



Weekly Nile Basin Media Radar

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19th – 23rd June, 2017

Parochial argument will not benefit Nile Basin countries – Museveni advises

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni has called on Nile Basin countries to engage in strategic level discussions on River Nile issues to benefit all the beneficiary countries. "If you start from the parochial point of what Uganda alone stands to benefit without knowing that Uganda's prosperity depends on others, then you will lose out," Museveni said at the first Nile Basin Heads of State Summit on Thursday. [...] The next summit will be held in Burundi.

<http://bit.ly/2t1lxzg>

Nile Basin Summit: Heads of state fail to sign River Nile deal

After several adjournments, the presidents' summit of the Nile Basin states held at State House, Entebbe on Thursday still gave no position and can best be described as inconclusive on the current impasse over management and development of the shared Nile River water resources.

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

Egypt's Sisi in Uganda for crucial Nile Basin talks

Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi is in Uganda for crucial talks on the use of the River Nile waters. Sisi jetted into Entebbe Thursday morning for the Nile Basin Heads of State summit, one of several leaders who flew in for discussions on sharing River Nile that has divided the region for years. Today's meetings sought to ensure that all Nile states sign and ratify the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA), also known as the Entebbe Agreement.

<http://bit.ly/2rITn7U>

Egypt urges closer cooperation among Nile Basin nations

Egypt's president on Thursday laid out concerns over his country's share of the Nile waters, urging leaders of the river's basin countries to work together toward a more efficient use of their resources. "The River Nile unites rather than divides us," President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi said at a "Nile Summit".

<http://bit.ly/2rIR2tx>



Experts disagree at Nile Basin summit

The Nile Basin Heads of State Summit that kicked off at Speke Resort in Munyonyo, Kampala on Tuesday has been hit by a chain of deadlocks, with the delegation from Egypt abandoning one of the meetings yesterday. [...] *New Vision* learnt that the Egyptian delegation was protesting the minister's failures to reach consensus on every issue, before making the final draft to be presented to the President today. *New Vision*, 22 June 2017, p. 3 (see attachment)

'Nile Basin countries should focus on common interests, not division,' Sisi to Nile Basin leaders

[...] The Egyptian president said in his speech that Egyptians depend on the Nile for nearly 96 percent of their water [...]. "This is what makes the Egyptian people cautious of anything that would negative affect Egypt's water security," he added. [...] President El-Sisi arrived in Uganda earlier on Thursday, where he discussed with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni bilateral relations and cooperation.

<http://bit.ly/2t1aNkI>

Egypt's El-Sisi, Ethiopia premier confirm attendance of Nile summit

Egyptian president Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi and Ethiopian premier Hailemariam Desalegne, have both confirmed attendance of the make or break Nile Basin States Summit in Kampala tomorrow. The conference is expected to bring to an end the contention over a new framework for sharing and use of the waters of River Nile. Diplomatic sources familiar with the matter told Daily Monitor that the summit that was initially slated for today, was moved to tomorrow at the request of Ethiopia for yet unknown reasons. This is the third time the meeting has been rescheduled.

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

Museveni: Industrialise to protect River Nile

Prosperity for Nile Basin countries is the best way to protect River Nile and other water systems in Africa, President Museveni has said. The President made the remarks at a plenary session of the first ever Nile Basin Heads of State summit held at State House, Entebbe. The summit that brings together all countries along the River Nile was attended by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, South Sudan Vice President Joseph Wani, Burundi's 2nd Vice President Joseph Butore and Sudan's Vice President Hasabo Mohammed Abdul Rahman.

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

Egypt's Sisi expected in Uganda for key River Nile talks

Negotiations between Uganda and its neighbors over an agreement on sharing River Nile waters are scheduled to resume this week during the Nile Basin Heads of State summit, according to a report by *APA NEWS*. According to *APA*, this week's meeting seeks to ensure that all Nile riparian states sign and ratify the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA), also known as the Entebbe Agreement. Uganda,



Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Kenya signed the framework in 2010 while Burundi signed it in 2011.

<http://bit.ly/2tAuP2t>

Entebbe Agreement summit convenes

In the first meeting of its kind since 2010, Uganda's capital Kampala will this week host a summit of Nile Basin heads of states to resolve differences on the Entebbe Agreement. In 2010 Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania signed the initial Entebbe Agreement which seeks to affirm certain international shares of Nile waters, outlining principles, rights and obligations for co-operative water resource management among member states. Downstream nations Egypt and Sudan did not initially sign up to the accord, claiming it degraded pre-existing rights and quotas but have, since 2015, engaged with the Agreement's process.

