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

Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project (RRFHP)**PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 9, 2021

Rusumo Border, Kirehe Rwanda - Ngara, Tanzania (October 9, 2021). Rusumo Project's Council of Ministers (CoM) visited the 80 MW Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project to take stock of the Power Plant construction progress.

CoM Members are Burundi Minister for Hydraulic, Energy and Mines, Hon. Ibrahim UWIZEYE, (CoM Member), Tanzania Minister of Energy, Hon. January Yusuf MAKAMBA (CoM Member) was represented by Tanzania Deputy Energy Minister, Hon. Adv. Stephen BYABATO and Rwanda Minister of Infrastructure, Hon Amb Claver Gatete (CoM Chairman).

The Ministerial delegations first visited the progress of the power intake construction site, the powerhouse and proceeded to the switchyard. The main construction sites of the Power Plant are located at the Rusumo border between Tanzania and Rwanda. The switchyard is located on Rwanda side and the powerhouse residential campsite is located in Tanzania at 5km from the Rusumo Border.

The overall Project implementation status is at 81.9 % as of September 2021. The target 1st power (one unit) is planned for December 2021. The headrace tunnel is now totally opened, and concrete lining is ongoing at about 65%. Civil contractor is at 85.3 % to complete most of his work in February 2022 with site restoration and cleaning to follow into 2022. The dam is planned to be wet in mid-November 2021. The electromechanical contractor is at 75.5 % progress. The powerhouse downstream walls are completed and superstructure erection ongoing and is planned to be fully enclosed by end of year.

Environmental social health safety is receiving much attention and is a good practice to be shared with other future hydroelectric projects. Border crossing and Covid-19 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.

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