



Weekly Nile Basin Media Radar

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3rd – 7th April, 2017

Rusumo Power Project to benefit 500,000 households

The Rusumo Hydropower Project upon completion is expected to benefit over 500,000 households in Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania, according to officials. During the ground-breaking ceremony for construction of the 80-MW regional project last Thursday, officials emphasized that the latter shows that regional countries can achieve greater development enterprises for their people when they collaborate. The ceremony held on the banks of River Akagera in Ngara district, Tanzania, was presided over by Ministers in charge of energy from Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania and other stakeholders.

<http://bit.ly/201dnDV>

Rusumo falls hydropower project to be completed by 2020

Construction of the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project is set to kick-off [March 30] and is expected to be ready by 2020, senior officials from the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) said.

According to [NBI official], the ground-breaking ceremony, which will take place

at the Rusumo site on Kagera River, will be witnessed by ministers of energy, water and finance from the three beneficiary countries – Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

<http://bit.ly/2nz6lD2>

\$340 million Rusumo power project to spur regional trade

Tanzania is among three countries in the Great Lakes region whose populations are set to benefit from the \$340 million, World Bank-funded Rusumo hydropower project in Ngara district, Kagera region. The Rusumo Falls power plant will pump 80MW into the national grid and thus go a long way towards helping the country meet its electricity demand along with neighbouring Rwanda and Burundi, which are both also in proximity of the plant.

<http://bit.ly/201zU3f>

Rusumo Falls hydroelectric project launches to provide additional 26.6MW

The Government of Rwanda has put more efforts and resources to ensure the provision of amenities that support and

provide strong impetus to socio-economic development. With the energy sector being among the drivers of economic transformation and growth, focus has been to increase electricity access in both rural and urban areas. As the Ministry launches the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydro Electricity Project together with Member States, the Minister of Infrastructure Hon. James MUSONI explains the importance of the project, current energy sector status and the implementation of different strategies to attain the energy targets spelt out in the National programs.

<http://bit.ly/2nQQ1QE>

East African hydro project expected to benefit one million people

Construction of the regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project has kicked off at the Tanzanian border district of Ngara that is expected to benefit over a million people in East Africa when completed. The project is owned by the three East Africa countries of Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania through a Special Purpose Vehicle, the Rusumo Power Company Ltd.

<http://bit.ly/2n3qBAt>

Cooperation on the Nile – Cornerstone of Win-Win approach

Ethiopia is constructing one of the biggest dams in the world over the Nile, a major north-flowing river. The Nile's drainage basin, which is 6,853 km long, covers eleven countries in north-eastern Africa. Egypt, which is highly dependent on the Nile waters has been repeatedly opposing the project arguing the dam would result in reduction of water and negatively affect its irrigation schemes. There are ongoing dialogues among riparian countries to

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come up with an accord on the fair exploitation of the Nile water.

Simultaneously, the construction of the dam has reached a critical stage of filling the reservoir with about 60 percent of the project completed so far. In relation to the 6th anniversary of the commencement of the construction of GERD, The Ethiopian Press Agency reporters have held an exclusive interview with **Fekeahmed Negash**, Director General at Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office.

<http://bit.ly/2ozzD5A>

Why Museveni, other leaders are keen to strike deal on River Nile (Part 1)

Rivers don't follow political boundaries. They flow anywhere and anyhow through states and international borders, usually leaving behind a dilemma on who owns the waters and who should decide its use. The Nile is one of such rivers. The river's catchment area is shared by 10 countries, known as the Nile riparian states. They include Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, DR Congo and Tanzania.

<http://bit.ly/2nCQuCH>

Why Nile-sharing countries have no choice but to cooperate (Part 2)

The commencement of construction of the \$6.4b (Shs22 trillion) Grand

Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), then known as Project X, coincided with the toppling in Egypt of President Hosni Mubarak. But as soon as the dust settled, Egypt was ready for war. To Cairo this was an even bigger threat than the crisis at home. Mubarak's successor, Mr Mohamed Morsi, was in subsequent months outed by Wikileaks for having engaged in manoeuvres (together with Sudan) to 'bomb' the 6,000 megawatts dam project in a bid to protect their stake on River Nile.

<http://bit.ly/2naoLy5>

Politics overshadows key issues on the Nile (Part 3)

"Nothing is more useful than water (but scarcely anything can be had in exchange for it," wrote Adam Smith, father of modern political economy, in his book *Wealth of Nations*. [...] Some countries are already feuding and [some] have stopped short of drawing daggers at each other. Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan; Turkey, Syria and Iraq; Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, and closer to home, the ten Nile basin countries, are good examples.

<http://bit.ly/2njgvfd>

Egypt seeks [to] expedite Nile cooperation – Ambassador

Egyptian Ambassador to Ethiopia Abou Bakr Hefny Mahmoud said his country is keen on restoring its position in the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) indicating that the technical aspect of the return is under discussion by the Nile Council of Ministers (NILE-COM). In an exclusive interview with The Ethiopian Herald yesterday, Abou Bakr noted as Egypt could not be outside of cooperation.

"Encouraging efforts are underway to expedite the good relations."

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<http://bit.ly/2o4oR9G>

Sudan, Ethiopia vow to strengthen bilateral relations

Sudan and Ethiopia on Tuesday reaffirmed their determination to elevate the existing bilateral ties between the two countries. This came at joint press conference following a closed-door meeting between the Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, and Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. Al-Bashir, who is on a three-day visit to Addis Ababa, said they agreed to forge closer ties in the political, economic, social and cultural fields.

<http://bit.ly/2nG9nFo>