<http://bit.ly/2t1X2I9>

Nile Basin Summit: Heads of state fail to sign River Nile deal

After several adjournments, the presidents' summit of the Nile Basin states held at State House, Entebbe held on Thursday still gave no position and can best be described as inconclusive on the current impasse over management and development of the shared Nile River water resources. The summit was attended by Egyptian President, Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi and Ethiopian Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn.

<http://bit.ly/2sXP2RQ>

Nile Basin Summit underway

The Nile Basin Heads of State Summit kicked off at the Speke Resort in Munyonyo. On Tuesday, the technical team from 11 member states met to discuss critical issues on the use of the River Nile. The technical team's discussion was necessary for reaching consensus on minutes that were to be presented to the ministers' meeting on Wednesday. The ministers' meeting was expected to reach consensus on a number of issues before forwarding them to the Presidents of the Nile Basin Initiative who will meet on Thursday.

<http://bit.ly/2sld8hb>

Nile Basin Summit ends without deal

The Nile Basin Heads of State Summit, for the first time, has agreed to harness the world's longest river, in a bid to transform member states into modern nations. However, the summit ended without the heads of state resolving the key issues that have stalled the Signing of the final pact on the use of the Nile. The summit comes after seven years of failure to resolve the issues related to managing the Nile's resources, since the Signing of the 2010 Co-operative Framework Agreement, known as the Entebbe Agreement.

(New Vision, 23 June 2017, P.3 – See attachment)



Contentious issues in the Nile Basin Entebbe Agreement

Heads of State from the countries sharing the catchment of the world's longest river, the Nile, ended their summit yesterday without resolving the disagreement over sharing the river. On one side is Egypt, which under a colonial treaty, holds veto powers over the Nile waters. On the other hand, upstream countries, mainly Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo are opposed to the colonial agreements that give veto powers to Egypt and Sudan.

(New Vision, 23 June 2017, P.3 – See attachment)

Leaders disagree on sharing Nile waters

The tell-tale sign that Egypt was unlikely to give Riparian countries a freehand on use of River Nile waters was manifest in the irreconcilable differences during the back-to-back meetings, of Council of Ministers and technocrats on Tuesday and Wednesday. Thus without consensus at the technical level, it was unlikely that political honchos would agree. Yesterday's summit of heads of state at State House Entebbe only succeeded at getting Egyptian president Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, who have a wide difference of opinion on use of River Nile waters, under one roof with President Museveni as convener.

(Daily Monitor, 23 June 2017, P.4 – See attachment)

Former President Mubarak considered using Tu-160 to destroy Ethiopian dam

An unverified voice recording attributed to Egypt's Former President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak has generated great controversy among Egyptian social media users. [...] In the unverified voice clip, Mubarak said that Ethiopia did not dare to establish GERD during his era, adding that he had the ability to destroy it with Russian-made Tupolev Tu-160 fighters, if it had.

<http://bit.ly/2t1IS47>

Fishing resumes on disputed Migingo Island

Fishing on the disputed Migingo Island on Lake Victoria has resumed after months of an uneasy relationship between Kenyans and Ugandans. [...] [Kenyan] Fishermen had accused the Ugandan authorities of arresting them and seizing fish for reportedly failing to pay cross-border fishing levies.

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

MPs meet in bid to solve fishing row

Kenyan and Ugandan leaders have demanded an end to hostilities between fishermen and security officers in Lake Victoria. Bondo MP Gideon Ochanda and Abbot Ouma, MP for Bukooli Island in Uganda, said growing tensions and

frequent arrests of fishermen from both sides was a threat to cordial diplomatic relations between the two countries.

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

The Rehabilitation of Africa's most isolated dictatorship

(Analysis) [...] Most unnervingly from the Ethiopian perspective is Eritrea's strengthening relationship with Egypt, Ethiopia's historic rival and now the closest thing Eritrea has to a regional ally. Addis Ababa accuses Cairo of working with Eritrea to support armed groups that have attempted to sabotage the construction of the [GERD]. [...] Multiple Egyptian delegations have descended on Asmara, fuelling rumours of a potential Egyptian air base in Eritrea.

<http://atfp.co/2rVNC63>



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