



# Weekly Nile Basin Media Radar

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## **Tanzania: 80MW power project to benefit three countries**

Over 7,000 households in Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi are set to benefit from 80 megawatts of electricity from the Rusumo Falls hydro-electric project along Kagera River whose ground-breaking ceremony is set for today. Tanzania's Minister for Energy and Minerals, Prof Sospeter Muhongo and his Rwanda and Burundian counterparts are expected to grace the ground-breaking event scheduled at the Tanzania-Rwanda border. Each partner state will have a share of 26.6MW to be connected to their national power grids. The project is as well meant to strengthen the regional power interconnections between the three countries, which are also member states of the East African Community (EAC).

<http://bit.ly/2oCb2w7>

## **Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania commence 80MW hydroelectric construction**

Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania today witnessed ground-breaking ceremony for construction of the 80 MW Regional Rusumo Falls Hydro-electric Project. The Rusumo falls is located on the Kagera River on the border between Rwanda (Southeast) and Tanzania (Northwest) and about 25 kilometers downstream of Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania common border point. The Falls are approximately 15 meters high and 40 meters wide. The catchment at the falls drains to the territories of Tanzania & Rwanda. The Rusumo falls was identified as a potential area for hydropower generation as early as 1970s, to address inadequate energy, which is one of the major socio-economic development challenges facing Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania, which still have low rates of electricity access.

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

## **80MW power project to benefit three countries**

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Rusumo Falls hydro-electric project along Kagera River whose ground-breaking ceremony is set for today. Tanzania's Minister for Energy and Minerals, Prof Sospeter Muhongo and his Rwanda and Burundian counterparts are expected to grace the ground-breaking event scheduled at the Tanzania-Rwanda border.

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

### **Dar's electricity access doubles**

NATIONWIDE access to electricity has more than doubled, from less than 30 per cent to 67.3 per cent during the past decade, Energy and Minerals Minister Sospeter Muhongo has said. Prof Muhongo revealed further that access to power in rural areas increased from just two per cent in 2007 to 47.5 per cent today, noting that 97.3 per cent of urban folks have been connected to electricity. "At 97.3 per cent access in urban areas, Tanzania is among few African countries to record high achievement as per global standards," Minister Muhongo stated yesterday during the ground-breaking ceremony for the 340 million US dollars Rusumo Falls Hydro-electrical power plant.

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

### **Ethiopian Prime Minister jets in today**

TANZANIA and Ethiopia are today expected to sign three crucial agreements to strengthen the existing cooperation between the two friendly countries at State House in Dar es Salaam.

This follows the arrival of Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn in the city for a two-day official visit to Tanzania. Mr Desalegn's visit is a



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response to last month's invitation by President John Magufuli to the Ethiopian leader. [...] President Magufuli and his guest will later witness the signing of agreements on Tourism, Trade and Investment and Diplomacy, among other issues. The deputy minister said Mr Desalegn's visit aims at strengthening existing relations, solidarity and cooperation between the two countries.

<http://bit.ly/2nC6mqB>

### **Rwanda, Tanzania, Burundi start construction of Rusumo dam**

Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi have today launched the construction activities of the regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project in Ngara, Tanzania. The project, first conceived two decades back, will when completed deliver a shared hydropower plant with installed capacity of 80 megawatts of renewable, clean, low cost power to benefit our population in the three benefiting countries. Each of the three countries will receive an additional 26.6 megawatts directly connected to their respective national grid through the transmission lines benefiting over one million people in the three countries.

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

### **Journalists implored to report positively on Africa**

Arab Republic of Egypt President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi in mid-March called on African journalists to raise the bar when it comes to reporting on African stories

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mostly dominated by negative news. Addressing close to 40 journalists from 25 African countries during the official visit at the presidential palace of Ittihadia, Al-Sisi stressed the important role the African media plays, in raising awareness among the continent's citizens. [...] Further, Al-Sisi said the cooperation between Egypt and the Nile Basin countries, such as Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Egypt should be based on turning the Nile River to a tool for development and construction.

<http://bit.ly/2ohv7M5>

### **Construction works begin for Rusumo hydropower project**

The regional Rusumo Falls Hydro-Electric Project is set to commence construction [today] at the Rusumo site on the Kagera River in Tanzania. The project will be flagged off by ministers of the Energy, Water and Finance from the three beneficiary states; Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania. The power generation plant is estimated to cost about \$340m and will be financed by the World Bank while the transmission lines connecting the plant to national grids is financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB) at a cost of \$121 million. The project is expected to generate add about 26.6MW to each of the beneficiary States and strengthen the regional power interconnection between the countries.

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

### **Meetings of Nile Basin countries regarding Entebbe Agreement resume**

A high-level delegation headed by Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation Mohamed Abdel Aaty arrived in Uganda to attend the first sessions of an emergency meeting for the Nile Basin

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Ministers Council of Water Affairs—started on Monday—to discuss disputes of Nile basin countries regarding the Cooperative Framework Agreement, more commonly known as the “Entebbe” agreement. This meeting came as a continuance of a ministerial meeting held last week in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum, which was attended by the water ministers of Uganda, Sudan, Egypt, and Rwanda, as well as representatives from Kenya and Ethiopia.

<http://bit.ly/2oaLj14>

### **Nile Basin ministers to hold extraordinary meeting**

Water ministers of the Nile Basin countries have agreed to hold a new extraordinary meeting soon in Entebbe to resolve disputes over the Nile Water Framework Agreement following the completion of the study presented at their meeting yesterday in Uganda. An official statement by the Ministry of Irrigation said the meeting will discuss the report of the mini ministerial committee, which held a meeting a few days ago in the Sudanese capital Khartoum on the Egyptian concerns about the Nile Basin Initiative and the framework agreement that legally hinders Egypt from participating in the activities of the initiative.

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

### **Egypt participates in Nile Basin Initiative talks in Entebbe**

The Nile Basin Initiative's council of ministers commenced on Monday a meeting in Uganda's Entebbe with the

participation of Egypt's Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation Mohamed Abdel-Ati to discuss concerns over the Cooperative Framework Agreement, state news agency MENA reported. Deputy Foreign Minister for African Affairs Mohamed Idriss said that Egyptian participation in the current round of talks reflect's Cairo's keenness to achieve a fair distribution of benefits to all Nile basin countries, adding that the Nile River should be a source of of cooperation and development rather than dispute on the continent.

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

### **Expert calls for sustained cooperation on Nile water use**

An expert has urged African countries in River Nile basin to sustain cooperation on the use of Nile water in a bid to avoid tension and conflict. Innocent Ntabana, Executive Director of Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), an intergovernmental organization, told reporters that River Nile, the longest in the world, is a key resource among the ten member countries in its basin, while noting that if mismanaged conflict may occur. NBI brings together ten countries in the Nile basin including Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, while Eritrea participates as an observer. The main aim of NBI is to foster cooperation among member countries on the utilization of the Nile.

<http://bit.ly/2nZ97W2>



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