



NILE BASIN INITIATIVE

*To achieve sustainable socio-economic development
through the equitable utilization of and benefit from Nile Basin water resources*

Contacts: P.O Box 192, Entebbe- Uganda; **Tel**+256 (414) 321 424/+256 (414)321 329

Email: nbisec@nilebasin.org

Website: www.nilebasin.org

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

21 February 2014

Uganda's Vice President commends NBI efforts in addressing energy challenges

KAMPALA, Uganda – The Vice President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E. Edward Ssekandi has underscored the importance of joint implementation and exploitation of hydropower options on shared water resources in addressing the everlasting regional energy demands and challenges.

He called on Nile Basin countries to take into consideration the larger river basin context and ensure optimization of the development opportunities as well as efficient location and operation of the hydropower infrastructures, while preparing their power development plans.

H.E. Ssekandi was speaking as guest of honor during the 8th Regional Nile Day celebrations held at the Sheraton Kampala Hotel in Uganda on 21st February 2014. The theme for the celebrations was **'Water and Energy, National Challenges, Trans-boundary Solution'**.

"I am happy to note that under the ongoing cooperation on the Nile, major regional water infrastructural developments are being planned throughout the basin such as major multipurpose reservoirs for hydropower production and irrigation', he said.

The Chairperson of the Nile Council of Ministers who is also South Sudan's Minister of Electricity, Water and Irrigation, Hon. Jemma Nunu Kumba said with the realization of the various hydropower development and power pooling investment projects prepared by the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), the hitherto meager power accessibility figures in the region are poised to rise to acceptable levels.

The Executive Director of the NBI Secretariat, Eng. Teferra Beyene was happy to note that NBI has built a level of inter-riparian trust, confidence and a sense of shared mutuality that hardly existed before.

Nile day 2014 was jointly organized by NBI and the Ministry of Water and Environment, in collaboration with the Nile Basin Discourse and Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa. Activities to mark the day included a procession in the capital Kampala led by the police brass band, a key note speech on the theme, ministerial speeches, exhibition, children's performance as well as cultural performance.

Participants included Ministers in charge of Water Affairs in the NBI Member States, other Ministers in Uganda, diplomats, Members of Parliament, civil society, academia, media and school children.

Next year's Regional Nile Day celebrations, the 9th in a series, will take place in Khartoum at the invitation of Hon. Mutasab Musa Abdalla Salim, Minister of Water Resources & Electricity of The Sudan.

Note to Editors:

Nile Day is an annual celebration of the establishment of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) on 22nd February 1999, by Ministers in charge of Water Affairs in the Nile Basin countries. The Day has been observed since 2007, with celebrations taking place both at regional and national level in the NBI Member States, namely Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, The Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

Nile Day provides an opportunity for riparian citizens to come together to exchange on topical issues related to the cooperative management and development of the common Nile Basin water and related resources. On a lighter note, the Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the rich and varied cultures which exist within the Nile Basin.

The key objective of Nile Day 2014 was to raise awareness about the inter-linkages between water and energy and the importance of Nile cooperation in addressing national energy challenges.

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is a transitional, 10-Member intergovernmental partnership institution guided by a **Shared Vision objective:** *'To achieve sustainable socio-economic development through equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin Water resources'*. **NBI Member States are: Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, The Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.** Eritrea participates as an observer. Launched on 22nd February, 1999 NBI provides the only all- inclusive regional platform for multi stakeholder dialogue, for sharing information, joint planning and management of water and related resources in the Nile Basin.

NBI is governed by a Council of 10 Ministers in charge of Water Affairs in the NBI Member States (Nile-COM), which is the highest decision and policy-making body. The Nile-COM is supported by a Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC), comprised of 20 senior government officials from the partner states.

Professional day to day management of NBI is from three centers – a basin-wide Secretariat, the Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat (Nile-SEC) located in Entebbe, Uganda responsible for overall corporate direction. The Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia executes the Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program (ENSAP) - comprising Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan. The Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU) based in Kigali, Rwanda executes the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP)- comprising Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. In each Member State there is an NBI office, the Focal Point, which coordinates and links trans-boundary NBI, and national plans and activities. At national level, the Ministries in Charge of Water Affairs are the NBI focal point in each Member State.

NBI Core Programs:

Basin Cooperation -To facilitate, support and nurture cooperation amongst the Nile Basin countries so as to promote timely and efficient joint actions required for securing benefit from the common Nile Basin water resources

Water Resource Management - To assess, manage and safeguard the water resource base that supports the peoples of the Nile Basin through applying the principles of knowledge-based integrated water resources management to water development planning and assessment

Water Resource Development - To identify, prepare and facilitate investment in Regional/trans-boundary water development projects and programs whilst avoiding negative impacts on the health of the Nile Basin's resources through applying the principles of integrated water resources management