and biodiversity, resilience to climate change, strengthening cross-border cooperation in water matters, agro-industrial transformation are consistent with the priorities of our country and it is with this in mind that Burundi plans to ratify the CFA,” said Hon. Eng. Dodiko

The Hon. minister said that Burundi aims for prosperity through inclusive and sustainable economic growth without compromising the environment and interests of all countries. He added that the country has adhered to international and regional conventions, thus committing, upon the completion of the ratification process, to observe and ensure respect for their requirements.

ONE RIVER ONE PEOPLE ONE VISION



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