

Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU)

Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project (RRFHP)

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 12, 2021

Rusumo Border, Kirehe Rwanda - Ngara, Tanzania (June 12, 2021). Burundi Minister for Hydraulics, Energy and Mines, Hon. Eng. Ibrahim UWIZEYE, Rwanda Minister of Infrastructure, Hon. Amb Claver GATETE and Tanzania Minister for Energy and Hon. Dr Medard KALEMANI, constituting the Project's Council of Ministers (CoM) visited the 80 MW Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project on June 12, 2021 to take stock of the Power Plant construction progress and held a meeting under the Chairmanship of Rusumo Project, Hon. Eng. Ibrahim UWIZEYE to discuss strategies to speed up completion of Rusumo Project implementation.

The main construction of the Power Plant is located at the Rusumo border between Tanzania and Rwanda. The Ministerial delegations first met at the RPCL powerhouse residential campsite located in Tanzania at 5km from the Rusumo Border. The CoM Members escorted by RPCL Board Members and the Management and Staff of NELSAP and RPCL visited the power intake, the powerhouse and the switchyard which is located in Rusumo area on Rwanda side.

The overall Project implementation status is approaching 80% with a target of 1st power (one unit) planned for December 2021. Civil contractor is almost completing his work in February 2022 with site restoration and cleaning to follow into 2022. The dam is planned to be wet in September 2021. The electromechanical contractor is at 74% progress. The headrace tunnel breakthrough happened on that very day as a big milestone to Rusumo Project.

Environmental social health safety is receiving much attention and is considered as a good practice to be shared with other future hydroelectric projects. Border crossing and Covid19 have slowed progress of construction activities. However, the quality of the all work remains very high and world class. Resettlement action plan continues to be finalized. Implementation of the Local Area Development Program continues to illustrate benefits of a well-executed Hydroelectric Project.

The CoM Members appreciated the general progress of the Project implementation and the Project team that has worked tremendously during a very difficult situation of Covid-19 since their last visit in December 2019 which progress was at 59%.

After the meeting, Burundi Minister of Energy, Hon. Ibrahim Uwizeye handed over the Chairmanship to Rwanda Minister of Infrastructure Hon. Amb. Claver Gatete. Thereafter, a press conference was held by CoM Members with media from respective countries.

"We are targeting to complete the Project in December 2021, assuming nothing coming and surprising us," said the new Rusumo Project CoM Chairman, Hon. Amb. Gatete. The CoM Members agreed to meet late in September 2021 to follow up on Rusumo power plant construction works.

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