



**SPEECH BY HON. SAM CHEPTORIS,
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT
DURING THE 31st NILE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETING,
KAMPALA, UGANDA
OCTOBER 14TH 2023**

Rt. Hon. Robina Nabanja, The Prime Minister of Uganda
NILE-COM Chairperson,
NILE-COM members present,
Hon. Ministers of the Government of the Republic of Uganda,
Members of Diplomatic Corps
NILE-TAC members,
Permanent Secretaries present,
Senior Officials from Government of the Republic of Uganda,
Representatives of Development Partners,
Nile Basin Initiative Executive Director,
The Staff of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI),
All other officials from Government of the Republic of Uganda,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor and pleasure for me to welcome you to the 31st Nile Council of Ministers' meeting being held here in Kampala. You are warmly welcome and Uganda is honored to host you.

Allow me to thank our Guest of Honor, The Rt. Hon. Robina Nabanja, The Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda for taking off time from her busy schedule to come and officiate at this important Nile Council of Ministers meeting.

Guest of Honor, Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, cooperation on River Nile dates back to 1960's with joint implementation of the HYDROMET Project whose objective was to monitor and understand the available water resources in Nile Equatorial Lakes region. This was followed up in 1992 as Technical Cooperation for the Promotion of the Development and Environmental Protection of the Nile Basin (TECONILE)

In 1999, Uganda together with other Nile Basin states represented here decided to form the Nile Basin Initiative, as a transition Institution of the Nile Basin pending development of a formal Cooperative Framework Agreement on the Nile.

Guest of Honor, a lot of achievements, spearheaded by Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), have been realized in partner states.

NBI has now become more visible in our countries through on-ground water resources related investment projects which the member states have been waiting for since 1999. Indeed, expectations are very high among the basin community and the challenge now is how to meet these expectations in a timely manner.

NBI has also continued to train professionals in water and related fields and also equip our countries with information on existing development potentials to benefit our people.

I , however, wish to particularly single out two cooperation projects for which I commend our joint effort;

- i) The re-establishment of the Nile Basin monitoring network with financial support from the European Union that will facilitate our joint planning and coordinated use of the Nile Basin Water resources;
- ii) The Rusumu HEP between 3 Nile Basin States as already highlighted by my colleagues.

These and others are a testimony of the benefits of cooperation of our states that allows for benefit sharing and sustainable management of shared River Nile resources.

Guest of Honor, allow me at this time to appreciate and commend the NILECOM Chair, Hon. **Jumaa Hamidu Aweso,** Minister of Water and Irrigation of the United Republic of Tanzania, for the excellent work done in steering NBI cooperation forward during the last one year.

Honorable Minister, your strategic guidance during this last one year is yet another demonstration of your commitment and value attached to the NBI goals and objectives.

It is my sincere hope that what has been achieved will be sustained to finally achieve our desired goal of Nile Cooperation.

Ownership of Nile Basin Initiative is visible through more proactive support and therefore thank the development partners that have continued to support NBI as also exemplified by their participation in this meeting.

We pray that our national commitments and their support continue as we steadily move onto more investments on the ground so that the people in the basin states fully enjoy the benefits of cooperation.

It is now my humble duty and privilege, to request you, the Rt. Honorable Prime Minister and our Guest of Honor, to open the 31st Nile Council of Ministers' meeting.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

List of NILECOM Members

Hon. Jumaa Hamidu Aweso (MP)

Minister for Water,
United Republic of Tanzania, the Outgoing NILE-COM Chairperson,

H.E. Prof. Sanctus Niragira

Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock,
Republic of Burundi

H.E. Mme Eve Bazaiba Masudi

Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Environment, and Sustainable
Development, Democratic Republic of Congo

H.E. Dr. Hani Sewilam

Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Arab Republic of Egypt

H.E. Dr. Eng. Habtamu Itfa

Minister of Water and Energy, Federal Democratic Republic of
Ethiopia

Hon. Alice Wahome

Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation,
Republic of Kenya

Hon. Dr. Jeanne D’Arc Mujawamariya

Minister of Environment, Republic of Rwanda

Hon. Pal Mai Deng

Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Republic of South
Sudan

H.E. Eng. Dawalbeit Abdalarahman Mansour

Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources, Republic of The Sudan

Hon. Sam Cheptoris,

Minister of Water and Environment, The Republic of Uganda,
Incoming NILECOM Chairman.